Witness in Ray case talks

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Former service station attendant Willie Green said Thursday he remembers a "nervous" man, later identified as James Earl Ray, using a pay telephone about the time Martin Luther King Jr. was killed nine years ago.

Green, who worked in the station located seven blocks from the Lorraine Motel where King was shot by an assassin, said he saw a "nervous" fellow pass by the station shortly before 6 p.m. on April 4, 1968.

"I remember how nervous he was," Green told a reporter for the Press-Scimitar. "The most nervous fellow I ever saw. He used the phone booth (one located near the station).

An attorney for Ray has said that

Green will be interviewed by House Assassination committee members Monday when they come to Memphis to talk with other witnesses and look at police and court records.

Green, 66, said he and his boss, Dolan C. Nunley, were working when King was shot.

"We heard all those police cars going by with their sirens going and then we heard on the radio that Dr. King had been shot," Green said.

"We saw the ambulance go up Third Street carrying him (King) to the hospital."

Nunley walked to the motel, Green said, and later told him that the man they saw near the station was the man who killed King.

Nunley has been unavailable for comment.

Following the King murder, FBI agents showed Green a man's picture and the service station attendant identified him as the man he had seen near the station. The agents later said the picture was of Ray.

Attorney Jack Kershaw, who is the current attorney for the confessed assassin, said Ray told congressional investigators who visited him in his cell at Brusby Mountain prison in Tennessee that he was at the service station to get a tire fixed.

Ray was quoted by his attorney as saying he "hung around" the station because the attendants were too busy to fix the tire for his white Mustang and he

JAMES EARL RAY
was there at the time of the King slaying.
Green said he remembers the car but did not work on it.