

KING

# LAWYER FOR RAY SEEKS NEW TRIAL

## Says Convicted Slayer Was 'Badgered and Bribed'

CINCINNATI, (UPI) — James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was "browbeaten, badgered and bribed" into pleading guilty, his lawyer argued yesterday in an effort to win a new trial.

A decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit here is not expected for about a month.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence in Nashville. He says his former attorney, Percy Foreman, coerced him into pleading guilty April 4, 1969, in exchange for the prison sentence. Ray now wants to plead not guilty.

"Mr. Foreman's behavior in this case was outrageous," Ray's new attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, told the three-judge panel. "He talked to no witnesses, made no investigation. He told Ray there was a 100-per-cent chance of conviction and a 99-per-cent chance he would go to the electric chair."

### Fensterwald Arrangement

"Before Ray entered his plea, I think he was both browbeaten and bribed. Mr. Foreman badgered him into pleading guilty," Mr. Fensterwald said. Ray was to pay Mr. Foreman for his legal expertise through all royalties he received from William Bradford Huie, a writer who had made a deal with Ray to write about the case.

However, Mr. Fensterwald said that Mr. Foreman then agreed to pay back Ray all money beyond an initial \$165,000 fee if he entered a guilty plea in order to save Mr. Foreman time.

Mr. Fensterwald also asked the court to release Ray from his cell to help prepare his case if a new trial or hearing was ordered. Ray was not present at yesterday's proceedings.

If Ray is granted a new trial, Mr. Fensterwald said he would try to undo ballistics test reports and witness statements linking Ray to Dr. King's murder.