I I ZATIOZ

By Richard Willing USA TODAY

was used to kill the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. mine whether a rifle he owned will ask a Memphis judge today to order more tests to deter-Lawyers for James Earl Ray

caused the result, says William A glitch in the testing may have techniques were inconclusive. ing new subatomic ballistics Tests completed in May us-

> attorney. Pepper, Ray's lead

king's convicted killer

pursues new trial

see should pay for also will argue that Ray's defense has borne the cost so far. Lawyers further testing. the state of Tennes-Ray's lawyers

tence for killing the civil rights pose both motions. for the state say they will op-Ray is serving a 99-year sen-

pay for testing Ray: Wants state to

gun evidence.
Ray "would have new trial based on hope of winning a motion, it could efturns down either Judge Joe Brown leader. If Memphis fectively end Ray's

to find a new rabbit to pull out of the

ographer and a crit-Garrow, King's bihat," says David

mits owning the .30-caliber leader, then recanted. He ad-1968 murder of the civil rights ic of Ray's push for a new trial Ray, 69, pleaded guilty to the

> fatal shot. kill King. He denies firing the investigators say was used to Remington hunting rifle that

military intelligence. tract killers working with U.S. assassins, he says, were conto implicate his client. The real rifle was planted at the scene In court papers and in a 1995 book, Pepper argues that the

a government plot. King, and his four grown chil-dren support Ray's effort to his father's murder was part of ter, 37, has said he agrees that win a new trial. King's son Dex-King's widow, Coretta Scott

Ray's rifle had been test

sults then were inconclusive also. The round that killed match during ballistics tests. Ray's bid for a new trial has tors say, and thus difficult to King is deteriorated, investigafired by investigators twice be fore, in 1968 and 1978. The re-

ly fatal liver disease. since he suffers from potential attracted additional attention

the Kings to depart from their long-standing practice of not commenting on the killing. The granted a new trial, any secrets Kings fear that unless he is that Ray knows will die with That apparently persuaded