

Lawyer Says FBI Threatened Ray

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — James Earl Ray's attorney said Ray told House Assassinations Committee investigators the FBI threatened members of his family in trying to prove a conspiracy to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Attorney Jack Kershaw said the conviction of Ray's older brother on a charge of aiding in a robbery may have been related to the threat.

Kershaw said Ray told committee investigators an FBI agent he knew only as "Jensen" interviewed Ray the day after he pleaded guilty to Dr. King's murder in exchange for a 99-year sentence.

"I find today that the FBI is involved in this case in an improper way, in that the FBI threatened James Earl Ray by threatening members of his family," Kershaw said.

He said Ray's lawyer at that time, Percy Foreman, also implied threats against Ray's family to force his guilty plea rather than going to trial for the

April 4, 1968, murder in Memphis.

Kershaw said the FBI may have carried out the supposed threat by assisting in the conviction of Ray's older brother, Jack, who is serving a federal prison term on the robbery charge.

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