

Suspect Held on British Charges

Ray Extradition Won't Be Quick



—UPI Photo

The passport photo from which James Earl Ray was identified.

LONDON, June 10 (UPI) — A magistrate today ordered a scowling James Earl Ray held without bail on gun and passport violations in Britain. U.S. attorneys sought his extradition to stand trial in America for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

In an 82-second hearing in Bow Street court in London's wholesale fruit district, the 40-year-old, escaped convict — half dragged to the dock by 12 police guards — spoke twice.

NOES HAVE IT

Ray said "no" both times. Once he was asked by Magistrate Frank Milton if he objected to limiting press coverage of his hearing. The second time he had been asked if he had a lawyer.

Mr. Milton granted him legal aid, a free attorney, and ordered him held in jail until at least June 18. It gave prosecution and defense more time to prepare to argue Ray's case against charges he held fraudulent passports and a gun and five bullets illegally when arrested Saturday at London airport at the end of a worldwide hunt that began April 4 when Mr. King was slain in Memphis, Tenn.

U.S. legal officials had hoped for a quick extradition. But Ray was given benefit of the civil rights Mr. King championed in the United States.

Bundled into a paddy wagon, escorted by black police cruisers, Ray was taken from the court to Brixton Prison, a grimy, brick compound in a working class area of London.

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He spent his moment in court inside an eight by three foot wrought iron dock, six uniformed and six plainclothed police around him. One was Thomas Butler, the Scotland Yard "flying squad" chief who arrested him.

SAME CLOTHES

The defendant wore the checked, gray green sports jacket, the blue cotton sports shirt and dark slacks he wore when caught in the airport en route from Lisbon to Brussels.

To Ray's right, on a hard wooden bench in the court where Charles Dickens once took notes for his novels, sat U. S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson, son of the late U. S. Chief Justice. He flew in yesterday to help speed up extradition. Behind Ray — kept eight feet distant — were newsmen and spectators, all searched for weapons by police.

The court where Russian spies occasionally and Soho's dregs daily appear for justice was under special security guard. British law requires an arrested person come before a judge within 48 hours of detention. The special guard was very special. So is the extradition Mr. Vinson seeks.

Legal experts were not sure how long that might take. It could take a month or even more. British law goes far to protect civil rights.

Ian Colvin, writer and journalist, said in today's Daily Telegraph that Ray apparently was the man who kept phoning him for data about joining a mercenary army in Africa. There was a cover story about a lost mercenary brother. Brussels was the place to go, said Mr. Colvin. Ray was arrested en route from Lisbon to Brussels.

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