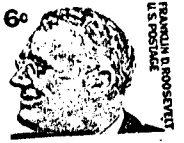
James E. Ray
County Jail
Memphis, Tenn.



To. Mr. Percy Foreman
Attorny at Law.
Houston, Texas

Mr. Percy Foreman
Atl. at Law, Houston, Texas.

1-20-69

Dear Sir;

I thought I should write you to let you know my version of the progress hearing of Friday 17, and other news, also to hope you are feeling better as I read in the paper you had contacted a virus, The hearing just lasted a few minutes, Mr. Stanton said he had made some progress but since you had been ill he didn't want to proceed to far without your guidance. Judge Battle read a letter from your doctor stating your physical condition, whereupon Judge Battle ruled that Mr. Stanton must take the defence. Mr. Stanton then told me he would confer with me shortly. Here is what I have done. I wrote a letter to Mr. Stanton today saying that I would not confer with him until I saw you, also that you were the chief defence consul regardless of what the court, attorney general, or the press had to say. (one of the papers ran an editional saying in effect that there was a conspiring to "dilute justice") I think the trouble is that they are having trouble with their chief witness, there was an article in the paper the other day quoting the chief of police as saying he would no longer furnish a squad car to drive the witness to liquor stores, as you know there was also a story 4 or 5 months ago quoting him as saying he wouldn't go along with the state's story if he wasn't released from Jail. I don't need to tell you but I wouldn't do anything until your have regained your health, as I don't pay to much attention to coercion, anymore.

Sincerely James Earl Ray