

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Suit Is Filed By James Earl Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., today filed a \$500,000 suit against the state of Tennessee seeking his release from prison on the grounds crucial evidence in his case was mishandled by attorneys.

In a suit drafted in his solitary confinement cell, Ray charged he gave two telephone numbers to his former attorney, Percy Foreman, who in turn gave them to the late Z. T. Osborne, another of Ray's attorneys who was later disbarred.

Ray, serving 99 years in the state prison on his conviction in the 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader, said one of the phone numbers belonged to a man who among other things, was an agent of a Middle East-oriented organization. He said the organization was distressed because of King's plan to possibly offer support of "the Palestinian Arab cause."

Ray alleged the other phone number was traced to a New Orleans Parish county official who was "under the influence" of a Teamsters Union official.

Ray's writ drew special attention since a local tele-

vision station, WSM-TV, had said it had learned from "highly placed" sources that Ray would contend there were several other persons involved in the conspiracy to kill King.

Ray is seeking \$500,000 in punitive damages for what he claims is his illegal imprisonment for a crime he says he did not commit.

WSM-TV also reported that Ray "is reported to have dismissed his latest attorney, Washington lawyer Bernard Fensterwald, and is apparently representing himself."

"As far as I know, I have not been fired and certainly I will not abandon Ray," Fensterwald said in a statement issued from his Washington office.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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