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With Ray

NASHVILLE, Tenn. AP --Richard J. Ryan, a Memphis attorney, attempted to visit James Earl Ray at the state prison here Wednesday but was turned away by prison officials.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison sentence handed down after he pleaded guilty to the murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has reportedly been in contact with a Memphis lawyer about changing his plea, but officials were not certain that Ryan was the attorney contacted.

Harry S. Avery, state commissioner of correction said Ryan was turned away because he had not been officially retained by Ray. He added that Ryan would not be allowed to see the prisoner until after his prison classification is completed sometime next month.

Ray's brother, Jerry Ray, reported last week that James would ask for a new trial on grounds he was "pressured" by his former attorney, Percy Foreman, into entering a guilty plea in King's death.

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