

LA TIMES
7 JAN 97

Nation

IN BRIEF

TENNESSEE

James Earl Ray Returns to Hospital

James Earl Ray returned to the same hospital where he was treated for liver disease over the holidays. Ray, 68, was in fair condition at Columbia Nashville Memorial Hospital, said hospital spokeswoman Freda Herndon. She refused to elaborate. Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis in 1968. Ray confessed to the killing, but later recanted. He has professed his innocence ever since.