

Escape Pushes Ray's Parole Date to 2001

James Earl Ray, who would have been eligible for parole at age 70, will have to spend at least three more years in prison because of his escape from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.

A prison review board yesterday sentenced Ray and six other inmates who climbed over the back wall of the prison a week ago to spend 30 day in "administrative segregation." The board also took away from each man three years of what officials said was accumulated "good and honor" time that would

have been deducted from their sentences.

Ray, 49, serving a 99-year term for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., would have been eligible for parole in 1998 with the good and honor time on his record. Its forfeiture pushes his earliest possible parole date to 2001.

Ray and the others also face criminal escape charges. If convicted, one to five years could be added to their current sentences.

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