

# Ray's Lawyer Says His Client Was Beaten By Prison Guards

**WASHINGTON**—James Earl Ray's lawyer charged today that federal prison officials and guards beat his client and put him in a hot, tiny punishment cell with the lights on 24 hours a day.

Attorney Marty Lane said the incident occurred Monday night at a federal penitentiary some distance from Washington. A spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons acknowledged a struggle had taken place and said the lighting problem had been solved, but denied that Ray had been injured.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year state prison term in Tennessee for the slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and an additional 1- to 2-year term for escape, testified today before the House assassinations committee under high security.

Lane said in an interview that he visited Ray at the prison Tuesday night and that he was "pale and shaking and looked haggard, as if he had not slept at all."

Lane said Ray told him that prison officials and guards had punched him in the back of the neck, knocked him to the ground and tore his shirt when he objected to being photographed, then put him in the cell.

He said Ray also reported that he had not eaten in 24

hours because he feared that officials would put something in his food "to deter the function of his mind" at the hearing. He said Ray told him he could not sleep because of the lights and suffered a headache from being punched.

Lane said that a Memphis attorney would file a writ of habeas corpus today to have Ray removed from the federal prison cell where he is being held.

The writ, he said, will charge that Ray "is being held in a punitive, solitary confinement cell with lights on him 24 hours a day. Lane said the writ would also contend that "the temperature in the cell seemed to be in excess of 90 degrees."

Lane said U.S. marshals had told Ray he would not have to be photographed but prison officials did so anyway and Ray objected.

Michael Aum, a spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons, denied that Ray was injured. He said that one officer had been kicked and another elbowed in the mouth during the struggle.

The identity of the prison where Ray is being held has not been disclosed. That prison has a policy of photographing and fingerprinting all inmates with a history of escape, but the processing of Ray was halted after the scuffle, Aum said.