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MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP -Houston attorney Percy Foreman met with his client, James Earl Ray, at the county jail here Sunday evening as last minute preparations continued for a Monday appearance by Ray in criminal court.

There was speculation that Ray might enter a guilty plea to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in return for a 99-year prison sentence.

Some courthouse observers said the hearing might only involve motions for a change of venue or a continuance.

In addition, there were reports that Ray had at one time agreed to the guilty plea but that he had since changed his mind and decided to cling to his earlier claim of innocence.

A spokesman for the Shelby County sheriff's office said Foreman met with Ray for about one hour, then went to the office of Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil Canale.

Judge W. Preston Battle, who will hear the Ray case, was in the building at the time, but apparently met with neither side in the case. The sheriff's office said Battle did hold a conference with Sheriff William N. Morris Jr.

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