Ray Assigned to Prison Job, But He'll Work by Himself

NASHVILLE, Jan. 12 (UPI)—
James Earl Ray, who complained that his isolated imprisonment was cruel and asked for some work to do, has been assigned to paint the interior of the state prison's maximum security building—by himself.

United States District Judge William E. Miller today approved the State Correction's Department's work and recreation program for Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The program was set up as a result of a long hearing Dec. 29 on Ray's petition to be released into the main prison population. Judge Miller refused to order that Ray be entirely freed from maximum security but ordered officials at the prison here to give him something to do.