

Story should be dated Dec. 4.

RAY'S LAWYERS OPEN BID FOR A NEW TRIAL

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NASHVILLE, Nov. 4 (AP)—Attorneys for James Earl Ray filed a petition today in Federal court requesting a hearing that would allow Ray to withdraw his plea of guilty in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"In effect, we're asking the Federal court to review Ray's plea of guilty and see if it was the result of duress and coercion and, if so, permit him to withdraw his guilty plea and be tried on its merits in the Memphis state court," said Bernard Fensterwald, one of Ray's lawyers.

Ray is serving a 99-year prison term for the slaying of the black civil rights leader in April, 1968. He is currently in solitary confinement at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville.

The petition, filed as a writ of habeas corpus, seeks to prove that Ray's case has been "a sham, a farce and a mockery."

The attempt is the first by Ray in Federal court to get a hearing in his case following his conviction in March, 1969, in Memphis.
