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Ray's Lawyer Sees 'Blockbuster' Coming in Inquiry on King Slaying

TIMES

PETROS, Tenn., Oct. 28 (AP)—Investigators from the House Assassinations Committee will question James Earl Ray at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary again next month, Mr. Ray's attorney said today.

The attorney, Mark Lane, said, "I understand the committee has some new evidence, and I think you'll see some blockbuster developments on the King assassination coming out of its investigation."

Mr. Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison term after pleading guilty to killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was convicted yesterday for his June 10 escape from the rural East Tennessee prison.

Ray's 14th Attorney

He was sentenced to an additional one to two years in prison, which extends the date that he is first eligible for parole from July 1998 to July 1999. The sentence was the minimum the jury could impose under the state's escape law.

Mr. Lane, the author of books saying that conspiracies were involved in the assassinations of Dr. King and President Kennedy, became Mr. Ray's 14th attorney on Tuesday, two days before the trial.

He said that he was told today by Robert Lehner, head of the House assassination panel's inquiry into the King murder, that investigators would return to Tennessee to question Mr. Ray on Nov. 14. The committee's staff met with Mr. Ray at least four times before his escape and once since his recapture on June 13.

Mr. Lane's statement that he expected some "blockbuster" developments in the King case coincided with a report today by the Scripps-Howard News Service that the chairman of the committee, Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, had told other members of the panel to expect the same.

Mr. Ray, who pleaded guilty in March 1969 to murdering Dr. King in Memphis, testified yesterday that he had escaped hoping to make a deal with Attorney General Griffin B. Bell for a new murder trial.

"It was my intention after I was out a couple of months to make some arrangements with the Attorney General, General Bell, for a new trial in the King case," he said.

Three days after pleading guilty to King's death, Mr. Ray tried to withdraw the plea. He has been trying to get a new trial ever since.