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☆☆☆ Mon., Apr. 7, 1969

Ray Files Motion for New Trial

MEMPHIS — (UPI) — The new attorneys for James Earl Ray, convicted of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King, filed motions for a new trial today. They said their grounds for the action were that Ray's former attorneys used him to peddle his inside story to magazines, books and motion pictures.

In motions signed by Ray's three new lawyers, the 41 year old convict claimed that he was forced to plead guilty to the April 4, 1968, sniper slaying because of pressure from his old attorneys.

Ray's two chief attorneys in the case were Percy Foreman, the famed Houston lawyer; and Arthur J. Hanes Sr., a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala. He has fired both of the men.

The new attorneys said Foreman charged Ray \$165,000 for his defense.

Several Tennessee legal authorities say Ray may already have won a new trial because of a letter from Ray, written from the Tennessee state prison in Nashville and asking for a new trial, sent to Trial Judge W. Preston Battle before he died.

Ray's formal motions today were signed by Richard Ryan, a Memphis attorney; and associate counsels J. B. Stoner, a Ku Klux Klan lawyer from Savannah, Ga., and Robert W. Hill Jr., of Chattanooga.