

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Suit Seeks Law Library Use

James Earl Ray claimed in federal court here yesterday he is unable to research his legal rights, because the state penitentiary at Nashville denies him access to its law library.

In a civil suit, mailed to Memphis from the state prison, Ray said his jailers try to justify their refusal with "constant allegations of security" measures necessary in his confinement.

But, the prisoner, serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said such precautions are unnecessary, since he has "never tried to es-

cape." He said he must use the library to research his pending civil damage claim against New York publisher Doubleday & Co., Inc.

Ray claims in a separate lawsuit that Doubleday "fraudulently" acquired unspecified items of his personal property in 1972. He says Doubleday used the property in publishing "An American Death," an account of the King slaying.

The only defendant in yesterday's civil suit is state prison warden James H. Rose.

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

PAGE 25

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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Editor: GORDAN HANNA

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