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**Ray Files 500,000 Damage Suit  
Against Tennessee in King Case**

NASHVILLE, Dec. 28 (AP)—James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison for the slaying in 1968 of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed a \$500,000 damage suit in Federal Court against the state yesterday.

In the suit, Mr. Ray contends that he gave his lawyer, Percy Foreman of Dallas, the telephone numbers of two Louisiana residents and asked him to investigate them, but that Mr. Foreman had not pursued the information.

He said Mr. Foreman had given the information to Z. T. Osborne, a Nashville lawyer who has since died, and had asked him to investigate them. Mr. Ray did not list the telephone numbers.

While he pleaded guilty to the shooting, there has been continuing speculation that a conspiracy existed to kill the civil rights leader.

Dr. King was shot fatally by rifle fire in April, 1968, as he stood on a Memphis motel balcony. At the time, he was in Memphis to support a strike by garbage workers belonging to the Teamsters union.

In a typewritten suit, Mr. Ray said, "Mr. Osborne reported the resident listed under the Baton Rouge phone number

was a parish official under the influence of a Teamsters union official in the Baton Rouge area; that the resident listed under the New Orleans area was, among other things, an agent of a Mideast-oriented organization disturbed because Dr. Martin Luther King's reported forthcoming, before his death, public support of the Palestine Arab cause."

In Houston, Mr. Foreman said, "We did find one number, and in checking it out found that it was a New Orleans bar. I don't know anything about a Baton Rouge number, but I believe we did check another New Orleans number and it turned out it had been disconnected."

The suit also asks that the state be restrained temporarily from transferring him to a medical center for Federal prisoners in Springfield, Mo.

He contends that the state has made "fraudulent representations" in court to prolong his imprisonment, acted to deprive him of his constitutional rights and attempted to impair his health.

State prison officials have said they want to transfer him to a Federal facility for security reasons. Ray, 45 years old, is segregated from other prisoners at the Tennessee prison.