(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Missouri Has Crucial Role In Extradition

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JEFFERSON CITY, MO. — The State of Missouri, at the suggestion of the U.S. Justice Department, is playing a crucial role in extradition proceedings against James Earl Ray, accused assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Following a telephone call from U.S. District Attorney Veryl Riddle in St. Louis Sunday, Gov. Hearnes set the legal machinery in motion to have Ray returned to Missouri, where he is wanted for felonious escape and completion of a 20-year sentence for first degree robbery.

Ray was captured Saturday in London.

Paul Williams, the governor's legal assistant, indicated Ray's return was requested through Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

Accompanying the request were certified copies of the judgment and sentence against Ray, photos and fingerprints for positive identification.

The most frequent obstacle to extradition, Mr. Williams said, is the question of identity.

Because Missouri already has its case against Ray well documented, this is believed the most sure-fire method of assuring extradition, he pointed out.

Mr. Riddle said requests by Missouri and Tennessee "are being prepared and will be presented simultaneously" to authorities in England.

Tennessee has first degree murder charges pending against Ray.

Ray was identified in the formal request by his name and a lengthy list of aliases, including Eric Starvo Galt, the first name used by the Federal Bureau of Identification for the man being sought in connection with the slaying.

Ray escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary for Men in Jefferson City on April 23, 1967, and remained a fugitive until his capture Saturday.