

## A Pre-Trial Gun Denial By James Ray

### Memphis, Tenn.

James Earl Ray denied yesterday that he owned a high-powered rifle of the type which authorities say was used to murder Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. take 297b

Ray also denied ownership of a 1966 two-door Mustang which the State charges was used by the killer to make his getaway after the slaying.

Ray is scheduled to go on trial April 7 on a charge of murdering the civil rights leader.

The statements concerning the gun and car were made in a written answer filed to a civil lawsuit pending against Ray in Chancery Court.

The suit was brought by Renfro Hays, a private detective who contends Ray owes him more than \$11,000 for investigative work in the case. Hays was hired by Ray's former attorney, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., and seeks to attach the car and gun, then have them sold to satisfy his claim.

*Associated Press*