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STAR

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Ray's Lawyer Says He May Quit Case

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Arthur Hanes Sr. said in court yesterday that he may have to withdraw as James Earl Ray's lawyer.

"Serious difficulties have arisen between me and my client on the best way to handle this defense," Ray's chief counsel said without elaboration.

Hanes, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor, was retained by Ray before Ray was extradited from England and held in Memphis in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes was in court yesterday for a hearing in which a committee of lawyers recommended that he and two newsmen and a private detective be held in contempt of court on grounds they violated an order prohibiting prejudicial news statements in connection with the Ray case.

The hearing was continued until Monday.

Ray charged with the assassination of King in Memphis on April 4, is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 12. He was arrested in England.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle appointed the committee recommended that Hanes; ~~Renfro Hays~~, a private investigator retained by Hanes, and reporters Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Press-Scimitar be cited.

~~Armistead Clay~~, attorney for the two reporters, told Battle the hearing pitted the constitutional guarantees of free speech and a free press against the guarantees of a fair trial.

He argued the newsmen were not guilty under the 1st and 14th amendments to the Constitution.



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