

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Extradition Likely in 4 Weeks

LONDON. — (UPI) — James Earl Ray could be extradited to the United States as early as the first week in August to stand trial for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, legal sources said today.

A court official disclosed Tuesday that a hearing on Ray's appeal against the extradition order has been set for July 29.

Three White-wigged, black-robed justices of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court of the High Court of Justice will hear Ray's lawyers fight the extradition order.

It is the British equivalent of a U.S. Court of Appeals.

Legal sources said that should the appeals court turn down Ray's appeal of the extradition order, he could still appeal to the House of Lords. But permission to go to the House of Lords could be refused.

In that case, Ray would be returning to the United States about the first week in August, the sources said.

Ray appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court Tuesday to answer charges of violating British gun and immigration laws.

It was carrying what po-

lice said was a loaded .38-caliber pistol and two forged passports that got him arrested in the first place as he arrived at London's Heathrow Airport June 8.

If Ray is extradited, the passport and gun charges were expected to be forgotten.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 32

MEMPHIS PRESS-
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-10-68

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Author: CHAS. H.

Editor: SEICENTHALER

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Brother Arrested Here

Jerry William Ray, who told police he is a brother of James Earl Ray, the accused in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was free today after being dismissed in City Court on a charge of public drunkenness.

Ray was arrested about 2 a.m. Tuesday at Main and Vance where, police said, he was seen staggering drunk. The charge was dismissed later yesterday by Judge Bernie Weinman.

Police said Ray registered .17 on the intoxication meter and was booked. He listed his occupation as a bar waiter but told officers he was unemployed.

Ray gave no Memphis address but said he lived at 1902 Cherokee in St. Louis.

Assistant Chief W. E. Routt said Ray told police he is a brother of James Earl Ray and that he and another brother were in Memphis to raise funds for the defense of James Earl Ray.

John Larry Ray, also of St. Louis, appeared in court for the hearing, and the two left together.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 33

MEMPHIS PRESS
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Author:

Editor: CHARLES W.

Title: SCHNEIDER

Character:

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44-1987-Sub C-131

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Brothers In Memphis—One Faces

By GEORGE BRYAN

Two brothers of James Earl Ray, who is charged with the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., were in Memphis yesterday and a public drunkenness charge against one was dismissed by City Judge Bernie Weinman.

Gerald Williams Ray, 32, who gave his address as 1902 Cherokee, St. Louis, was arrested at 1:15 a.m. yesterday by officers who said he was seen "staggering drunk" only two blocks from the rooming house at 422½ South Main from which his brother is accused of shooting Dr. King.

A police spokesman said he did not know Gerald Ray's whereabouts after his release but understood he was still in the city. It was learned that another brother also was in town.

Bill Jackson, manager of the Green Beetle Cafe at 325 South Main, confirmed that Gerald Ray was in his establishment Monday night "with another man." He said Ray appeared to be drunk.

A waitress said Gerald Ray came into the place about 6 p.m. Monday and left about 1 a.m. "He didn't cause any trouble in here."

Police said they arrested Ray after a call from the Green Beetle, but Mr. Jackson said last night he had not called police. "He didn't cause us any trouble, he left with a man with a mustache. I heard he was arrested a few minutes later."

Two police detectives went to the Green Beetle about 5:25 p.m. yesterday looking for Gerald Ray. With them was a

man identified by waitresses as Ray's drinking partner Monday night. One of the officers said they wanted to talk to Ray about "a couple of window fans."

Judge Weinman said yesterday he was not aware of Gerald Ray's family ties when he appeared in court charged with public drunkenness.

"He had never been before the court on a public drunk charge. On the first offense, it has been the policy of the court to dismiss these charges," Weinman said.

Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman said last night he did not know if police "are still looking for James Earl Ray's brother in Memphis."

A police spokesman who did not wish to be identified said he understood that Gerald Ray had come to Memphis "to collect money" through contributions to help defend his accused brother. James Earl Ray is fighting extradition to the United States from England to stand trial in Memphis for the murder of Dr. King.

The other brother in town was believed to be John Larry Ray, 34, a St. Louis tavern owner.

The next phase in James Earl Ray's legal effort to escape extradition to the United States will begin July 29, it was announced in London yesterday. On that day the High Court will hear arguments on an application for a writ of habeas corpus.

Judge

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

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Editor:
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Video Surveillance To Track Ray Trial

By CHARLES EDMUNDSON

A video tape will be made of the faces and voices of every person attending the trial scheduled to be held here this fall of James Earl Ray, charged with the rifle slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King at the Lorraine Motel April 4.

Charles Holmes, director of information for Memphis State University and new public relations adviser to Sheriff William N. Morris for the trial, yesterday confirmed that security plans call for such a tape to be made. This, he said, will be the first time such a precaution has been taken in a trial anywhere.

Identity cards with photos will be issued to all newsmen accredited for the trial. More than 50 such accreditations have been requested and this is considered only a start.

South Central Bell, it was learned, is preparing to run 100 new telephone lines to the Shelby County Office Building, adjacent to the Criminal Courts Building, to accommodate newspapers, radio, television and law enforcement.

Cables are expected to be laid between the scene of the trial and the three Memphis television stations, a telephone company representative said. Cables are necessary for prolonged live television broadcasts, although motorized microwave stations can bridge the gap for brief periods.

In keeping with a long-standing rule, no press or television photos will be made in the courtroom, even during court recess. But protocol, until now at least, has allowed photos to be made in corridors.

This is expected to be one of the most highly publicized trials ever held in the United States. Press, radio and television reports will be carried in practically every nation in the world. Those in charge of preparations expect the non-white majority of the world's population to observe the trial as a test of justice administered "without regard to race, color or condition."

But Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale and Sheriff Morris declined to comment on this beyond saying: "The trial will be conducted in strict keeping with established standards of dignity and justice."

To emphasize that the judicial process is operating normally, the trial will be held in one of the five regular courtrooms of the Shelby County Criminal Court. The largest will seat, in addition to the principals of the trial, hardly more than 100 persons.

Most of the seats will be reserved for the press, but reservations are assured also for relatives of the defendant and of the family of Dr. King.

Sheriff Morris said a certain proportion of the seats will be reserved for the general public, even though all the newsmen present at any one time may not be seated. Tennessee law calls for a "public trial."

The last world-famous Tennessee trial was the so-called "monkey trial" at Dayton, near Chattanooga, in 1925. This was to test the validity of a law, since repealed, to forbid teaching the theory of evolution in tax-supported schools.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

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The Northern and foreign press criticized what it termed the "carnival atmosphere" at that trial.

"There will be no carnival air here," Sheriff Morris said last night. "This is a serious matter. The sheriff, the judges and the attorney general have been conferring at intervals for several weeks to assure a fair and orderly trial in a dignified atmosphere."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness Absent At Ray Hearing

Grand Jury's Indictment Reached Without Calling Charles Stephens

In reaching an indictment against James Earl Ray for the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr., the Shelby County Grand Jury did not even call the man now considered to be the prosecution's most important witness.

But court authorities yesterday pointed out that the state often does not submit its most important evidence if the necessary "probable cause" can be established without it.

Charles Q. Stephens, 46, was the one witness named at Ray's extradition hearing in London last month. David Calcutt, the British attorney retained by the federal government, told the hearing. Stephens heard the fatal shot fired on April from the common bathroom of a rooming house on South Main.

Stephens is now in protective custody of local authorities.

The Grand Jury charged Ray with first degree murder May 7 and with carrying a dangerous weapon May 17 in indictments made available to the public yesterday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 21

COMMERCIAL
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The 12-man jury heard testimony from Mrs. Bessie Ruth Brewer, manager of the rooming house; Ralph Carpenter, employe of York Arms Co. who the state says sold binoculars to Ray; Guy W. Canipe, owner of the amusement company where police say Ray dropped his rifle; John L. Carlisle, an investigator with Atty. Gen. Phil M. Canale's office; and two police officers.

Officials did not even admit Ray had been indicted for the murder until after his arrest in London June 8 since Tennessee law prohibits releasing an indictment until the accused is in custody.

The indictment offers no hints about the state's case against Ray, giving only the date of the murder, and charging it was premeditated.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Was James Earl Ray Gunman--Or Was He Decoy?

By FRANK HOWETT

Memphis Press-Scimitar-London
Express Service

LONDON.—F.B.I. men are waiting impatiently in America to cross-examine James Earl Ray, indicted for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

They urgently want answers to these questions:

Had he any bosses? Who were they? What was his role? Was he the gunman — or was he "put out to run" in Europe as a decoy, drawing attention to himself and away from the real killer?

For a gunman who was being hunted by 6,000 American agents, Ray behaved oddly like a man who was

inviting authorities to take a closer look at him during his European tour.

From the moment the soft-nosed bullet exploded in Luther King's neck as he stood on a Memphis hotel balcony on April 4, Ray "went on the run" in a way that didn't fit his background: A petty, clumsy, stick-up man whose stupid mistakes had put him many times behind bars.

Suddenly he became "organized." His identity cleverly cloaked. His travel arrangements well planned.

He was "spirited" into Canada: The F.B.I. still cannot understand how he got through a massive security

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PAGE 1

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FBI — MEMPHIS	

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net thrown round the United States immediately after the shooting.

In Canada he collected a new name — that of a Toronto policeman — a false passport, and an expensive airline ticket to London.

Canadian Mounties, suspecting a "huge conspiracy," say: "He didn't come cold into this city and make all his own arrangements. There was help of some kind."

The American authorities say for the record they are satisfied that King's assassin was a lone killer and that there was no conspiracy.

But they have still to question Ray closely before he is

put in front of a Memphis jury. Already in Washington there are those who lean to the theory that Ray was the fall guy . . . that the conspirators put his fingerprints on the murder weapon before it was used by the real killer, who wore gloves.

That the conspirators then assisted Ray to leave the country, possibly before the death of Dr. King — he was on the run from prison — and induced the world police forces to search for a small-time gunman while all the time the real killers were disbanding and covering up their tracks.

It seems that Ray had help earlier on, but towards the

end he was abandoned. Then he began to make the stupid mistakes for which he was well known.

The cloak started slipping when Ray — now Ramon George Sneyd — arrived in Europe. He made the sort of "mistakes" you don't expect from a killer bolting from the law and seeking a hide-out.

At Lisbon airport passport control he made Mistake No. 1. He produced a passport in the name of Ramon George Sneya (with an "a"). But he filed in the identification landing card in the name of "Sneyd."

He had altered the end letter after he picked up the

false passport in Ottawa 14 days earlier and then seemingly forgot all about it.

Curious Portuguese police quizzed him about the discrepancy. Calmly he told them: "That is my real name. My passport is wrong."

Eight days later he made Mistake No. Two. Inexplicably for a wanted man whose main concern should have been to fade into the background of that cosmopolitan city, he went to the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon with new passport pictures and a birth certificate in the name of Ramon George Sneyd. He told them: "The name on my passport is wrong. It has been spoiled. I want a new

one." He was given one.

It was during his nine days as a "tourist" that he made Mistake No. Three. He stupidly attracted attention to himself by arguing with the proprietor of his hideaway hotel when they refused to allow him to take a woman to his room.

Ray stepped out of his taxi from Lisbon airport at 8 p.m. on May 8 into the Rua Jao Das Regras with its smell of chickens on spits and burning charcoal.

He carried his suitcase into the third-class commercial Hotel Portugal, signed the register as Ramon George Sneya and became a

15s-a-day guest, never speaking to the other residents — students, businessmen, and tourists.

Why was he in Portugal? To meet contacts who would hand him a "pay-off"? Or as a decoy whose fingerprints were found on the murder rifle which had been conveniently dropped in the street in Memphis?

Ray did the tourist rounds of the sleazy downtown bars. He became a regular customer at the Bar Bohemia. Hostesses and barmen there remember him as a "quiet Canadian."

One hostess, Dina Dore, said: "He came in a number of evenings and stayed about an hour each time. He sipped a few glasses of beer and talked about girls."

On May 17 he left the Hotel Portugal.

For the next 10 days his trail goes cold. Where did he go? To another European country?

Scotland Yard working closely with the FBI, knows he reappeared in London on May 28. As Sneyd he booked into the New Earl's Court Hotel, South Kensington at \$2. a night.

Four days later Ray was again on the move . . . to the Pax Hotel Pimlico. "He acted strangely," says Swedish-born proprietor Mrs. Anna Thomas. "I hoped he would go."

He rarely left his room and refused to emerge to take four phone calls. Two

from B.E.A. The others from a man and a woman.

During his stay at the Hotel Pax, Ray made another inexplicable move which could have brought the law on his neck. Twice he telephoned a national newspaper in London, said he wanted to contact a supposed brother soldiering in Angola, changed his mind, and then asked how he could become a mercenary. He gave the name Sneyd and the hotel he was staying at.

On Saturday, June 8, freedom ran out on James Earl Ray. He booked out of the Pax Hotel, hailed a taxi to London Airport, and cap-

ture.

FBI and Canadian Mounties back-tracking his movements had turned up his application for a false passport in Ottawa, talked to the real Ramon George Sneyd and put out a world-wide alert for anyone travelling in that name.

Ray, as Sneyd—booked an economy class ticket on the 11:50 a.m. B.E.A. flight to Brussels. A duplicate copy of the passenger list went, as routine, to the airport immigration authorities.

That morning at the air-

port an officer running through the list was jolted to see the name Sneyd. A special watch was made. Shortly after 11:30 a.m. Ray presented the Sneyd passport. He was asked to step into a side room. He didn't resist in any way—except to insist quietly he was Sneyd.

Train robber hunter Detective Chief Superintendent Tommy Butler left for the airport with a fingerprint man. The passenger was fingerprinted. The prints were those of Ray—and the same ones found on a murder rifle in a Memphis street two months earlier.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Trial of Ray Is Forcing

By KAY PITTMAN BLACK
Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

Numerous county offices, including the Shelby County Election Commission, must to move out of the Shelby County Office Building, 157 Poplar, to complete security arrangements for the James Earl Ray trial, it was learned today.

A preliminary meeting was held this morning with Bob Gray, County Clert Clerk, Riley Garner, county trustee, and Jack Ramsay, County Commission chairman. Sheriff Bill Morris held the meeting. Also attending were McKinley Parker, executive administrator of the

Election Commission, and Joe Forbis, Election Commission chairman.

Forbis said, "The meeting was a preliminary one and nothing was decided, but the move is in the wind and we're sure it's going to happen. The Sheriff wants the building to be secure."

He said, "They talked about having the first two floors in the two county office building ready ahead of time so that Bob Gray and Riley Garner could move there."

Forbis said he did not know how the election Commission would move its 591 books. "We went with Jack Ramsay this morning

Moves

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1
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to look over the old city public works building, but it won't do and is all filled up. I don't know what we're going to do."

Forbis said, "The sheriff has all sorts of security arrangements worked out. He told us they plan to block off from the middle of Poplar and the middle of Adams for one way traffic and close off Second and Third entirely. All of the offices overlooking the building will have security police in the windows.

"The judges want our office, Gray's office and Garner's office for other courtroom space, we understand.

"We asked Sheriff Morris what would happen if the

trial was moved to another city, but he said he did not think there would be any change of venue. He told us he has been in touch with Ray's lawyers and this did not seem to be planned."

Garner said, "I just don't know where we are going to move. That trial is really going to be something. Sheriff Morris was telling us about the special cell they will have for Ray. They're going to have closed circuit television in it so they can watch him all the time and all. It is really being fitted out. They'll have 150 telephones for the press put in the conference room across the hall."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Sneyd' Was Name Used In Letter

**'No Doubt' Ray
Is Same Person,
Says Newspaper**

CHICAGO. — (AP) — The Chicago Daily News said today in a copyrighted story that a letter written by James Earl Ray to a brother removed any doubt that Ray and Ramon George Sneyd are the same person.

Sneyd was the name under which Ray was arrested in London in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Daily News said the letter was written to John Ray and was signed, "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

John Ray said the handwriting was his brother's and he added, "I don't know where he got the name of Sneyd, but he had lots of names."

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'LORD' TITLE

Asked about the title, "Lord," John Ray said, "That's probably his idea of a joke."

The Daily News published portions of the letter which in part read, "I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars so I might close it up about Tuesday."

There was no indication which Tuesday the letter referred to. John Ray said he interpreted the letter as evidence that his brother did not kill King, who was shot to death on the balcony of a Memphis motel April 4.

"If he really did it," John Ray said, "he wouldn't be thinking about signing these extradition papers, would he?"

UNDATED

The letter was mailed to a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, the Daily News said. It was not dated.

U.S. officials working on obtaining Ray's extradition have said they are convinced that Ray and Sneyd are the same person.

The letter also implied that Ray would have sufficient funds to finance his defense when he is returned to Memphis to stand trial.

"If you could," the letter said, "I would like for you to give Attorney Arthur Hanes \$600. You can get some of it off Jerry (another brother) and I will straighten it up with you when I get back."

Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala., is representing Ray in London.

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Sneyd was the name under which Ray was arrested in London in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Daily News said the letter was written to John Ray and was signed, "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

John Ray said the handwriting was his brother's and he added, "I don't know where he got the name of Sneyd, but he had lots of names."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-15-68

Edition:

Author: CHARLES H.
Editor: SCHNEIDER

Title:

Character:

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Classification:

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INDEXED.....
FILED.....
JUL 18 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS

LORD LEE
Asked about his title, "Lord," John Ray said, "That's probably his idea of a joke."

The Daily News published portions of the letter which in part read, "I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars so I might close it up about Tuesday."

There was no indication which Tuesday the letter referred to. John Ray said he interpreted the letter as evidence that his brother did not kill King, who was shot to death on the balcony of a Memphis motel April 4.

"If he really did it," John Ray said, "he wouldn't be thinking about signing these extradition papers, would he?"

UNDATED

The letter was mailed to a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, the Daily News said. It was not dated.

U.S. officials working on obtaining Ray's extradition have said they are convinced that Ray and Sneyd are the same person.

The letter also implied that Ray would have sufficient funds to finance his defense when he is returned to Memphis to stand trial.

"If you could," the letter said, "I would like for you to give Attorney Arthur Hanes \$600. You can get some of it off Jerry (another brother) and I will straighten it up with you when I get back."

Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala., is representing Ray in London.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Letter Hints Voluntary Return To Face Trial

By JERRY LIPSON

The Commercial Appeal-Chicago
Chicago Daily News Service

The Chicago Daily News has obtained a copy of a letter written by James Earl Ray after his arrest in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The two-page, handwritten letter is the first communication from Ray to be made public since his capture last month in London, except for brief statements during court hearings.

The letter removes any doubt that Ray and Ramon George Sneyd, the name under which he was arrested, are the same man.

It also suggests that he originally intended to return voluntarily to the United States to face trial and implies that he has an independent source of money to cover arrangements for his defense.

The undated letter was sent from London's Heathfield Road Prison, where Ray has been held, to a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis. It was signed "Lord R.G. Sneyd."

While government officials working on the King assassination have not expressed doubt that Ray and Sneyd are the same person,

the fact that Ray was using an alias has been a point of legal confusion during extradition hearings.

Also, Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, of Birmingham, who has visited the accused slayer in London, continues to refer to Ray as Sneyd.

However, Ray's younger brother, John Ray, is convinced that the letter is genuine and was sent by Ray despite the signature "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

John Ray said he based his conclusion on the handwriting and language of the letter and on the personal contents it contained.

"I don't know where he got the name of Sneyd but he had lots of names."

Asked about his brother's assumption of the title "Lord," John said: "That's probably just his little joke."

Even though the letter was addressed to Ray's married sister, it was written in response to a letter sent to Heathfield Road Prison by John Ray, who wanted to assure himself that the man arrested June 9 in London was actually his brother.

"I assumed he was but I just wanted to make sure."

"At first I was going to ask him in the letter if he was my

brother but then I was afraid they might not give it to him or that they might not let him write back."

John said he finally addressed his letter to James Earl Ray and in it he raised the possibility of visiting his brother in the London prison.

He also said he asked about hiring Texas criminal lawyer Percy Foreman to handle Ray's defense and discussed action on Ray's appeal of the 20-year armed robbery sentence Ray was serving when he escaped from Missouri State Prison on April 23, 1967.

John Ray, who formerly operated a tavern in southeast St. Louis, visited his brother at Missouri State Prison on April 23, 1967. He dropped out of sight following Ray's capture in London and was located by the Chicago Daily News last week.

The letter from James Earl Ray was obtained by the Daily News. John Ray said the letter constituted "strong evidence" that his brother did not kill Dr. King.

"If he really did it, he

Trial

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 13

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-16-68
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Author:
Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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FBI — MEMPHIS	

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~~wouldn't~~, be thinking about signing those extradition papers, would he?" John asked.

A British court ordered Ray extradited to the United States during a hearing on July 2 at which he was represented by a court-appointed attorney.

Since that ruling, due for an appeal July 29 and since his meeting with Hanes, who has agreed to represent him, Ray apparently has decided to fight efforts to return him to this country.

James Ray is to appear in a London court today for his weekly remanding to prison on British charges.

Both John and Jerry Ray, who were interviewed together in a motel room in a Southern city, contended their brother had been "set up" to act as a decoy in the King assassination, while the "real killer" escaped.

In reply to this letter

Number 057114

Sept 1, 1968

H. R. FRANK
HEATHFIELD HOUSE
WANDSWORTH
LONDON

Dear John

I will just write you
a few lines to let you
know everything is all right
I will probably be back
shortly. My way don't come
over for me. You can't
get me. I'm going home. I
and two of the officers are
about judge. I'm going
to reverse my case. I
don't want it. I will
will explain to you but
you know these things
are not doing anything
to benefit me. I'm just
I want to let you know to
give the attorney Arthur House
\$60000 you can get some
of off Jerry and I will
over

Straighten it out up with
you. I'm just let you
you mention Jerry. I'm
there is a good attorney but
I will wait until I get back
as I want some attorney
who can work together
so I will let House
decide on someone he thinks
will be best.
I can't appeal my situation
being but I'm just
let me know what you
let me know what you
let me know what you

all address

Arthur J. House
617 Brink Nelson Bldg
Birmingham Alabama 35203
Telephone 3249536

LETTER FROM RAY—This is a letter which the
Chicago Daily News says was written by James Earl Ray
to his brother, John Ray, admitting he was Raymond
George Sneyd, the name under which he was arrested
in London and charged with the murder of Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Briefly In Court

LONDON. — (AP) — James Earl Ray made another brief and routine appearance in the Bow Street Magistrate's Court and was sent back to Wandsworth Jail for another eight days. Another court appearance for him was set for July 24.

Ray's British lawyers have indicated they will file their appeal Wednesday against Chief Magistrate Frank Milton's order on July 2 that Ray should be extradited to the United States for trial on charges of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. A hearing on the appeal is tentatively scheduled for July 29.

Ray was brought into court today because British law requires a prisoner denied bail to be brought before a magistrate each week until his case is settled. Ray was composed and chewing gum at his appearance today.

When the magistrate asked if he had anything to say, he replied: "No, sir."

As always when Ray is before the British court, there were elaborate police precautions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-16-68

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Author:

Editor:

Title:

CHARLES H.
SCHNEIDER

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New County Building Work To Be Rushed For Ray Trial

Two floors of the new County Administration Building were ordered rushed to completion yesterday to provide more room in the County Office Building for the trial of James Earl Ray, charged with killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

County Commission Chairman Jack Ramsay asked that the second and third floors of the Administration building be finished by early fall so the offices of County Court Clerk Robert Gray and Trustee Riley Garner may be moved there.

If the County Election Commission's offices can also be moved, the entire first floor of the County Office Building will be made available for a news media center and other facilities needed for the Ray trial. The trial is expected to be held this fall.

Mr. Ramsay took action after a meeting with Sheriff William N. Morris in the Election Commission's office. Also present were Election Commission Chairman Joseph M. Forbis, Mr. Gray and McKinley Parker, Election Commission executive administrator.

It was revealed at the meeting that the private cell Ray is to occupy in the Shelby County Jail will be under constant surveillance by closed circuit television. Equipment for the television circuit was ordered two weeks ago from the Bluff City Distributing Co.

The City Jail across Second Street from the County Jail, has had closed circuit television for monitoring prisoners

since 1960. Sheriff Morris discussed such a system for the County Jail in the fall of 1966. But a television camera to survey Ray's cell apparently will be the first such installation in the 43-year-old prison.

The rerouting of traffic on Second and Third Streets near the jail for the period of the Ray trial was also discussed.

Boyd Rose, job superintendent for the Harmon Construction Co., contractors for the Administration Building, said his crews can meet the completion deadlines Mr. Ramsay asked for the second and third floors.

Where the Election Commission's offices will be moved has not been decided. Removal to the Administration Building was originally planned. But yesterday Mr. Ramsay, Mr. Forbis and Mr. Parker looked over the building formerly occupied by the City Public Service Department and Planning Commission at Adams and Third.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 13

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-16-68

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Author:

Editor:

Title: FRANK R. ADAMS

Character:

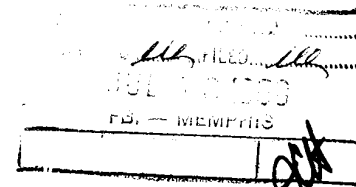
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Submitting Office:

MEMPHIS

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Defense Set For Appeal

London (AP)—A British court today granted extradition of James Earl Ray, wanted in the United States as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The extradition order was granted by Chief Magistrate Frank Milton.

Legal sources said Ray would appeal the decision.

The magistrate granted Ray legal aid to pursue his appeal in a higher court within the required 15-day deadline.

Ray received the magistrate's decision without any outward show of emotion.

Back To Prison

He was immediately led from court, still surrounded by a cordon of Scotland Yard detectives, and taken back to his maximum security jail at Wandsworth Prison in south London.

There was no reaction from spectators in the crowded courtroom.

As Milton delivered his decision, he glanced at notes and occasionally referred to the one of the law volumes.

He dealt at some length with the contention of defense attorney Roger Friday that Ray could not be extradited because the slaying of the civil rights leader, shot in Memphis April 4, was a political offense.

The judge agreed it was common knowledge that King was

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE /

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date: 7-2-68

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Editor: ALVAND C.

Title: DUNKLEBERGER

Character:

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a controversial figure in the United States. But he refused to accept the defense contention that this alone would make the crime of his assassination a political one.

"To hold so would be to extend the meaning of this case too far," the magistrate said.

The case turned on whether the crime was political or not. Under treaty between Britain and the United States, persons may not be extradited for political reasons.

The U.S. government denied Ray's contention that the killing of King was a political crime.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Attorney Protests 'Unfair' Treatment

LONDON, July 17 — James Earl Ray's American lawyer charged Wednesday that the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was being treated unfairly by American officials and the press in the United States.

The lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, said that he has demanded the right to accompany Ray back to the United States. Justice Department officials in Washington have turned down Hanes' proposal.

"Gentlemen," Hanes told a news conference, "I'm here to say that that's in violation of client's constitutional rights. I think it's high-handed and wrong."

Ray is likely to be flown back to the United States within the next few days. Hanes confirmed Wednesday that Ray has decided to give up his fight against extradition.

British officials are expected Thursday to dispose of the local charges pending against Ray. These are that he carried an unlicensed pistol and a forged passport, under the name Ramon George Sneyd.

Hanes said his request to be with Ray on the way back to the United States was "entirely legal and proper" and "in keeping with our Supreme Court decisions holding that no agent of the law has the right to question a suspect except in

the presence of the suspect's attorney."

"He has fear of being in the presence of Justice Department agents alone," Hanes said.

The lawyer said he did not know the basis of Ray's feelings — "he just has that fear." The implication was that Ray objected to any opportunity for federal agents to question him without his lawyer being present.

Hanes was pressed to explain why the fight against extradition had been given up — a decision that he said he had advised Ray to make.

"Gentlemen," Hanes said, "this man is innocent, and we want to get back to the United States and clear his name. It's as simple as that."

He said he had to have time to prepare the defense, and an opportunity to talk freely with Ray. In Wandsworth Prison, he said, he could see Ray only "with a prison guard over my shoulder and one over his, like pigeons in Trafalgar Square. I could not do much talking."

He said that federal and Tennessee officials have had time and great resources to prepare a case since King was killed in Memphis April 4. The trial will be in Memphis.

"All I ask is one teeny-weeny break," Hanes said. He said that he would not ask for

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 7

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

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any long postponement of the trial, "but I have to have a chance to consult with my client."

Hanes said he wanted to get Ray back to the United States so that they could deal with what he called a press campaign against the accused.

"I have advised this action," Hanes said, "so that my client and I can begin without further delay an effort to combat and counteract an unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster, a degenerate and a dope addict."

"Once my client is in Memphis, where he can confer daily with me and others, we will find the whole truth and establish it."

The lawyer said "grave concern" had been expressed in the United States, "particularly in the liberal press," about the action of Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr. in demanding to see, and being shown, the prisoner.

Shortly after Ray's arrest, Vinson flew to London. At Wandsworth Prison he saw Ray through a peephole in his cell. But a report that he interviewed Ray was denied by Ray and by Vinson.

"It appears not unlikely,"

Hanes said, "that by this precipitate and hasty action has transpired the rights of my client."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's First Look At Shelby Court To Be Brief One

**Trial On Murder Charge
May Be Months Away
—Security Tight**

By JIMMIE COVINGTON

James Earl Ray will make a brief courtroom appearance shortly after his anticipated return here in the next few days, but it may be two or three months before his trial is held on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. April 4.

The Criminal Courts Building and Shelby County Jail, where Ray will be held, was a scene of heavy activity and security yesterday in preparation for Ray's arrival from London, where he gave up his extradition fight Tuesday.

Asked when Ray will arrive, Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. said, "I don't know. We will try to be ready for him when he gets here."

Ray may be detained in London a day or two pending disposal of British charges against him of carrying an unlicensed pistol and forged passport papers.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

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44-1987-Sub-C-144

There is speculation he will be brought to Shelby County in a military plane, and his arrival will not be announced until he is safely locked in jail.

Security measures were much in evidence around the Criminal Courts Building yesterday.

Heavy steel plating was placed on four windows on the north side of the jail's third floor and heavy screens were installed on other jail windows.

What appeared to be a fluoroscope — a machine that can visually check the internal structure of any object, including the human body — was carried into the building. There were reports that all days off have been canceled for sheriff's deputies. Guards took up positions at the jail entrance in the courts building, in the alley behind the jail and in the hallway leading to Sheriff Morris' office.

The sheriff declined to comment on the security arrangements or on the possible use of the fluoroscope, but he did confirm that the new sheriff's substation on Hemcrest Road east of the city is being partially shut down. Detention facilities there will be closed down temporarily and some deputies transferred to the downtown jail.

Since Ray already has been indicted, the first legal procedure here will be an arraignment in Criminal Court. The procedure will last only a few minutes. His attorney will be present.

Ray will enter, probably through his attorney, a plea of guilty or not guilty to the murder charge and a charge of carrying a dangerous weapon. Ray could waive the reading of the indictment and reserve the right to make his plea later.

The arraignment will be conducted under tight security. It does not necessarily have to be held before the judge and in the courtroom in which he will be tried later.

Speculation is that the trial will be conducted by Criminal Court Judge Perry H. Sellers or by Judge W. Preston Battle.

Defense attorney Arthur J. Hanés of Birmingham has indicated that insanity might be used as a defense. Psychiatric tests, which could take several weeks to complete and evaluate, are expected to be ordered for Ray.

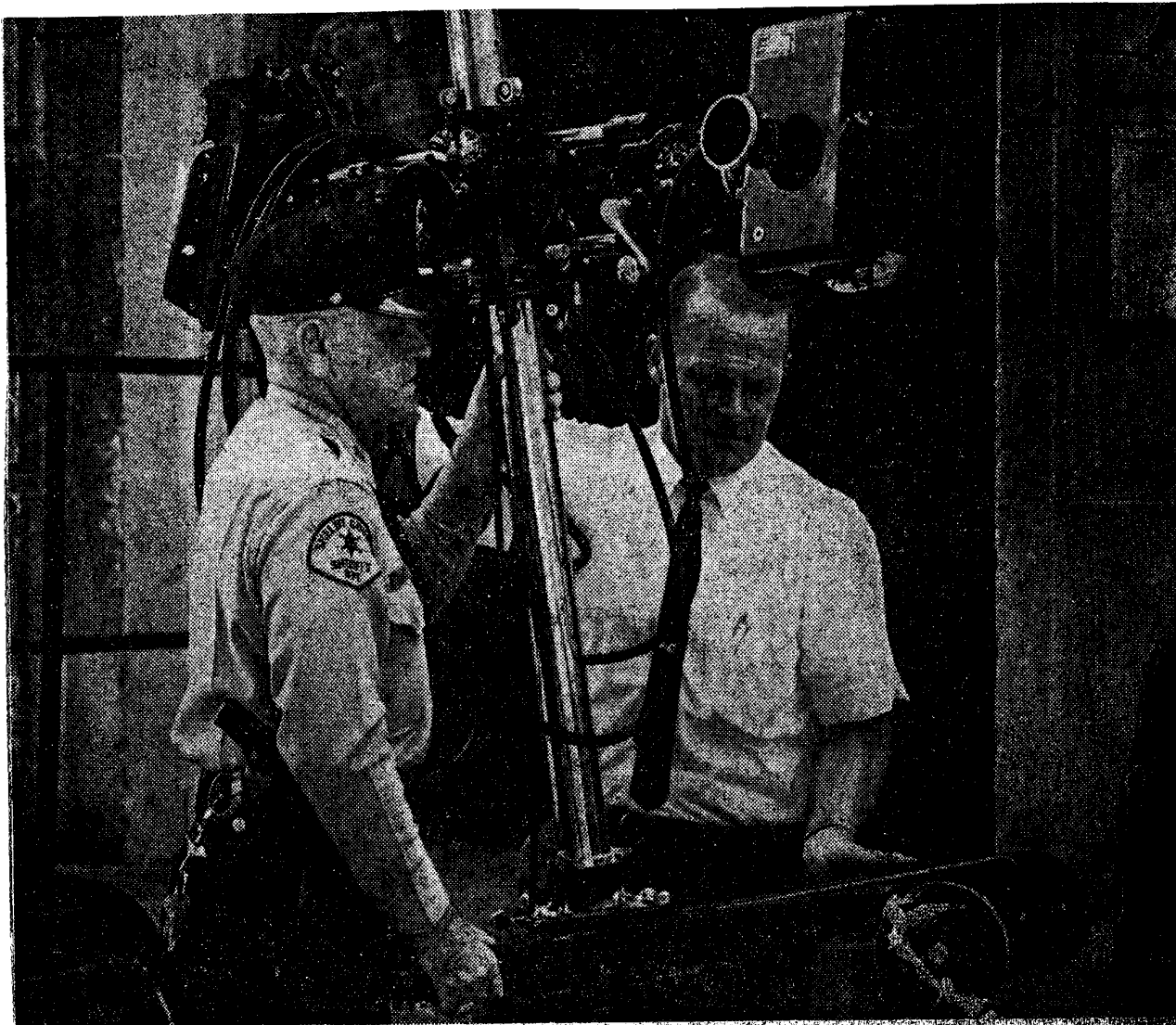
Normal procedure is to send a prisoner to Central State Hospital in Nashville for the tests, but because of the heavy security required in the Ray case, there is speculation that tests might be conducted here.

Apparently most of the seats in the courtroom, which may be the Division I Criminal Court room on the second floor of the Shelby County Office Building at Second and Poplar, will be taken up by newsmen.

There were reports yesterday that the Criminal Court judges may soon issue an order restricting any officials or attorneys from making any public comments about the case and setting up ground rules concerning news coverage before the trial.

Judge Sellers, the senior judge, declined comment on the report.

The location of Ray's cell within the jail has not been disclosed. It is scheduled to be equipped with closed circuit television. There also was a report that it will be air conditioned, possibly because of the close confinement. The rest of the jail is not air conditioned.



Fluoroscope-Type Equipment Is Added To Courthouse Security Setup

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Battle's Order: No Talking About Case

Criminal Court Judge Preston Battle, named to preside in the trial of James Earl Ray, today issued an order against either prosecutors or defense attorneys talking about the case with newsmen. The order imposes tight security regulations in the Criminal Courts Building and adjacent Shelby County Office Building, as well as in the surrounding area.

Text of Judge Battle's order:

RIGHTS

The Constitutions of the United States and the State of Tennessee guarantee defendants in criminal cases due process of law and the right to a fair trial by an impartial jury. It is the duty of the trial Court to see that every defendant receives all his constitutional rights.

From the world wide attention attracted to this case at bar resulting in massive and pervasive publicity in the news media, the Court is of the opinion that the following rules are necessary to a constitutionally guaranteed, orderly and fair trial by an impartial jury, and therefore orders:

I.
The term "Criminal Courts Buildings" as used herein shall mean the Criminal Courts Building, 150 Washington, and the adjoining Shelby County Building, 157 Poplar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

All entrance ways, corridors, and approaches to Court rooms, offices and other rooms in the Criminal Courts Buildings will be kept clear at all times for free access thereto by those using them in the course of their employment or those having business transacting thereat.

television, radio or sound equipment, including tape recorders, will be permitted in the Criminal Courts Buildings or upon the alley-ways, parking lots, yards or grounds immediately surrounding said buildings. No photographs will be taken of the Jury, nor will they be televised. No sketches will be made in the Criminal Courts Buildings.

III.

All persons seeking admission to the Courtroom will submit voluntarily to a search of his person before being admitted.

IV.

No one will enter the Courtroom after a session has begun without permission of the Court, but must wait until the next recess. No one will leave the Courtroom except at recess or adjournment except in an emergency. At noon recess and adjournment, and at any other time the Jury is retiring from the second floor, or the prisoner is being removed to the jail, the spectators shall remain seated in the Courtroom until the Jury and prisoner have had ample time to withdraw, and said spectators have been given permission to disperse.

V.

The bar of the Court within the rail is reserved for the defendant, counsel, members of the Bar, Court personnel and such witnesses as counsel may desire to be within the bar for consultation purposes. No one else will enter without permission of the Court.

VI.

No one except attorneys of record, their agents, Court messengers, witnesses and jurors will be permitted to handle exhibits

VII.

All lawyers participating in this case, their assistants, office associates, staff members, investigators and employees under their supervision and control are forbidden to take part in interviews for publicity and from making extra-judicial statements about this case from this date until such time as a verdict is returned in this case in open Court.

VIII.

The County Medical Examiner, Jury Commissioners, Criminal Court Clerk, County Sheriff, Police Officials and other law enforcement officers, employees of this Court, all other persons employed in the "Criminal Courts Buildings," their associates, deputies, assistants, staff members and personnel under their supervision and control are forbidden to participate in interviews for publicity and from making extra-judicial statements about this case from this date and until such time as a verdict in this case is returned in open Court.

IX.

All witnesses, persons subpoenaed to Grand Jury or Court, jurors, and those persons summoned but excused from serving as jurors, are forbidden to participate in interviews for publicity and from making extra-judicial statements about this case from this date and until such time as a verdict in this case is returned in open Court.

X.

Nothing in this order shall prohibit any person from discussing any matter connected with this case in the ordinary course of business or in the ordinary course of conversation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 9

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR
MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-19-68
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Editor: CHARLES H. SCHNEIDER
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

He's 'Stickler For the Law'

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, one of the most experienced trial judges in Memphis, was announced today as the judge in the trial of James Earl Ray for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A short, heavyset man who runs a no-nonsense courtroom, Battle has been trial judge for a number of major cases since he first took the bench in 1959.

He presided at both trials of Louis F. Montesi, grocery executive convicted of killing his wife.

Battle's decisions have been reversed several times, including the first Montesi trial, but lawyers say this is the mark of a judge who hears a lot of cases and isn't afraid to blaze new trails.

Serious, almost scowling, on the bench, the 60-year-old judge is a stickler for legal aspects of a case and often recesses court to check a point of law.

Lawyers who try grandstand tactics in the courtroom are likely to draw sharp words from the judge,

Stories about the prosecutors and defense attorney on Page 9.

but he displays exceptional patience with defendants or witnesses who appear nervous or seem not to understand legal procedures.

A criminal lawyer who has had a number of cases in Battle's court called him a "stern and conscientious judge." The lawyer said: "He runs the court as he thinks a court should be run, regardless of what others might think. He doesn't let public opinion enter in his decisions."

A lifelong Memphian, Judge Battle attended Washington & Lee University and the University of Memphis Law School, now part of Memphis State University School of Law.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 149

— MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

— MEMPHIS, TENN.

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Editor: CHARLES H.
Title: SCHNEIDER

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He has said in the past that his speech was hampered in his younger days, but directly to his law career, that he had an aversion to speaking in public and joined the literary society at Memphis University School to overcome it.

After receiving his license to practice law in 1933, he became assistant district attorney general for Shelby County, a post he held for 11 years, serving on the staffs of Atty. Gens. W. T. McLain, Marion Boyd and Will Gerber.

In 1945 he entered private law practice in Memphis, with the majority of his cases devoted to criminal

Turn to Page 9—JUDGE

* * *

Judge Battle To Preside At Ray Trial

From Page 1

law. In 1959 he was appointed judge for Division III of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, a newly created court, and was elected to the bench in 1960.

A member of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association, he has served on the board of directors and executive committee. He has served as president of the Memphis and Shelby County Mental Health Association, has been active in adult education classes at Southwestern and goes deep sea fishing for a hobby.

Married in 1941 to the former Florence Warfield Boyce of Memphis, he has four children, Mrs. E. Frank King, W. J. Britton III, Mrs. E. R. Kinnebrew III, and W. Preston Battle Jr.

Judge and Mrs. Battle live in an apartment at 1422 Lamar.

Mrs. Battle said Judge Battle's chief hobby is reading. "No particular type of books. He reads everything and is interested in everything."



JUDGE W. PRESTON BATTLE
To Preside in Ray Trial

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

History Project: King's Murder

A group of historians at Memphis State and Southwestern are engaged in a joint project to gather information relating to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

"We're trying to re-create, as much as possible, the climate and events that transpired in Memphis from the sanitation strike to the death of Dr. King," said David Yellin, a spokesman for the Memphis Search for Meaning Committee.

"We're engaged in a project to collect materials of people who were directly or indirectly involved in all of the events," he said. "Essentially we're historians. Our main concern is, as scrupulously and as fairly as possible, to help people re-create their involvements in these events."

"If a meaningful report develops and is publishable, it will be."

The Reader's Digest Foundation has expressed an interest in publishing the findings of the committee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 3

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

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JUL 21 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Gives Up Efforts To Block Extradition; Return Appears Near

Next Few Days

Accused Slayer Of Dr. King
Signs Agreement To
Abandon Appeal

LONDON, July 16. — (AP) — James Earl Ray gave up his battle against extradition Tuesday and agreed to return to the United States for trial on charges of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

He is expected to fly back under heavy guard in the next few days for trial in Memphis in the shooting of King there last April 4. Ray was arrested in London June 8. He has steadily claimed his innocence of the killing.

A legal informant said Ray signed a statement declaring he would not pursue an appeal in the British High Court against a Magistrate's Court order July 2 extraditing him to the United States. Ray's time for filing an appeal expires Wednesday night.

The statement, signed Tuesday morning at a conference with his court-appointed British lawyer, cut short a complicated battle against extradition which had little chance of success.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-17-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

44-1987-Sub-C-149

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BR

In Memphis, Shelby County Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. said that although all the security provisions planned for Ray would not be completed for several days "we can adequately take care of him whenever he is returned." No announcement of his return is expected until after he is safely locked away in the Shelby County Jail.

People who talked to Ray recently in Wandsworth Prison said he had been growing restless and tired of waiting. Another factor was the news that the British had refused to continue legal aid for his appeal. He had been granted free legal service for the lower court case.

Ray's statement was signed in an irregular hand, "Ramon George Sneyd," the alias under which he had been held here since his arrest.

It said, "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action for me to adopt."

Ray was contending that King's murder was a political crime and therefore he could not be extradited under British law. But he apparently decided several days ago to drop the appeal, which had been set for the High Court before three British judges on July 29.

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., was due in London Wednesday morning. He may ask for permission to accompany Ray home, but United States officials indicated this request would be turned down.

In Birmingham, Arthur J. Hanes Jr. told The Commercial Appeal, "We suggested he waive extradition."

He said the reason was unfavorable pretrial publicity. "He's getting clobbered by the press of the world and he's a sitting duck. There's a good deal of value to getting him back so he'd have an opportunity to counter some of the adverse publicity and where we could have better access to him."

Young Hanes is partner in his father's law firm and co-counsel for Ray.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

He May Be En Route Tonight

Major new security measures were evident all over the Shelby County Criminal Courts Building today in preparation for the arrival of James Earl Ray.

Ray, who dropped his fight against extradition from England, may be on his way to Memphis tonight or early Thursday to stand trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray is being held under heavy guard in London's Wandsworth Prison.

Memphis deputy sheriffs were posted outside entrances to the Criminal Courts Building today, making security checks. The jail, where Ray will be housed in a special cell surveyed by closed circuit television, occupies the top three floors of the building.

VISITORS CHECKED

A special deputy has been placed at a table in the corridor outside Sheriff William Morris' office to check all visitors. Morris said the purpose is to cut down the traffic into his office.

Workmen were installing steel mesh security screens on the windows of the building.

Three steel plates were being welded across a jail window on the back side of the jail, as part of the security tightening. This is apparently where Ray will be housed.

One off-duty sheriff's officer in civilian clothes told other officers that he was searched before being allowed to go into a storage room area in the jail.

SPECULATION

Sheriff's deputies received notice this morning that all their days off have been cancelled. This led to some speculation that Ray might already be in the county jail, but reliable sources said Ray has not yet arrived, although he could be in Memphis as soon as tomorrow.

Under normal procedure, the FBI would deliver Ray to state authorities in Memphis. Informed sources speculated that Ray would be flown back with a heavy guard aboard a U.S. military plane or a chartered civilian jet, possibly on a direct flight from London to Memphis with no interim stop.

FIRST WORD

"I suspect the first word that Ray has left London will be news of his actual arrival in Memphis," one source said.

Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-17-68
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Editor: CHARLES H.
Title: SCHNEIDER

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—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo by James R. Reid

STEEL PLATES FOR JAIL WINDOWS
Workmen hoist the last of three steel plates welded over jail windows today, presumably as protection for the cell that will house James Earl Ray.

American lawyer and former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., met with his client in the London prison today. Hanes asked to accompany his client back to the U.S. but said the Justice Department has denied his request so far. A British Home Office spokesman said the extradition papers would not be signed before tomorrow at the earliest.

Hanes said Ray wants to return to the United States immediately "so my client and I can begin without further delay to combat and counteract the unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster, a degenerate and a dope addict." He advised Ray not to appeal extradition, he said.

DENIALS

"This man wants to get back to the United States and clear his name," Hanes said. "It's as simple as that." Ray has consistently denied that he killed King.

"The entire U.S. government and the State of Tennessee are building a case against us," Hanes said. "All we want is a teeny break to give us time to prepare a defense—then we'll go to court and play it anyway they want."

The question of which Criminal Courts judge in Memphis will try the case is still unanswered. It has been reported that either Judge Preston Battle or Judge Perry Sellers, the two senior judges, will try the case.

It was learned that the first order to be filed by the court in the case will set forth ground rules concerning news coverage before the trial.

ARRAIGNMENT

Since Ray has already been indicted, he will not have to enter a plea in a lower court—city or sessions

court—on his return to Memphis. His first court appearance will be at his arraignment. The first scheduled arraignment after the weekend will be on Tuesday, but a special arraignment could be held.

Informed sources expect the trial to start in September or October. The criminal courts are now on a summer schedule, with only one of the five courts operating (two days a week), primarily for arraignments. The September term of the courts begins Sept. 16.

VIDEO TAPE

Other security measures include a video tape to be made of each person attending the trial and the blocking off of traffic on some streets. Some offices are being removed from the adjacent county office building, where news media will be headquartered, with 150 telephone lines to be run into the building as well as coaxial cables for live telecasts.

People who have talked to Ray recently in Wandsworth Jail said that he had been getting tired and restless. British refusal to continue free legal aid for his appeal and the fact that he and Hanes could talk only with British prison officials present may have been other factors in his decision.

Ray was arrested June 8 at London Airport, after a two-month search for the man who assassinated Dr. King in Memphis on April 4. Ray was using the alias of "Ramon George Sneyd," had a forged Canadian passport issued under this name and was held under the name of Sneyd in England.

SIGNS 'SNEYD'

He signed the name of "Ramon George Sneyd" to the declaration saying he would submit to extradition. He wrote: "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action for me to adopt."

British charges of carrying a loaded pistol and two forged passports were expected to be dropped if Ray is extradited. He is also charged with escaping from the Missouri state penitentiary in Jefferson City in 1967.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Gives Up Efforts To Block Extradition; Return Appears Near

Next Few Days

Accused Slayer Of Dr. King
Signs Agreement To
Abandon Appeal

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Extradition Order to Be Signed Soon

Then Suspect
Will Be Flown
To Memphis

Memphis prepared today for the imminent arrival of James Earl Ray with increased security measures, including the blocking of traffic on Washington adjacent to the Shelby County Jail.

Barricades were erected this morning to close Washington between Second and Third Streets as the latest in the security arrangements. Reports continue that Ray may arrive at any time to stand trial for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Two British charges against Ray were dismissed in a magistrates' court in London today, clearing the way for his extradition. The extradition order was expected to be signed soon after the dismissal.

PLANE READY

Unofficial reports said a U.S. Air Force transport was standing by at a U.S. air base west of London to take the prisoner and an escort of U.S. marshals to Memphis.

In Memphis, Sheriff William Morris, Police Chief Henry Lux and others concerned with Ray's security met this morning. A statement issued after the meeting said:

"Preparations for the arrival of James Earl Ray in Memphis are going forward and we will be well prepared upon his arrival. Every possible measure is being taken to assure his security during his incarceration and coming trial. We can make no further comment in regard to these matters at this time."

POSTED

Tennessee Highway Patrolmen and city police, along with sheriff's deputies, were posted in the Criminal Courts Building, where the jail is located.

All cars going into the sheriff's parking lot behind the Shelby County Office Building were being stopped and their drivers asked to identify themselves. Among those stopped was Robert K. Dwyer, executive assistant attorney general who will be one of the prosecutors in Ray's trial.

County Court Chairman Charles Baker, when asked about payment for expenses involved in the security arrangements, said the county

Turn to Page 4—RAY'S

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— Page 1 + 4

— Memphis Press
Scimitar

— Memphis, Tenn.

Date: 7-18-68
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Charles H.
Title: Schneider

Character:

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Ray's Return Now Imminent

From Page 1

court has made no direct appropriation, but "We will help the sheriff pay for some of the expense involved."

Heavy steel plating has been placed on four windows of the jail, which occupies the top three floors of the Shelby County Criminal Courts Building, and steel mesh security screens are being placed on all other windows throughout the building.

Sheriff's deputies have been posted at positions in an alley behind the jail, at the jail's entrance in the Criminal Courts Building and in the corridor outside the sheriff's office.

Ray's cell is to be equipped with closed-circuit television and may be air conditioned. Its location has not been disclosed and requests to photograph it have been refused.

Ray has already been indicted on a murder charge and would not have to appear in a lower court on his return to Memphis. His first court appearance will be for his arraignment in one of the five criminal courts.

Speculation is that the trial would start in September or October, with either Criminal Court Judge Perry H. Sellers or Judge W. Preston Battle presiding.

If either the defense or the state requests a psychiatric examination, normal procedure would be to send the prisoner to Central State Hospital in Nashville. However, speculation is that Ray would receive such an examination in the jail because of the security required.



—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo by Tom Barber

CARS CHECKED AS PART OF SECURITY MEASURES

Sheriff's deputy requests identification from a motorist driving into the parking lot at the Shelby County Office Building, part of security arrangements for the arrival of James Earl Ray.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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