

Ray Loses Appeal for a New Trial; Faces Sentence Today for Escape

WARTBURG, Tenn., Nov. 29 (AP)— Judge Lee Asbury of Morgan County Criminal Court today denied James Earl Ray's motion for a new trial on his conviction for escaping from the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary last June.

He dismissed the motion after hearing argument from Mr. Ray's lawyer, Kenneth Krushenski, and District Attorney Arzo Carson.

Sentencing was set for 1 P.M. tomorrow. Mr. Ray, who pleaded guilty to the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. but later recanted, is currently serving a 99-year prison sentence.

Mr. Ray, who has told interviewers that he masterminded the June 10 breakout with six other prisoners, was convicted of the escape by a jury last month. The six co-defendants pleaded guilty in September and received one additional year in prison.

Mr. Ray did not attend today's hearing but will appear tomorrow to hear Judge Asbury sentence him to one year to two years more in prison. His lawyers were given 90 days to appeal to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals in Knoxville.