

OPENS THE RAY TRIAL.

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RAY 11/8 NX

BY HENRY P. LEIFERMANN

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI)--A FEDERAL PRISONER RULED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT, BUT CLAIMING INSIDE INFORMATION IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., DEMANDED IN COURT TODAY TO TESTIFY IN THE TRIAL OF JAMES EARL RAY.

THE PRISONER, HUMBERT JAMES PUTT, CLAIMED HE KNEW IN ADVANCE THE "VERY DAY" THAT ROBERT F. KENNEDY WAS SHOT; TO HAVE BEEN "INADVERTANTLY INVOLVED" IN THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY; AND SUSPECTED OF "LIQUIDATING ALBERT ANASTASIA OF MURDER, INC."

NEITHER THE PROSECUTION NOR THE DEFENSE IN THE TRIAL OF RAY, ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF KING LAST APRIL 4, GAVE ANY WEIGHT TO PUTT'S BIZARRE CLAIMS. RAY'S TRIAL BEGINS TUESDAY.

HOWEVER, IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORESTALL CHARGES OF TRYING TO COVER UP FACTS IN THE ASSASSINATION, PHIL A. CANALE, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF SHELBY COUNTY AND CHIEF PROSECUTOR IN THE RAY TRIAL, ASKED JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE TO RULE ON PUTT'S MOTION BEFORE BATTLE

JUDGED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND ORDERED HELD AS INSANE

JUNE 10.

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CANALE SAID HE "FAILS TO SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF ANY PROOF THAT (PUTT) CAN OFFER ANY MATERIAL, RELEVANT OR COMPETENT EVIDENCE ON BEHALF OF THE DEFENDANT."

HOWEVER, CANALE'S MOTION TO THE COURT SAID, THE PROSECUTION WANTED THE HEARING "IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID EVEN THE REMOTE POSSIBILITY OF ANY SUGGESTION OF SUPPRESSION OF EVIDENCE" IN THE KING ASSASSINATION.

PUTT, NOT EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT AT THE HEARING, ALSO ASKED BATTLE TO APPOINT TWO OTHER PSYCHIATRISTS TO JUDGE HIS MENTAL COMPETENCY.

PUTT FILED A PETITION OCT. 2 IN WHICH THE NASHVILLE, TENN., NATIVE CLAIMED HE WAS "INADVERTANTLY INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY AND KNEW THE VERY DAY THAT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY WERE TO BE KILLED."

PUTT'S PETITION WAS WRITTEN IN PENCIL ON 8-BY-11 INCH RULED WHITE TABLET PAPER PROVIDED HIM IN THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER IN SPRINGFIELD, MO. PUTT WAS CONVICTED OF AUTO THEFT IN 1964 IN MISSISSIPPI AND SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IN THE FEDERAL PRISON IN ATLANTA. HE WAS TRANSFERRED TO SPRINGFIELD LAST MARCH 19 AND JUDGED MENTALLY INCOMPETENT AND ORDERED HELD IN THE CENTER LAST JUNE 10.

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*Had two Kevin checks with Herb + Schwan  
They also had nothing*