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Prisoner Demands To Talk at Ray Trial

MEMPHIS — (UPI) — A federal prisoner ruled mentally incompetent but claiming inside information in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, demanded in court today to testify in the trial of James Earl Ray.

The prisoner, Humbert James Putt, claimed he knew in advance the "very day" that Robert Kennedy was shot; to have been "inadvertently involved" in the assassination of President Kennedy; and suspected of "liquidating Albert Anastasia of Murder, Inc."

Neither the prosecution nor the defense in the Ray trial gave any weight to Putt's bizarre claims. Ray's trial begins Tuesday. He is charged with slaying Dr. King in Memphis, April 4.

However, in an attempt to forestall charges of trying to cover up facts in the assassi-

nation, Phil A. Canale, chief prosecutor in the Ray trial, asked Judge W. Preston Battle to rule on Putt's motion before Battle opens the Ray trial.

Putt's petition asking to testify was written in pencil on 8-by-11 inch ruled white tablet paper provided him in the Federal Medical Center in Springfield, Mo.

Putt was convicted of auto theft in 1964 in Mississippi and sentenced to five years in federal prison. He was transferred to Springfield last March 19, judged mentally incompetent and ordered held in the center.