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NASHVILLE, Jan. 3. – (UPI) – <u>State</u> Atty. Gen. David Pack said Thursday James Earl Ray, confessed slayer of Martin Luther King Jr., will be retained in Tennessee until all pending suits are resolved.

Ray failed Wednesday in his bid to block his transfer from the state prison here to a federal penitentiary. U.S. Dist. Judge L. Clure Morton denied Ray's petition for a temporary restraining order blocking the move,

Pack said it was his understanding that the Tennessee General Assembly would have to approve specific legislation regarding the transfer of prisoners before Ray could be moved.

Ray, who has filed a number of legal actions since he began serving his 99-year sentence, currently has an appeal for a new trial before the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati, and only last week filed a \$500,-0 0 damage suit against state officials, claiming false imprisonment for a crime "he didn't commit."

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

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_ COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHITS, TENN.

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Being Investigated