

K1 52
APR 23 1973

SF Examiner APR 23 1973

James Ray Wants Out Of Solitary

NASHVILLE (Tenn.) — (AP) — James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., says in a letter published in the Tennessean that he has been trying for two years to be released from solitary confinement at the state prison here.

The letter, published yesterday, was in response to an earlier story in the newspaper in which prison warden Jim Rose said: "Ray now prefers to stay in his cell and work on his appeals."

Ray said his letter was written "to keep this latest fabrication from being alleged in court with any degree of credibility with possible corroborating witnesses and perhaps again delay confinement relief."

In March 1969, Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison after he pleaded guilty to shooting King at Memphis the year before. He later was denied a new trial.