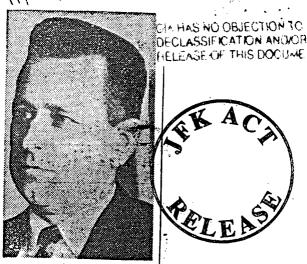
PHIL M. CANALE JR. The prosecutor



W. PRESTON BATTLE The judge



JAMES EARL RAY The defendant

## HELEASE OF THIS DOCUME

## Ray's Trial to Open Tuesday In the Slaying of Dr. King

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — of slaying President Kennedy, chances; it is determined that James Earl Ray goes on trial was killed before he could be one way or another this case will tried. Sirhan B. Sirhan, the albert of Sen Kennedy is involved stays alive until it is and — in one of the strangest geles next month. secondary.

olent act of one man, as the thief and escaped robber raises state charges, or the murderous the big questions: fruition of a conspiratorial plot, with Ray set up as a decoy, as Earl Ray murder such a man as the defense contends?

Three times in five years an national leaders — first Presi- and where are they now? dent John F. Kennedy, then Martin Luther King, then Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

This is the first time the alleged killer has been brought to in that courtroom has to be re-

of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leged killer of Sen. Kennedy, is involved stays alive until it is.

The jury will settle on

cases on record — the question The result is that all the nag-of whether he did or did not kill ging doubts about "plot" now the civil rights leader is almost focus on the first man to face the assassination charge in open The focal question is: Was the court, a man whose background slaying of King the isolated vi- as habitual criminal, bumbling likely before Christmas.

> Why would a man like James Martin Luther King?

Was there a conspiracy and if assassin's bullets have cut down so, who were the conspirators

There is a small television camera in the hall outside County Courtroom 3, where the trial will be held. Anybody who goes corded, picture and voice, by a Lee Harvey Oswald, accused camera. Memphis is not taking

The jury will settle only whether Ray was the sniper who just before dusk, at 6:01 p.m. CST Thursday, April 4, put a 30-36 caliber rifle slug through the throat of the Nobel peace prize winner. A decision is not

Whether the question of conspiracy will be answered may depend on Ray himself, if he takes the stand, if he knows anything and, if he does, whether he will talk.

## Clark Sees No Plot

The government says there is no puzzle to unravel. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark assured the world the day after King was shot that one man, acting alone, was responsible.

Prosecutor Phil Canale, the Shelby County (Memphis) attorney general who has not argued to a jury in seven years, has had his case drawn for him by the Justice Department and the

That case is this:

Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, a man with no known history of deep or violent racial prejudice. acting alone for a motive yet unknown, shot King as the advocate of nonviolence stood on the second-floor balcony of the black-owned Lorraine Motel in downtown Memphis.

But chief defense counsel Arthur J. Hanes Sr., 51, will tell the jury he intends to prove a "Communist, left-wing conspira-