

## 2 Reporters Lose Appeals On Ray Case Publicity

MEMPHIS, Oct. 18 (UPI)—Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle rejected today an appeal for a new trial from two newspaper reporters found in violation of his order limiting pretrial publicity in the case of James Earl Ray.

Judge Battle termed the motion "premature."

Armistead Clay, the lawyer representing the reporters Roy Hamilton of The Memphis Press-Scimitar and Charles Edmundson of The Commercial Appeal, asked for the new trial on grounds of "new and valuable evidence."

Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Edmundson; Ray's defense attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, and a private investigator, Renfro T. Hays, were found in contempt of court Sept. 30 after the publication of articles dealing with conditions in Ray's cell at the Shelby County Jail.