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was co-counsel with Kerahaw.*

7/15/77  
**Ray Denies Escape Charge**

NASHVILLE—James Earl Ray will plead innocent today to an escape charge stemming from his highly publicized prison break June 10, his lawyer says.

Meanwhile, Chancery Court Judge Robert A. Brandt says he is concerned that Ray's possible transfer to a federal prison might prevent him from talking with the lawyer, Jack Kerahaw, on the charge.

Following the escape, Gov. Ray Blanton asked the Justice Department to take charge of Ray.

Ray is serving 99 years after pleading guilty to the 1968 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. Conviction on the escape charge could add five years to Ray's sentence.

Ray, who now says he is innocent of the murder charge, has been writing legal briefs and writes in an effort to gain a new trial.

Brandt questioned Kerahaw during a hearing on the state's motion to dismiss efforts to block Ray's transfer from Tennessee.

The hearing Wednesday dealt heavily with Kerahaw's contention that Ray fears FBI retaliation in a federal prison.

**Filipino Nurses Rally**

DETROIT—Chanting "we want justice, we want justice," hundreds of Filipino nurses protested the convictions of two of their countrywomen

guards