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mands for political rights—at
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nity's right to rear its young in
an atmosphere of mutual re-
spect. If this is the true mean-
ing of freedom of speech, then
the American dream is truly a
nightmare. ROBERT C. CURREY
Larchmont, N. Y., March 9, 1969

Ray's Right to Plea

To the Editor:
Your March 11 editorial
"Tongue-Tied Justice" objected
to the recent abbreviated trial
of James Earl Ray on the
ground that its abrupt termina-
tion failed to develop whether
Ray was part of a conspiracy to
kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
You suggest that a full-fledged
trial should have been held in
order to answer this question.
In fact, however, the only
defendant was Ray and the
only crime charged was murder.
Conspiracy is another, separate
crime; and any conspirators

with Ray would be other, sep-
arate defendants.

The idea that the trial of one
man for one crime should be
expanded into a roving inquiry
into his or other, unindicted
persons' guilt of other, un-
charged crimes contradicts
some basic notions of criminal
procedure.

There are other public fo-
rums—Federal and state grand
juries—available to explore the
possibility that Ray and others
may have committed the addi-
tional crime of conspiracy.

The Times has in the past
properly resisted the irrational
cries that the rights of a
criminal defendant should be
subordinated to society's right
to law and order. We should
resist similar claims for the
primacy of society's right to
know. JAMES J. HANKS Jr.
Cambridge, Mass.
March 11, 1969

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President's Peace Plan

To the Editor: 18 MAR 69
Back in March, 1968, during
the New Hampshire primary,
Richard Nixon told the voters
of that state that he had a
peace plan to end the war and
killing in Vietnam. What hap-
pened to that peace plan? The
war still goes on, and 44 days
since Nixon took office over
one thousand American boy
have been killed on the battl
fields of Vietnam.

JOHN J. COURT
Scarsdale, N. Y., March 7,

Lessons of Jury

To the Editor:
I have just spent
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Jury Room. More
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