

MAIN AT RUSK

LAW OFFICES OF
PERCY FOREMAN
804 SOUTH COAST BUILDING
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

November 12, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

Re: State of Tennessee
vs. James Earl Ray
Nos. 16645 and 16819

Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I represent the defendant in the above styled cases.

In connection with the preparation for trial and within two hours of being admitted to practice in this case, I went to:

422 1/2 South Main
Memphis, Tennessee

This is the rooming house where news releases suggest my client was living at the time of the shooting of Martin Luther King, with whose murder he is charged. At this address, I was told by Mr. Delbert White, custodian of the rooming house, that he had been instructed by a Mr. and Mrs. Short (telephone number 683 3143) that the F.B.I. had said: "No one can see this room unless he is wearing a gold badge."

I have no "gold badge", yet I want to do what I must do as attorney for my client. This includes an investigation of the scene. Since the refusal of the permission to inspect the scene is attributed to some ephemeral representative of the F.B.I., I respectfully request a letter from you advising Mr. and Mrs. Short, at the above address, that it is not the policy of the F.B.I. to prevent an attorney for the defendant from inspecting the scene.

I know that such is not the policy of the F.B.I. and that the attitude of Mr. and Mrs. Short is due to a lack of full understanding of your policy.

Sincerely yours,

Percy Foreman
Percy Foreman

*ack: 11-19-68
REL: sms/ko*

PF:ma

cc: Mr. & Mrs. Short
422 1/2 S. Main
Memphis, Tennessee

REC-20

ST-140

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EXP. PROC.
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NOTE:

This is to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Mr. Percy Foreman who is the new attorney of record for James Earl Ray.

In a news release from Memphis, Tennessee, Foreman stated he was denied access to the rooming house at 422 1/2 South Main (where Ray allegedly rented a room on April 4, 1968) and Foreman claimed that the FBI was placing restrictions on access to the property. The news release also claimed that according to Foreman, he was writing the Director concerning security restrictions. Our Memphis Office advises us that according to a newspaper article of 11/14/68, Foreman inspected the rooming house with specific permission of the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Short. We have never placed any restrictions on this rooming house and we are so advising Foreman. In view of the fact that Mr. Canale is prosecuting the case in state court, which is set for 3/3/69, we are suggesting to Foreman that in the event he has any further questions of a similar nature, he should contact Mr. Canale.

Bureau records indicate that one attorney, who was closely associated with Foreman described him as hard-nosed, cold, cruel and ruthless.

Copy of incoming and our reply to Mr. Foreman being furnished to Memphis by separate communication.

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