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Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. AP - A lawyer for James Earl Ray asked U.S. District Court Judge William T. Miller Friday to void Ray's contract with the lawyer who represented him when he pleaded guilty to the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

At the same time, the attorney asked for nullification of Ray's contract with William Bradford Huie, Alabama author, for the story of Ray's life. Several stories relating to this contract have appeared in Look magazine.

Robert W. Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, Tenn., asked a preliminary injunction against Percy Foreman of Houston, Tex., the lawyer, and Huie. He asked for an early hearing on an injunction against "any and all contracts and powers of attorney" negotiated with Ray.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence in King's death, now is seeking a new trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

Hill became associated in Ray's case after Ray announced he had fired Foreman after Ray pleaded guilty March 10 at Memphis in King's death.

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NASHVILLE Ray A216 A33: death.

Hill, who conferred with Judge Miller before filing his petition, told newsmen he is seeking to nullify "any and all contracts" between Ray and Foreman or Huie.

At the same time, Hill disclosed he had been turned back when he sought earlier in the day to visit Ray in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State Penitentiary. In response, to questioning, he said he did not know why.

State Corrections Commissioner Harry S. Avery earlier had said Ray would be permitted to confer with lawyers representing him only in original matters during his first six weeks in prison. Hill, he said, is normal for all prisoners.

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