

Ray Rushed To Prison In Chains

Examiner News Services

NASHVILLE (Tenn.) — James Earl Ray, convicted and sentenced in an "instant trial" yesterday, was led in chains into the Tennessee State Prison today to begin serving a 99-year term for murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The burly Ray, who observed his 41st birthday in Memphis by switching his plea and accepting the prearranged sentence, was whisked out of his Shelby County jail cell at 5:30 a.m. and transferred to state authorities near the county line.

He was sped 200 miles to Nashville in an eight-car motorcade that pulled up to the prison shortly after 8 a.m.

Chain, Manacles

Secured by a waist chain connected to heavy handcuffs and ankle manacles, Ray stepped briskly into the cluster of white, red-roofed buildings that form the state prison on the outskirts of Nashville.

Ray bent over from the waist and shielded his head with his hands to avoid photographers.

He ignored shouted questions by newsmen as he walked quickly from the unmarked car that had carried him from Memphis.

Ray strode past a guard's post through the main gate of the prison. He walked across a small courtyard and into the maximum security section.

No Trouble

"Everything went fine," State Safety Commissioner Greg O'Rear said of the transfer. "There was not a minute of trouble. There was not too much conversation."

Warden Lake Russell said, "I don't have the feeling he



RAY HEADS FOR HIS NEW HOME
The slayer ducks his head as he is led to prison

is in danger from any other inmates."

In the motorcade, which reached 70 miles an hour during the trip, Ray sat in an unmarked car in the middle of the caravan with highway patrol cars in front and behind.

Ray will spend at least 30 years in prison before, at the age of 71, he will be eligible for parole.

Should he be released then, he could be required to eight years remaining on a 16-year term at the Missouri State Prison, plus any additional time he may be given for escaping from that institution.

Quarantine

Ray will be kept in maximum security for a month to six weeks until his classifica-

tion is completed.

After this period Warden Russell said:

"He'll be treated like everyone else."

His first days will be spent alone in a cell a little larger than most — about 8 by 10 feet. The only furnishings are a bed, chair, wash basin and toilet.

It will be "kind of a quarantine until we get all the data in his records and determine under what type security he should be held and where he should work," Russell said.

Papers Rap 'Cover Up' On Ray

By the Associated Press

Leading American newspapers today criticized the arrangement under which James Earl Ray was allowed to plead guilty to the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, in return for a 99-year prison sentence.

The New York Times called the aborted trial in Memphis, Tenn., "a shocking breach of faith with the American people, black and white, and of people all over the world . . .

"In the ghetto and in the world outside the ghetto, the question still cries for answer:

"Was there a conspiracy to kill Dr. King and who was in it?"

The New York Post declared that there are "too many indications that Ray was the trigger-man for a broader conspiracy remain; too many mysterious questions are unresolved."

The New York Daily News called the court's action "a scandalous coverup, an inexcusable muzzling of a man who might have been able to expose a historic murder ring."

"We wonder how Judge Battle will make out henceforth when he tries to lie down to pleasant dreams."

The Memphis Commercial-Appeal:

" . . . It remains necessary that the full story be told eventually . . . The nation, indeed the world, deserves to be given answers to many things which remain mysteries."

The Knoxville News-Sentinel declared:

"Such deals . . . leave the impression that justice has not been clear-cut. And in this case, doubt about a conspiracy is bound to flourish."