

JUDGE PUTS A CURB ON HEARING FOR RAY

MEMPHIS, June 25 (UPI)—Attorneys for James Earl Ray will have to rely on either sworn depositions or voluntary testimony from two of his former lawyers when an evidentiary hearing gets under way later this year.

United States District Judge Robert McRae Jr. ruled today that he cannot, in a civil hearing, subpoena persons living more than 100 miles from Memphis and force them to appear at the hearing, which could lead to a new trial for Mr. Ray in the 1968 murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mr. Ray contends that his

former lawyers, Percy Foreman of Houston and Arthur Hanes Sr. of Birmingham, Ala., coerced him into pleading guilty to the King assassination primarily because of their financial interest in the book "He Slew the Dreamer" by William Bradford Huie, Alabama author.

Mr. Ray's current attorneys had asked that Mr. Foreman, Mr. Hanes and Mr. Huie be required to testify in person at the still-unscheduled hearing ordered earlier this year by the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

Both Mr. Foreman and Mr. Hanes, however, have said they will be willing to testify voluntarily in the case.

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