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Dr. King's 

Slayer Ends Prison Fast

Nashville

James Earl Ray, the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ended a four-day hunger strike in the Tennessee state prison yesterday after prison officials warned him they had no intention of "going overboard" to make him eat.

Ray had gone on the strike to protest a decision to put him in "administrative segregation," a form of solitary confinement, to protect him from his fellow inmates.

He was confined to a cell alone and not allowed to mingle with other prisoners.

Officials said he pretended to "pass out" in his cell Sunday night, and was sent to the prison hospital, where examination revealed there was nothing wrong with him. They said they suspected he was eating stored-up snacks when no one was looking.

Ray ended his hunger strike when he ate lunch yesterday. He will remain in the hospital for a day or two of observation.

New York Times