

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Delay Foreseen For Ray's Shift

NASHVILLE, Jan. 23. — (UPI) — A state corrections official said Wednesday it may be months or even years before James Earl Ray is transferred to a federal prison.

Information director Stewart Judkins confirmed that Tennessee authorities have not responded to a request from the federal Bureau of Prisons for the admission of the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to the federal prison at Springfield, Ill.

"We haven't responded because of the ruling by Atty. Gen. David Pack's office that to be strictly legal we would need enabling legislation to set up this type of transfer," Judkins said.

"In addition, we were advised it would be better to wait until such time as he (Ray) completes his appeals."

The transfer was originally requested by state prison officials so Ray could lead a more "normal" life behind the walls. He has been in solitary confinement during his stay at the main prison here.

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

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