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# House Panel to Test King Death Bullet

Washington

The House Assassinations Committee announced yesterday that it will conduct independent ballistics tests next week on the bullet that killed Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee also confirmed that its investigators will interview James Earl Ray in prison where he is serving a 99-year sentence on conviction of killing King.

An FBI expert testified in proceedings following King's assassination in 1968 that the bullet was too badly damaged to determine if it came from the rifle that Memphis police say bore Ray's fingerprints.

Chairman Walter Fauntroy of the subcommittee conducting the King assassination investigation said two separate ballistics tests will be made by separate professionals and not by the FBI.

Ray's new lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, says Ray's story is that he had turned the rifle over to a man he knew only as Raoul and was sent off on an errand before King was shot.

Fauntroy also said that it is not

likely Ray will testify before the committee before the end of this month.

He said the interview with Ray next week may be only the first of a series.

He said the investigators will

be authorized to interview Ray under oath next week if Ray agrees.

Fauntroy said the committee "will want to take testimony from Ray under oath" when it is ready to put him on the witness stand.

Ray said in a television inter-

view this week that he is willing to testify before the committee only if it will listen to his full story. He said he did not want to be presumed guilty by the committee and looked on only as a source for finding who else may be involved.

Associated Press