SFChronicle Ray's Letters To Probers

Washington MAR 5 1977

The embattled House assassinations committee has a letter, purportedly from James Earl Ray, indicating he is willing to discuss testifying on the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee has a letter carrying Ray's name and signature, contradicting the insistence of his lawyer, James H. Lesar, that he not testify before the committee.

"This is not necessarily my position," the letter says.

"Therefore, if the committee has any queries I would appreciate it if they would in the future direct them to attorney Jack Kershaw."

Kershaw, a Nashville, Tenn. lawyer, could not immediately be reached.

A committee spokesman comfirmed that "we are in receipt of such a letter and from what we know of his (Ray's) siganture that is a legitimate letter."

Associated Press