

Lie Detector Test OK'd For Testimony Of Ray

PETROS, Tenn. — The staff of the House Select Committee on Assassinations met with James Earl Ray for seven hours Monday and agreed to arrange a lie detector test for the convicted killer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The meeting was the sixth held with Ray since March 22 at Brushy Mountain State Prison, where he is serving 99 years for pleading guilty to the 1968 slaying.

Robert Lehner, spokesman for the four committee staffers who met with Ray, said the lie detector test will be given Ray after the current series of interviews. Another interview will be held Dec. 2.

Ray's newest attorney, Mark Lane, said he had taped interviews during the past few days with two witnesses who will testify that Ray could not have fired the shot that killed King at a Memphis motel.

Lane said the witnesses were Grace Stephens and a "distinguished Memphis businessman" whom Lane declined to identify.

Lane said he interviewed Mrs. Stephens at Western Mental Health Institute at Boli-

var, Tenn., and she said that — contrary to earlier reports — her husband, Charles Stephens, could not have seen the person who fled from a nearby rooming house bathroom 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.

The businessman, Lane claimed, saw Ray at a service station several blocks from the spot where King was shot at about the time of the killing.

Lane played his taped interviews to members of the congressional investigating staff. Lane said Ray also discussed his activities immediately after the King murder, including his trip to Canada and eventual flight to Europe.

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

Lane said he is continuing to work on Ray's appeal for a new trial in King's death.