

U.S. speeds extradition of accused King assassin

LONDON-(UPI) — James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Monday was half-dragged into a Magistrate's Court where he was ordered held without bail on gun and passport violations in Britain. United States efforts to extradite him will come later, possibly this week.

Ray, a 40-year-old American escaped convict, then was taken under heavy guard to Brixton Prison to await another hearing June 18.

His appearance in court lasted only 82 seconds during which he either scowled or screwed his face into a half grin as he answered "No" to two questions.

U.S. EXTRADITION efforts will not have to wait until the second hearing. Embassy officials said both the States of Missouri and Tennessee were preparing extradition papers — jail break in Missouri and the King murder charge in Memphis, Tenn.

American sources indicated the decision had not yet been made as to which, if either, of these States' possible extradition claims would be used. They said Ray could simplify things by waiving extradition — though he has not spoken on this matter — or Britain could simply deport him as an undesirable.

The British Foreign Office said it understood U.S. authorities were "in the process" of applying for Ray's extradition and that such a request would be "judged on its merits."

U.S. TSST. ATTY. GEN.

Fred M. Vinson Jr., who flew to London Sunday to try to speed up extradition, met with senior Scotland Yard officials after the hearing to discuss steps to be taken towards extradition. The formal request will be made by the State Department through the Embassy.

Vinson met with Ray briefly on Sunday but American sources said he did not ask him whether he would waive extradition and the Embassy said it still does not know Ray's attitude.

A formal request for extradition would be made by the State Department directly to the British Foreign Office before or after Ray appears for his second hearing June 18. The Embassy indicated

such a request probably would not be ready within the next "couple of days."

VINSON REFUSED to see newsmen and the Embassy refused to disclose any information on Ray's activities, or even his whereabouts before his arrest at 11:15 a.m. Saturday.

Ray was brought into court by 12 police guards, almost shuffling as they propelled him along into a court room where for the first time in memory every person entering the Magistrate's Court was searched by detectives. The detectives themselves were armed which is unusual for Britain.

Magistrate Frank Milton, especially careful of Ray's civil rights championed by King in the United States, asked Ray if he objected to limiting press coverage of his hearing and if he had a lawyer. He answered "No" to both questions.

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 King was

slain in Memphis, Tenn. 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.

RAY 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 Ray.

The defendant wore the checked, gray green sports jacket, the blue cotton sports shirt and dark slacks he wore into captivity 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. Vinson, son of the late U.S. Chief Justice.

IN WASHINGTON, the State Department said a formal request for Ray's extradition would be made through the U.S. Embassy in London "within the next few days."

"I cannot give a precise date when the request will be presented in London, but very likely it will be within the next few days," a State Department spokesman said.

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