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THE EVENING STAR
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Ray's Extradition Hearing Set June 27

LONDON (UPI)—The United States today formally demanded the extradition of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A British court scheduled a hearing on the request June 27.

The American demand for the 40-year-old Ray's extradition was presented in London's Bow Street Magistrate's Court under heavy Scotland Yard guard. Magistrate Frank Milton set the hearing date.

"Thank you," Ray responded. They were the only words spoken by the man captured at a London airport June 8, more than two months after King was assassinated by a sniper in Memphis, Tenn.

Second Appearance

Ray, wearing a grey checked suit and hornrimmed glasses, made his second appearance in the British court.

Police surrounded him and one detective stood with his hand in his coat on the gun issued British police only on special occasions.

The court first considered technical charges against Ray that at the time of his arrest he had in his possession a loaded gun and forged passports which identified him as Ramon George Sneyd of Toronto, Canada.

The counsel for the United States argued the man in the dock was in fact Ray, who is wanted in Tennessee for the April 4 murder of King and in Missouri on a charge of escaping from prison while serving a sentence for armed robbery.

Fingerprint Expert Due

The British attorney representing the United States (Nigel Maw) said the American government wished to bring a fingerprint expert from the United States and wanted an adjournment until he could arrive. The magistrate then set the hearing date.

Ray's counsel (Roger Frisbee) read a statement from Ray protesting press reports he had been interviewed by Asst. U.S. Atty. Gen. Fred Vinson. Ray said he took particular exception to a dispatch in the London Times June 10 under the headline "U.S. Justice Department Chief Interviews King Case Man."



—UPI
MAYOR ARTHUR HANES

and uniformed police surrounded him while he was in the dock and he was invisible to virtually anyone but the magistrate, attorneys and police.

In Birmingham, Ala., meanwhile, former Mayor Arthur J. Hanes said he had agreed tentatively to represent Ray in the United States. Hanes said he had received a letter from Ray asking for legal aid.

Hanes defended two Ku Klux Klansmen charged with murdering Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, a white woman who participated in civil rights activities at Selma, Ala.

Hanes, who said he had "no idea whatsoever" why Ray asked him to represent him, planned to fly to London tomorrow to talk to Ray, who signed his letter to Hanes "R. G. Sneyd."

Hanes was mayor of Birmingham in the early 1960s when the

city was the center of civil rights demonstrations led by King.

Successful Defense

He successfully defended Klansman Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. and Eugene Thomas on state charges of murdering Mrs. Liuzzo. Wilkins' trial ended in a hung jury and Thomas was acquitted.

He later represented both men against federal charges that they conspired to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The two men this time were convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Hanes is a former agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said he resigned from the FBI "because I felt I couldn't express myself about the growing Communist influence in our country as an agent."

Former president of the Birmingham School Board, he was elected mayor in 1961 but was voted out of office a year later when Birmingham adopted a

mayor-council form of government.

Hanes said he had no knowledge of the Ray case other than "what I've read about."

"I will say this, though," he said. "Whoever they have in that jail in London—Sneyd, Ray or (Eric) Galt—is as innocent at this moment as you or I. I think the American jury system is the greatest. If you give it to a jury to decide, they'll mull it over and come up with the right verdict."

Hanes said the first he heard about his participating in the case was June 13 when an attorney from a London law firm called him.

"The next day a letter came from Mr. Sneyd asking me to take the case. The letter was dated June 13," Hanes said.

Hanes said his son Arthur Jr., a 1967 graduate of the University of Alabama law school, would travel to London with him to help him in the case.



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