

(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.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

6 Moore
6/18/68

MRB
MRB

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

— PAGE /

— COMMERCIAL
APPEAL

— MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-18-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1987

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

59 AUG 2-1968

44-1987-1-A-510

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 25 10 11 AM '68

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. Hanes 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.

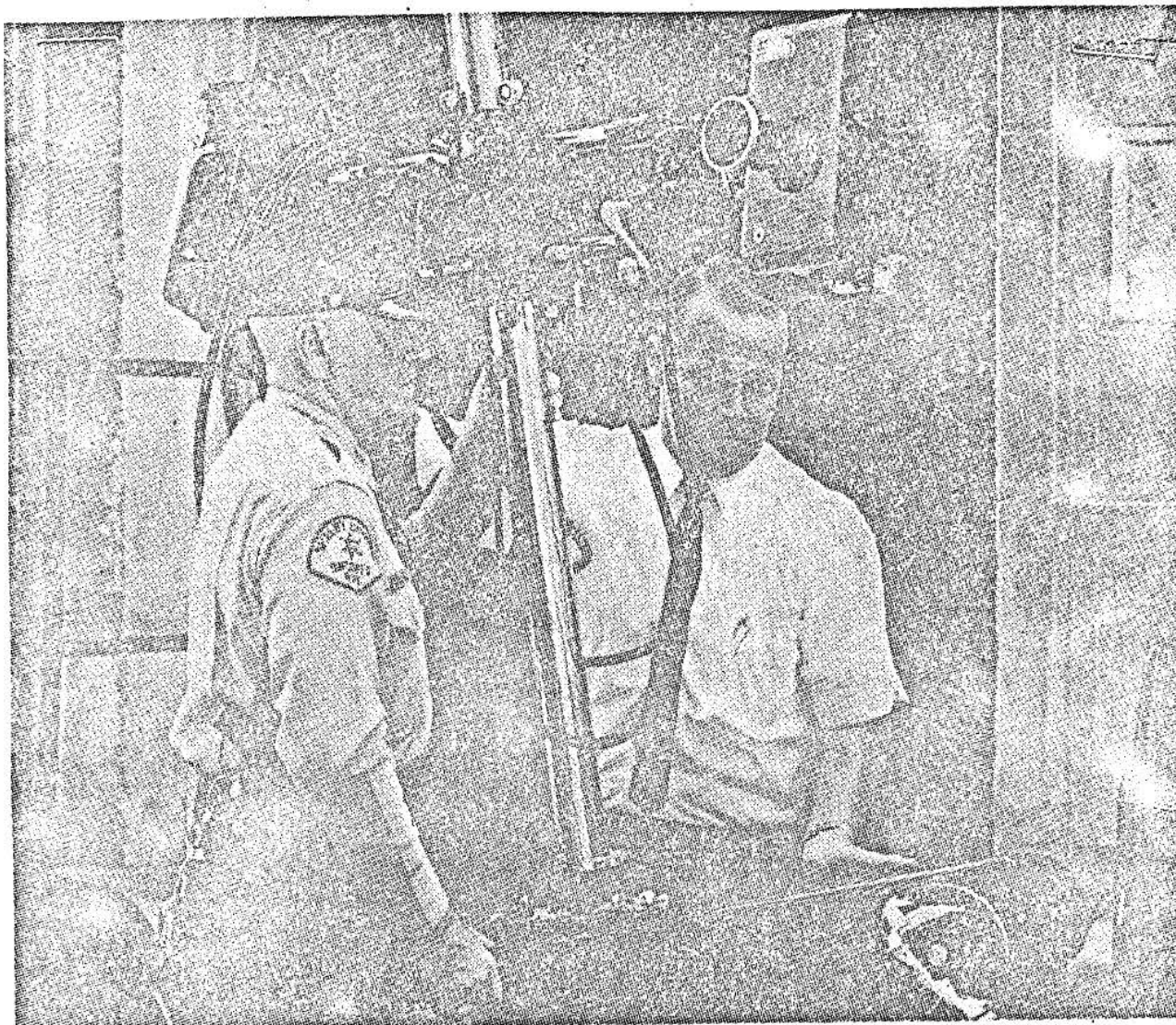
Apparently most of the seats in the courtroom, which may be the Division I Criminal Court room on the second floor of the Shelby County Office Building at Second and Poplar, will be taken up by newsmen.

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.

JUL 31 1968



Fluoroscope-Type Equipment Is Added To Courthouse Security Setup

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

Long

UPI-102

(SECURITY)

MEMPHIS, TENN.--SECURITY MEASURES WERE TIGHTENED TODAY FOR THE ARRIVAL FROM LONDON OF JAMES EARL RAY TO FACE MURDER CHARGES IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

RAY DROPPED HIS FIGHT WEDNESDAY AGAINST EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS WERE STATIONED OUTSIDE ENTRANCES TO THE CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING, WHICH ALSO HOUSES THE JAIL. ALL DEPUTIES RECEIVED NOTICE THAT THEIR DAYS OFF HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS WOULD NOT DISCUSS SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, BUT THERE WERE REPORTS THAT THE SUSPECT WOULD BE HOUED IN A SPECIAL CELL EQUIPPED WITH CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION.

OTHER MEASURES MAY INCLUDE REMOVING SEVERAL OFFICES FROM THE ADJACENT COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING AND RESTRICTING TRAFFIC ON STREETS SURROUNDING THE JAIL.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SOURCES HAD INDICATED EARLIER THAT RAY PROBABLY WOULD BE SAFELY IN JAIL BEFORE WORD OF HIS ARRIVAL IN MEMPHIS WAS MADE PUBLIC.

7/17--EG250PED

44-38861-11

NO
170 JUL 30 1968

55 AUG 1 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

JUL 17 4 30 PM '68

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 17 3 13 PM '68

JUL 17 5 20 PM '68

F B I
REC'D BISHOP

JUL 22 1968

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 22 8 43 AM '68

JUL 17 10 00 PM '68
FBI
JUL 17 10 00 PM '68

Ray Decides to Drop Extradition Battle In Dr. King Slaying

By ANTHONY LEWIS
Special to The New York Times

LONDON, July 16—James Earl Ray, who is accused of assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has decided to give up his fight against extradition.

News of the prisoner's decision was learned tonight. The British authorities have been informed.

Under British law, Ray is allowed 15 days from the time he was held for extradition to seek review of that decision in the High Court. The magistrate's extradition ruling came on July 2, so the 15th and last day of the appeal time is tomorrow.

In all likelihood, the Home Secretary, James Callaghan, will let tomorrow pass to be certain that Ray does not again change his mind. Originally his lawyers, after talking with him, had indicated that an appeal would surely be taken.

Once the deadline for appeal passes, swift action is expected. Mr. Callaghan will have to sign the extradition order personally and will presumably consult with American representatives here about when and how Ray is to be taken back.

It is expected that Ray will be flown across the Atlantic in an official American plane. He will be in custody of Federal agents until he gets back to the United States.

Once in the United States, he is expected to be handed over to Tennessee authorities immediately. He will face trial in Memphis, where Dr. King was shot to death on April 4.

The precise reason for abandoning the plan to fight the extradition move through all the British courts could not be learned. But persons closely informed made clear that it was the prisoner's decision.

His lawyers had recently informed him that his chances of forestalling a final extradition order were slim. Certainly, when the Chief London Magistrate, Frank Milton, decided the case on July 2, he

gave no indication that it was a close question.

Political Issue Difficult

Ray's lawyers had argued that the Anglo-American extradition treaty of 1931 should not be invoked because the killing of Dr. King was a political offense, which is exempted under the treaty. But the prisoner denied the killing, and the lawyers hence were in no position to suggest any political motive for the shooting.

In a letter from the prisoner that was made public in the United States yesterday, Ray hinted that he might be losing interest in the fight to stay in Britain. Speculation on his motives included the thought that he might believe it would make a better impression on American public opinion to go back and face the murder trial.

In all likelihood, his American lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., discussed the possibility with Ray when he visited Ray here on July 5 and 6.

Mr. Hanes, who has returned to the United States, flew back to Britain tonight. He is due in tomorrow morning and is expected to consult with Ray once again.

The prisoner was arrested at Heathrow Airport, London, on June 8 under the name of Ramon George Sneyd. He carried a Canadian passport that bore that name, and he has never made any statement on his actual identity.

But the magistrate on July 2 formally found that "James Earl Ray is the same as the person before me." The American authorities have identified James Earl Ray as a convict who escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967 after serving seven years of a 20-term for armed robbery.

'Best Course of Action'

LONDON, July 16 (AP)—A informant here said that Ray's decision was made in a statement that used his alias.

The statement reads: "I, Ramon George Sneyd, state that I wish to forgo my appeal to the divisional court of the High Court of Justice for a writ of habeas corpus and that I have decided of my own accord voluntarily to submit to the extradition order made against me. . . .

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

He finished by expressing his thanks for the "advise and assistance" he had received from his British lawyers and then signed the typed, one-page declaration.

Ray appeared in Bow Street Magistrates Court today for a brief custody hearing, but gave

no outward sign of the decision that was disclosed later.

Ray's statement was signed this morning at a conference with his court-appointed British lawyer. They can either send it to Home Secretary Callaghan as evidence that Ray has waived extradition, or they can do nothing.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The Washington Post

Times Herald _____

The Washington Daily News _____

The Evening Star (Washington) _____

The Sunday Star (Washington) _____

Daily News (New York) _____

Sunday News (New York) _____

New York Post _____

The New York Times _____

The Sun (Baltimore) _____

The Worker _____

The New Leader _____

The Wall Street Journal _____

The National Observer _____

People's World _____

Date JUL 17 1968

44-38861-A

NOT RECORDED

170 JUL 30 1968

FOR COPIES
DATED 7-17-68
FROM [illegible]
FILED AND INITIALED

JUL 25 1968

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 17 9 25 AM '68

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop *RB* _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen *✓* _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

UPI-12

(RAY)

LONDON--JAMES EARL RAY, GIVING UP HIS FIGHT AGAINST EXTRADITION
 TO AMERICA TO STAND TRIAL FOR THE SLAYING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING,
 COULD BE IN A MEMPHIS JAIL BY THIS WEEKEND, HIS LAWYER SAID TODAY.
 MICHAEL EUGENE, RAY'S BRITISH LAWYER, SAID HIS CLIENT MAY BE FLOWN
 BACK TO THE U.S. AS EARLY AS THURSDAY OR FRIDAY.
 EUGENE SAID RAY HAD DECIDED "OF HIS OWN ACCORD" NOT TO APPEAL BUT
 FAILED TO SAY WHY.

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR FILING AN APPEAL OF THE EXTRADITION ORDER.

EUGENE SAID RAY'S AMERICAN LAWYER, ARTHUR HANES SR. FLEW FROM
 AMERICA TODAY AND PROBABLY WILL ACCOMPANY RAY BACK TO THE U.S.
 7/17--GE930A

44-38861-10

 JUL 31 1968
 170 JUL 31 1968

59 JUL 31 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

JUL 22 1968

JUL 17 2 23 PM '68

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F B I

JUL 17 9 45 AM '68

JUL 17 4 30 PM '68

F B I
REC-D BISHOP

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 22 8 43 AM '68

Vpca 150
 Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

meagan

UPI-121

(RAY)

LONDON--THE ALABAMA LAWYER FOR JAMES EARL RAY SAID THURSDAY RAY DID NOT KILL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AND WANTS TO "GET BACK TO MEMPHIS AND PROVE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." THE LAWYER ALSO ACCUSED THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OF VIOLATING RAY'S "CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS."

ARTHUR J. HANES, THE AMERICAN LAWYER FOR THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF KING, EXPLAINED TO NEWSMEN WHY RAY ABANDONED HIS FIGHT AGAINST EXTRADITION TO THE UNITED STATES TO FACE THE MURDER CHARGE.

"THIS MAN IS INNOCENT AND WE WANT TO GET BACK TO MEMPHIS AND PROVE THIS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE," HANES SAID.

HANES LASHED OUT AT THE U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT FOR REFUSING HIM PERMISSION TO ACCOMPANY RAY BACK TO THE UNITED STATES. HE SAID BOTH HE AND RAY HAD ASKED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO LET THEM RETURN TOGETHER, BUT THAT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN LONDON TOLD HIM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT REFUSED.

"THIS IS TOTALLY UNFAIR, RIDICULOUS AND VIOLATES MY CLIENT'S CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS," HANES SAID. THE LAWYER SAID RAY WAS AFRAID OF TRAVELING ALONE WITH U.S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AGENTS.

THE FORMER BIRMINGHAM MAYOR SAID HE HAD NO IDEA WHEN RAY WOULD RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. A BRITISH HOME OFFICE SPOKESMAN SAID THE EXTRADITION PAPERS FOR RAY WOULD LIKELY BE SIGNED TOMORROW.

HANES SAID THE REASON RAY DECIDED NOT TO APPEAL THE BRITISH COURT DECISION TO EXTRADITE HIM WAS THAT HE WANTED TO RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES QUICKLY.

7/17--EG4PED

44-38861-A
 NOT RECORDED
 170 JUL 30 1968
Filg

65 AUG 1 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

RECEIVED DIRECTOR

F. B. I.

JUL 17 4 15 PM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 22 8 43 AM '68

JUL 22 1968

JUL 17 5 20 PM '68

F. B. I.
REC'D BISHOP

JUL 17 4 17 PM '68

(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

Edition:

Author:

Editor: FRANK R. AHLGREN

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: MEMPHIS

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

59 AUG 1-1968

44-38861-A-170 JUL 24 1968

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 25 10 11 AM '68

JUL 31 1968

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.



FO

DOWN DEPE



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Replying to the letter of

Number 057184 X 501110

W. H. H. H. H.

HEATH

WASH. D. C.

LONDON

Dear John

I will just write you
a few lines to let you
know everything is alright
I will probably be back
shortly. my way don't come
and you can't
get in, along some courts
and two state to appear
about judge. I am ready
to reverse my case I
don't want it. I will
will explain later but
you know these things
are not doing anything
to help me. I would
I would like for you to
give the attorney Arthur Hones
\$6000 you can get some
of off Jerry and I will
over

Slaughter it out up with
Gailor too when I get back
you mention Jerry Hones
because a good attorney but
I will wait until I get back
as I want some attorney
who can work together
so I will let Hones
decide on someone he thinks
would be best.
I cannot appeal my attorney
having but I will let
him decide on someone he
thinks would be best.
I will let Hones
decide on someone he
thinks would be best.

Love M. J. Sneyd

att. address

Arthur J. Hones

617 Brook 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 Raymon George Sneyd, the name under which he was arrested in London and charged with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ers of four
re turned
ts, ham-
over to
op singer
with lead-

ers of the gangs and persuaded them to
lay down their arms under a "disarma-
ment" amnesty agreement. The singer
also promised to give them money for a
youth center.

—AP Wirephoto

Reject For Aid

e Federal Ruse idor' Offer

PI) — Nigeria's breakaway
rejected federal terms for
nts to starving war victims.

n information minister, is-

Foreign

NEWS

Roundup

retary General Thant Mon-
the famine victims and
tative to the area immedi-
Gen. Yakabu Gowan, the

msey, the Archbishop of
ause in the House of Lords
ment to suspend delivery of
rans would accept British

— (AP) — Aging Super
s of Nigeria's civil war to
stricken Biafra while provi-
ebated in world capitals.

Henry Wharton, 51. He is a
om Miami, Fla., who said
American company."

oss, the World Council of
relief organization Caritas
s planer for more than
on. The crews are mainly
arn \$1,000 a flight.

ains Steam

Premier Maurice Couve de
minery of the Gaullist-domi-
der to speed through Presi-
ases and other reforms.

es Pompidou as premier in
ily under orders from de
ent's reforms by the end of

x money to help pay for an
e for all French workers —
omised in order to stop a
and June.

released figures showing
ollars or about five per cent
during the strikes.

xplosive Talk

Anti-Mao Blaze Reported Rising In 2 Provinces

HONG KONG, July 15.

(UPI)—Communist China is
the midst of a long, hot sum-
mer of civilian revolt in two
provinces of the five which
have thus far refused to acce-
Mao Tse-tung's iron grip on the
nation, intelligence reports
said Monday.

The reports, based on re-
able information from China,
said fresh fighting had broke
out in recent days in Fukien
and Kwangsi provinces follow-
ing earlier turmoil between
Chinese army troops and civil-
ians during late April, May
and early June.

The two regions are among
the five of China's 26 prov-
inces that still have not estab-
lished revolutionary commit-
tees ordered by the Peking
power center of Mao, the
Chinese Communist Party
chairman.

Despite the fighting in Fu-
kien and Kwangsi, the intell-
gence reports said Mao and his
supporters had decided to pus-
ahead with plans to consoli-
date the power of the revolu-
tionary committees in less
troubled areas.

Fukien Province, located in
China's southeast corner ju-
opposite the Nationalist Chi-
nese island of Taiwan, has been the
scene of almost continuous
fighting between various fac-
tions and groups in the past
several months, the reports
said.

Civilian factions have stage-
raids on military armories and
ambushed military rail con-
voys, the reports said. Open
fighting between civilian fac-
tions and army units has oc-
curred in Soochow, the provin-
cial capital, and Amoy, a port
city just a short distance from
the Nationalist-held offshore
island of Quemoy.

In Kwangsi, a southern pro-
vince which borders on North
Vietnam, the fighting has be-
even more open. Most of Chi-
na's vital rail links between
Peking and Hanoi run through
Kwangsi.

2 Brothers Seek Ray Trial Fund

By Jerry Lipson

Chicago Daily News Service

CHICAGO, July 16 — Two brothers of James Earl Ray are moving to Memphis to be near him when, and if, he stands trial for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

John Ray, 35, said he has turned over to a manager the daily operation of a tavern he owns in southeast St. Louis, and expects to rent an apartment in Memphis, probably this week.

He'll be joined by another brother, Jerry, 32, who quit his job with a suburban Chicago country club shortly after James Earl Ray was identified as the wanted fugitive in the slaying.

The brothers prepared to move shortly after receiving a letter from James, written from the London prison where he has been held since his arrest June 9. In it, Ray indicated he was ready to return voluntarily to the U.S. to stand trial.

John Ray told the Chicago Daily News his first move will be to set up a "James Ray defense fund" to help pay his brother's legal expenses.

"If it was just a question of \$3000 or \$4000, I could raise that," John said, "but this is going to cost a lot more than that."

John said he last saw his older brother on April 22, 1967, the day before he broke out of the Missouri State Prison by hiding in an out-bound bakery truck.

"I guess we talked about an hour," John Ray said. "He seemed in good spirits, but I never actually saw him brood in my whole life. He wasn't that way."

John said James gave no indication of any plans for an imminent escape.

"I know he wanted to get out, though. I could tell. They nicknamed him 'the mole' because he tried to escape so much."

Ray twice tried to flee the gray-stone prison in Jefferson City, Mo., before he finally made it after serving seven years of a 30-year sentence for armed robbery.

John Ray said he saw no connection between the escape and any plot to murder Dr. King.

"All the time I talked to him, he never mentioned King at any time. I don't know if he had any opinions on him," John said.

John also said that, despite a record of armed robbery convictions, his brother never used a pistol on any of his victims.

Recalling a police chase in 1959 after a supermarket holdup in Alton, Ill., John said, "Even when they were shooting at him he never fired back. He threw his gun away."

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date _____

44-38861-H

NOT RECORDED
170 JUL 30 1968

59 JUL 31 1968

FILE AND INITIALED

JUL 17 3 01 PM '68
RECEIVED

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F.B.I.
JUL 17 8 49 AM '68

JUL 25 1968

Ray Waives Appeal, Will Return to U.S.

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 16—James Earl Ray instructed his lawyers today to waive his appeal of a British extradition order. This means he will probably return in a few days to the United States, where he faces charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's surprise decision became known after he saw his British attorneys in Wandsworth prison this morning and gave them a signed statement saying he had voluntarily decided not to file an appeal of a July 2 extradition ruling against him in Bow Street Police Court.

The 40-year-old American said he had made the decision after considering all the facts and believed it was the best thing for him to do. The 250-word typed statement was signed "Ramon George Sneyd," the name under which Ray was arrested at London Airport on June 8. It will be submitted to Home Secretary James Callaghan, who must give final approval to Ray's return.

Word of Ray's decision was immediately telephoned to his American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, Ala. Hanes was due to arrive here Wednesday to confer again with his client, who has denied killing Dr. King in Memphis last April 4.

In his statement, Ray made no complaints about his legal defense in Britain. Instead, he expressed specific thanks to Michael Eugene, his court-appointed solicitor, and to Roger Frisby his barrister.

Ray's decision may have

been anticipated by a letter he sent last week to his family in America. According to the Chicago Daily News, Ray wrote, "I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars so that I might close it up about Tuesday."

Concerning the word "liars," Ray has twice denied in court police testimony that he cried "Oh, my God, I feel so trapped" when informed that Scotland Yard believed he was the man wanted in the death of Dr. King.

Ray's decision came as his British lawyers were readying the formal appeal to the Divisional Court of the High Court to meet the deadline of 4 p.m. Wednesday. A hearing date of July 29 had already been set. It will now be cancelled.

This morning Ray made what will probably be his last courtroom appearance in Britain when he was briefly brought before Bow Street Court on two lesser charges of possessing a forged passport and carrying an unlawful revolver. The charges were remanded until July 24, and now will almost surely be dropped.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

McCormack
R. L. King

Markin

The Washington Post *A-1*
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date JUL 17 1968

44-38861-A-

NOT RECORDED

176 JUL 31 1968

59 AUG 2 - 1968

File

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 23 12 13 PM '68

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 17 8 49 AM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 17 11 51 AM '68

JUL 23 1 22 PM '68

REC'D - SULLIVAN
FBI JUSTICE

JUL 17 9 17 AM '68

REC'D - F. B. I.

Ray Consents To Extradition

Appeal Is Dropped, Return to U.S. Near

LONDON (AP)—James Earl Ray could be on his way back to the United States tonight or early tomorrow to face trial for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray cleared the way for his return by signing a declaration yesterday that he did not want to appeal the order for his extradition issued by London's chief magistrate on July 2.

It was not known whether Ray's lawyers would deliver his statement to the Home Office or whether they would let the 15-day period for him to file an appeal expire this afternoon without taking further action.

Must Sign Order

In either case, Home Secretary James Callaghan could sign the order for Ray's extradition before nightfall. He would then be delivered to U.S. Justice Department officials for the trans-Atlantic flight.

Informed sources said the journey would be made aboard a U.S. government plane or a chartered civil jet, with Ray under heavy guard.

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., was due in London this morning. U.S. officials indicated he would not be permitted to accompany his client back to the United States.

Ray's decision not to appeal the extradition order came after

a routine court hearing yesterday at which he sat quietly while his British lawyers agreed to have him held in prison another eight days on charges he entered Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carried an unlicensed gun.

These were the charges on which he was arrested June 8 at London Airport, ending a two-month, worldwide search following the slaying of the civil rights leader April 4 in Memphis, Tenn.

Ray's British lawyers have been preparing an appeal against the contention that the

slaying was a political crime and that Ray therefore could not be extradited under British law. A hearing on the appeal had been tentatively set for June 29 even though it had not yet been filed.

In his declaration saying he would submit to extradition, Ray 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."

The declaration was signed

"Ray, in George Sneyd," the alias on the passport Ray used and the name under which he was held in Britain.

People who talked to Ray recently in Wandsworth Jail said he had been growing restless and tired of waiting after months on the run.

They said he consistently claimed he is innocent of the killing.

Other possible factors in Ray's decision were British refusal to continue free legal aid for his appeal and the fact that, in preparing for the trial in Memphis, he and Hanes could talk only in the presence of British prison officials.

Last week Ray wrote a brother in the United States telling him to arrange payment to Hanes. Then he remarked: "I could appeal my extradition hearing, but I am getting tired of listening to these liars and I might close it up about Tuesday."

The "liars" he referred to apparently were British police who have quoted him as saying after his arrest, "Oh, God, I feel so trapped." Ray denied saying anything like that.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop *Stad* _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen *the* _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

GC Moore
R. L. Key

MARKIN

The Washington Post _____
Times Herald _____
The Washington Daily News _____
The Evening Star (Washington) *A1* _____
The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
Daily News (New York) _____
Sunday News (New York) _____
New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____

Date *JUL 17* _____

Fly

44-38861-A-

NOT RECORDED
176 JUL 31 1968

59 AUG 2 - 1968

JUL 31 1968

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 23 12 13 PM '68

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 17 1 24 PM '68

JUL 17 2 40 PM '68
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 23 1 22 PM '68
REC'D SULLIVAN
FBI JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

(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.

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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

P. 13

SHELBY COUNTY JAIL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-16-68

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: RAY, JAMES EARL

Character:

or

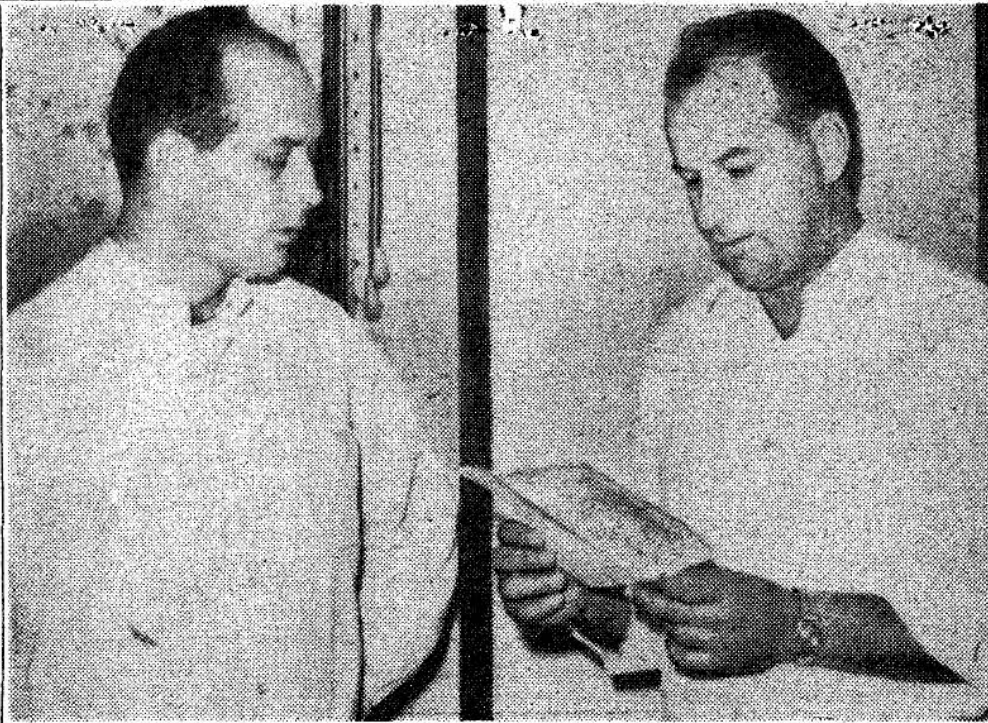
Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

RECEIVED
INTELL DIV.
JUL 25 10 11 AM '68

JUL 31 1968



—UPI Photo

James Earl Ray's brothers, Jerry (left) and John read a letter from the accused assassin, written from a British prison. The letter illuminates two points: that James Ray and Ramon George

Sneyd are the same person, and despite the accused's attempts to prevent extradition to the U.S., he may have originally intended to return voluntarily.

Bound Over for Another 8 Days

Ray's Appeal Hampered

LONDON, July 16 (UPI) — A British court today bound over James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for another eight days on charges of violating gun and passport laws.

Sources close to Ray's defense said his lawyers were running into "local difficulties" hampering his appeal against a court-ordered extradition to America to stand trial for Dr. King's murder.

Ray's appearance at Bow Street Magistrates Court was routine. The law says he must be taken before a magistrate every eight days while held on the charges of carrying a gun and two forged passports, charges on which Ray was arrested June 8 to end a worldwide manhunt.

Defense sources said the "difficulties" they were talking about were not administrative and not connected with legal obstacles to their contention that Dr. King's slaying was a political crime.

Political crimes are not subject to the Anglo-American extradition treaty.

Ray's British lawyer, Michael Eugene, has only one day left to file an appeal of Ray's extradition order, issued two weeks ago.

Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate, ordered Ray held until July 24 on the gun and passport charges.

Only a few spectators were on hand when Ray arrived from Wandsworth Prison in a black Maria escorted by three Jaguar police cruisers.

Tolson _____
 DeLoach ☒ _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop *BH* _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad ☒ _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen *RT* _____
 Sullivan *JS* _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

L. Boone

2

9/11/68

The Washington Post

Times Herald _____

The Washington Daily News *3* _____

The Evening Star (Washington) _____

The Sunday Star (Washington) _____

Daily News (New York) _____

Sunday News (New York) _____

New York Post _____

The New York Times _____

The Sun (Baltimore) _____

The Worker _____

The New Leader _____

The Wall Street Journal _____

The National Observer _____

People's World _____

Date **JUL 16 1968**

44-38861-H

NOT RECORDED
 170 AUG 5 1968

54-1176-1968

File *mv*

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 31 1968

JUL 16 12 31 PM '68

JUL 23 5 26 PM '68

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 16 11 40 AM '68

(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.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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

PAGE /

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-16-68
Edition:
Author: CHARLES H.
Editor: SCHNEIDER
Title:

MARKIN

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

44-38861-A-

NOT RECORDED

176 JUL 31 1968

59 AUG 1 - 1968

File

JUL 25 10 28 AM '68

JUL 31 1968

REC'D SULLIVAN
FBI JUSTICE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

By **FRANK HOWITT**
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

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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

PAGE 1

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 7-15-68
Edition:
Author: CHARLES H.
Editor: SCHNEIDER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS
☐ Being Investigated

79 AUG 6-1968

NOT RECORDED
170 AUG 5 1968

REC'D
INTELL DIV.

JUL 29 4 41 PM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 31 5 00 PM '68

AUG 1 9 17 AM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 29 2 48 PM '68