

Panel Grants Ray a Lie Detector Test

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — The House Select Committee on Assassinations interviewed James Earl Ray for seven hours Monday and agreed to give the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a lie detector test.

The meeting with Ray was the sixth since March 22 at Brushy Mountain state prison. Robert Lehner, a spokesman for the four staff members of the committee who talked to Ray, said the lie detector tests will be conducted after the current series of interviews.

Mark Lane, Ray's current lawyer, told committee staffers he has taped interviews with two witnesses — Grace Stephens and a "distinguished Memphis businessman" he would not name — who he said will testify that Ray could not have killed King.

Lane said Mrs. Stephens, interviewed at a mental hospital in Bolivar, said her husband, Charles, could not have seen the person who fled from the bathroom at the rooming house moments after King was shot.

"But she saw the person flee just after the shots were fired and it was not James Earl Ray," Lane said.

Lane said the other witness said he saw Ray at a service station several blocks from the spot where King was shot at about the time for the murder.

Lane said the two taped interviews and others part of his effort to get Ray a new trial in Tennessee courts for the King murder.

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