

Scar on Sill Linked to Ray

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — A small fresh scar on a battered wooden window sill proved to investigators the shot that killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was fired from the bathroom of a dollar-a-day rooming house.

Shelby County District Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale, appearing on a televised news conference yesterday, said to him this was the most surprising discovery in the case against James Earl Ray.

In an interview on CBS-TV news last night, Ray's attorney, Percy Foreman, said he thought Ray acted alone in killing King.

"I am convinced that James

Earl Ray made the decision and was the moving factor and that no other persons, organization or group . . . was concerned in the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," Foreman said.

In the Memphis news conference Canale said someone figured a "30.06 deer rifle would have a certain amount of recoil."

"They checked the window sill and found a tiny indentation," Canale said.

"We took the window sill out and sent it to the FBI in Washington," he said. "They made pictures of it, blew them up and the markings were identical to the machine

work on the rifle that was abandoned near the front of the rooming house."

The rifle and a zipper bag containing a man's personal belongings plus a pair of binoculars and a transistor radio were found wrapped in a green cloth lying on the South Main Street sidewalk, apparently dumped there by the killer.

Canale said the slug that shattered King's spinal column was too damaged for definite ballistics tests, but he said a piece of copper and lead from the bullet about the size of the end of a man's little finger were found intact.

Working with these and the empty hull found in the rifle,

the FBI established the bullet was one that could have been fired by that weapon. The rifle was bought by Ray, using the name Harvey Lowmeyer, in Birmingham, Ala.

The binoculars, Canale said, were bought in Memphis.

He said the transistor radio proved more puzzling. The plastic case was scratched in one spot and when federal agents tested it they found the number 00416.

After matching the fingerprints found on the rifle and other items in the bag with those of Missouri prison escaper James Earl Ray, the radio mystery was solved.

Ray's serial number in pris-

on was 00416. He apparently bought the radio while he was at the Missouri state prison in Jefferson City, Mo., Canale said, and tried to obliterate the numbers.

The prosecutor said this was the one item of evidence Ray asked to see a week ago today when he pleaded guilty to murder charges and accepted a 99-year prison term.

Canale explained Ray took the step he did after telling his attorney, Percy Foreman, that he would be free within two years.

The district attorney said he did not know whether Ray planned to seek freedom legally or through an escape.