

Cops Saw Slaying, Ray's Lawyer Says

Memphis

A comment that "a number of policemen and firemen" were "looking through peepholes" at Dr. Martin Luther King when he was shot figured in a court hearing here yesterday that resulted in another delay in the murder trial of James Earl Ray.

One of the reasons defense counsel Percy Foreman gave in seeking the delay was that his investigation of the case had been impeded because firemen and policemen had been ordered not to discuss it with him. He said:

"A number of firemen and policemen actually were looking through peepholes at the deceased when he was shot, it is our information."

Judge W. Preston Battle

reset the trial from March 3 to April 7, ruling the defense had not had time to properly prepare its case, especially because Foreman recently had been incapacitated for several weeks with pneumonia. Foreman had asked for a 90-day delay.

Foreman said he had been told that Frank C. Holloman, director of Memphis Fire and Police Departments, ordered members of the departments to refuse to cooperate with him in the case.

Holloman told a reporter he could not comment on the matter because of Judge Battle's stringent order barring officials and principals in the case from making public statements.

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