

The Nation

Ray Has Alibi, His Lawyer Claims

PETROS, Tenn. — An attorney for James Earl Ray said today a witness can place Ray at a service station the afternoon Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in Memphis April 4, 1968.

Nashville attorney Jack Kershaw made the comment before he and House Assassinations Committee staffers closeted for the fifth time with Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Kershaw said that a man named "Raoul," for whom Ray was working, told him to go out to a movie on the afternoon King was shot. Instead Ray went to get a spare tire fixed, the attorney said.

"There was a person who remembers him, and has made statement," Kershaw said. He did not elaborate on whether the witness could place Ray at the service station at about 6 p.m., the time King was killed. The witness was not identified.

Ray pleaded guilty to the slaying of the civil rights leader and is serving a 99-year-sentence at this mountain prison.