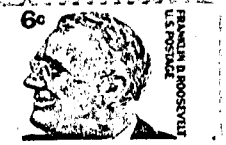
James E. Ray
County Jail
Memphis, Tenn.



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1-20-69

Dear Sir;

In the court room Friday 17, you informed me you would visit me at the jail shortly to discuss the instant case, after reflecting on this and the interpretation the local press has given to Judge Battle's remarks at that hearing I think we should postpone any meeting until I hear from Mr. Foreman, as I appeal to shortly as I am also writing him today ~~also~~. He is still and will remain Chief Counsel as far as I am concerned regardless of what the court, Attorney General or press, has to say, or what Mr. Hurie may desire through the attorney Generals office. I think the right to chose counsel is one of the few prerogatives I have and I don't intend to relinquish it again as I did in London through ignorance. Naturely if Mr. Foreman should become incapacitated for a long period of time I would probly have to engage other Counsel, However I am sure he will be allright in a few days, after all, I don't think he has been the only one to have had the flu this winter. Also, I can't go along with the hysterial press which has infered their is some kind of conspiring to "delute justice". I also would appreciate it if you would inform all concerned, for the record that regardless of what the papers say I have no intention of firing my attorneys before court Dates. (Also I waived my appeal in England to come back and stand trial.) I think the attorney general knows it, but the main reason I ask Mr. Hines to with draw was that he was working for Mr. Hurie to my detriment and Mr. Hurie from his statements had ceased to be an impartial reporter

but intends to aid the state to convict me.
I don't know if this was pre arranged or not but the results would have been the same.
In closing I would like to comment on the witness list. Mr. Canale urged in court that I probably know what all of the 360 witnesses are going to say therefore it would not be necessary for my attorney to question them. Mr. Hanes showed me the first list which had app. 300 names on it, I could only recall about 30 on the list, I would probably know what these 30 would say under normal circumstances but these are not normal circumstances, anyone who has ever read a police manual on police interrogation methods knows that the F.B.I. at the direction of the justice department uses psychology and power of suggestion on prospective witnesses, This is also a large record effort in this case. Therefore I can truthfully say I don't know what any of the witness will say. In regards to the other 60 witnesses the attorney general's office made this list available to Mr. Hanes about 2 weeks before the Nov. trial date, For some reason Mr. Hanes would not let me see this list, I assume the reason for this was that the attorney general got this list of witnesses directly or indirectly from Mr. Hill and that if I saw the list I would of known that Mr. Hill lied when he said my information I gave him would be privileged.
Mr. Foreman has told me that he will interview all of these witnesses or have someone who will interview them do so.

Sincerely
James Ray