

Ray Shifts Counsel, Seeks Trial Delay

WASHINGTON POST
MEMPHIS, Tenn., Nov. 10

(AP)—James Earl Ray, charged with murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., switched his attorney tonight and set the stage for a continuance of his trial.

Shelby County Sheriff William N. Norris Jr. told a late night news conference that Ray had signed a letter of intent to hire the noted criminal attorney, Percy Foreman of Texas, to represent him.

"Mr. Foreman has told me that it is his intention to appear before Judge W. Preston Battle Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. to request a continuance in the trial of the case pending against James Earl Ray," Morris said.

Foreman will replace Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham. He is expected to request a 30-day continuance to familiarize himself with the case.

Hanes had told the court once earlier that serious difficulties had arisen between him and Ray over the conduct of the trial and that at some date he might have to withdraw as counsel.

Morris said Foreman, who once represented Jack Ruby and was defense counsel in the murder trial of heiress Candace Mossler, came to the jail today with two of Ray's brothers, John and Jerry Ray. The sheriff said the three asked to see Ray and during

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Associated Press

PERCY FOREMAN
... new Ray counsel

the visit "certain decisions were made and a letter was written" to Hanes.

"This letter was presented to me for reading by Mr. Foreman and it declared an intent by James Earl Ray to dispense

See RAY, A3, Col. 4

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