

PRESSURING OF RAY DENIED BY FOREMAN

HOUSTON, Tex. March 23 (AP)—Percy Foreman denied a report today that he had used financial pressure to obtain a guilty plea from James Earl Ray in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Nashville Tennessean quoted Gerry Ray, brother of James Earl, in a copyright story: "Foreman said he would take \$150,000 if my brother pleaded guilty, but he wanted everything he would ever earn if he didn't."

"How is an man doing 99 years in the penitentiary going to earn anything?" Mr. Foreman asked. "That's ridiculous."

Mr. Foreman said he asked Ray to specify a reasonable fee three weeks after he received a letter from Ray asking for a guilty plea and Ray said \$150,000.

"I didn't fix the fee, he fixed it," Mr. Foreman said.

In addition, Mr. Foreman said, he plans to place his 60 per cent of picture, book and magazine rights in a trust fund for Ray's family. He said he had told the family, and was waiting until they decided on a bank.

Picture rights already have been sold for \$175,000 plus 13 per cent of the receipts, he said.