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LAW OFFICES OF  
**PERCY FOREMAN**  
804 SOUTH COAST BUILDING  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

MAIN AT RUSK

CA 4-9321

May 10, 1969

Mr. Richard J. Ryan  
Attorney at Law  
Falls Building  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This acknowledges your letter of April 30, 1969  
which reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Foreman:

"As you probably know, I now represent Mr.  
James Earl Ray.

"It has now become necessary for me to have  
whatever files you have in your possession  
including investigation reports. Would you  
kindly mail these at your convenience.

"Should you feel that for your protection  
you need a Court Order, please do not hesi-  
tate to advise me, if that is the case.

"Yours very truly,

" /s/ Richard J. Ryan

"Richard J. Ryan

"RJR:mr"

Regretfully, I had not heard of you either as a law-  
yer or an individual, until I received your letter. There  
are two law suits pending in the United States District  
Courts in Tennessee - one in Memphis styled: "Renfro Hayes  
versus Percy Foreman" and one in Nashville styled: "James  
Earl Ray versus Percy Foreman" - in which my work product  
in the Ray case is essential to the defense. I think the  
Honorable Hugh Stantons Sr. and Jr. of Memphis, who were  
co-counsel in the James Earl Ray case, have a copy of all  
material that would be of any use and which you could  
read and understand.

Mr. Richard J. Ryan  
May 10, 1969  
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My own investigation and interviews with witnesses are in a cryptic form of shorthand, being a combination of Gregg, Pitman, Percy Foreman and Alabama-Coushatta Indian hieroglyphics. In other words, no living human being except myself can decipher whatever has been reduced to writing by me as a result of interviews in the James Earl Ray case.

It has been my policy to make my investigations in this form in every case where the Federal Government is involved. This practice started in the winter of 1964-1965 and continued until now and includes the Ray case. I considered the Ray case a Federal case because of the involvement of the Department of Justice.

Mr. Ray has my good wishes. I sincerely hope he obtains a new trial. He is not legally entitled to one, but that does not affect my attitude.

I was released from further responsibility as his attorney sometime about March 15, 1969. I do not know whether the Messrs. Stantons have been so relieved or not. They were appointed to represent Mr. Ray; and, so far as I know, they still represent him. I suggest that you consult with them and the successor to His Honor, Judge Preston Battle, with reference to access to any material you think you can use.

I am sending a copy of this letter to them so that they may be advised of our exchange of communication.

Respectfully yours,

Percy Foreman

PF:ma

cc: ✓ Mr. Hugh Stanton, Sr.