

'Pressured Into Plea'  
RAY SAYS HE'S NOT GUILTY

## Attorney Will Charge Libel

NASHVILLE (Tenn.)—Lawyer J. B. Stoner said today James Earl Ray told him he was “pressured into a guilty plea” and was innocent of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Stoner, who visited Ray in his maximum security cell on the Tennessee State Penitentiary for more than two hours, said he would represent Ray only in libel action.

The Savannah, Ga., attorney told newsmen outside the prison he would file libel actions against “Life Magazine and others” — and anyone else who interfered with Ray getting a fair trial.

### No Comment

Asked if he would represent Ray in his bid for a new trial, Stoner refused to comment. Stoner earlier said he had been retained to help Ray win the review of his guilty plea and 99-year sentence.

He declined today to say who is paying his fee or how much it is.

His past associations with the Ku Klux Klan members would not harm his case, Stoner said.

“I have represented klansmen and other white men in the past. I don’t think that will hurt,” Stoner said.

### So Many

Asked who in addition to Life Magazine would be involved in libel action Stoner replied, “So many have libeled him, Ray, it would be impossible to include them all.”

But he said, “Life Magazine and others” could “count on it.”