ay's Escape Trial Opens With Rebuil To Defense Lawyer

WARTBURG, Tenn. Oct. 27 (AP) A riminal Court judge today rebuffed mes Earl Ray's initial attempt to tifm is convicted assassin sescape trial into forum to discuss the murder of the ev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. But Mr. Ray's attorneys said they still ped to present testimony on their itent's 1969 guilty plea to the Memphis laying, and thus make the murder charge a issue in the current trial, in which it. Ray is charged with escaping from rushy Mountain Penitentiary last Jone 0. O. At the court session, a nine-man, three-

oman ury was selected.

Before the trial began, Mr. Ray's attor-

Before the trial began, Mr. Ray's attorey, Mark Lane, said he would argue that
is client was illegally confined and
herefore not guilty of illegal escape.

The trial is being conducted at the Moran County Vocational School because
he country courthouse is being remodled. Security was tight around the buildng, which is about 10 miles from the
penitentiary.

enitentiary.

Mr. Lane had hoped to show that Mr. lay was deprived of a fair trial in Membhis in 1969, when he pleaded guilty in a court in Shelby County to the slaying of Dr. King in Memphis on April 4, 1988, and was sentenced to 99 years in prisdin. "I have no intention to provide a forum for Mr. Ray to issue his complaints against the system, the Shelby County authorities or anybody else," Judge Lee Asbury said, "I believe that the laws is very narrow in this case."