


119 Ex I
Foreman Dept
4-3-74


LAW OFFICES OF
PERCY FOREMAN
804 SOUTH COAST BUILDING
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

MAIN AT RUSH

CA 4-9321

Memphis
Thursday
Feb. 13,
1969

Mr. James Earl Ray,
Shelby County Jail,
Memphis, Tennessee.

260031

Dear James:

I write this letter to put of record my analysis of your case, my judgment concerning the probable outcome and my recommendantion as to the course of action we should explore in your behalf. I also write it for my own protection. Because I anticipate the coming of a time when it will be needed for referencē.

I have spent several weeks reviewing the nature of the case the State of Tennessee has against you. I have surveyed jury sentiment in this county and jury verdicts in other recent cases. And I have come to this conclusion:

In my opinion, there is a little more than a 99% chance of your receiving a death penalty verdict if your case goes to trial. Furthermore, there is a 100% chance of a guilty verdict. Neither I nor any other lawyer can change the overwhelming evidence that has been assembled against you. The above analysis of your chances would still obtain even without the LOOK articles.

As my client, you are entitled to my judgment. It is based on my experience as attorney in more than 1,000 murder cases. If I am able to sqve your life by negotiation wi with the Attorney General and the Court, I will consider it one of the great accomplishments of my career in the court room. I do not know whether I can get an agreement to waive the death penalty or not. But if I can, it will have to be NOW. I know that it can not be done after March 3, 1969.

Please sign both pages of two copies of this letter as evidence I have advised you to permit me to try to negotiate the waiver of the death penalty in consideration of our entering a guilty plea for you.


James Earl Ray.

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