

FBI Guarded King, Ray Attorney Says

MEMPHIS (Tenn.) — (UPI) — Percy Foreman, defense attorney for James Earl Ray, said today the FBI had a squad assigned to prevent the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King for two years before his assassination.

Foreman made the disclosure during a brief hearing before Judge W. Preston Battle that was called to set a firm date for the start of Ray's trial on charges of slaying King April 4 in Memphis.

Foreman asked for an unspecified delay, and the prosecution objected. Judge Battle kept the tentative March 3 trial date but said he would postpone it if unforeseen problems arose in preparation of the defense.

In an unprecedented ac-

tion, Battle ordered the public defender's office to assign as many persons as necessary to work with Foreman.

Word of the FBI squad assigned to Dr. King came during an exchange between Foreman and Robert Dwyer, assistant attorney general for Shelby County.

Three times, Foreman said, he has asked FBI director J. Edgar Hoover for the FBI's files on Dr. King and on the \$1.4-million investigation the FBI has made in the assassination.

Foreman, the celebrated Texas trial lawyer, stepped into the case Nov. 10, two days before Ray's trial was to begin. Ray fired his first defense attorney Arthur Hanes Sr., former mayor of Birmingham, Ala.