

Ex-Birmingham Mayor Will Represent Ray

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., June 17 (UPI)—Former Birmingham Mayor Arthur J. Hanes said today he has tentatively agreed to represent James Earl Ray, the escaped convict charge in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes said he received a letter from Ray asking that he be his lawyer if he is brought to the United States from London to stand trial for the Negro leader's death.

"After conferring with his London lawyer, I have tentatively accepted this case and am flying to London Wednesday to confer with this client in order to begin preparation of the case in the event he is extradited," Hanes said.

Hanes was mayor of Birmingham in the early 1960s when the city was the center of civil rights demonstrations led by Dr. King. He later defended two Ku Klux Klansmen charged with murdering Viola Liuzzo, a white woman who participated in civil rights activities at Selma.

Hanes said he had "no idea

whatsoever" why Ray asked him to represent him. He said the letter was signed R. G. Sneyd, the name under which Ray is being held in England.

Hanes said he has informed Attorney General Ramsey Clark and the FBI that he has been asked to take the case.

Hanes was the defense lawyer for Klansmen Collie Leroy Wilkins Jr. and Eugene Thomas on State charges of murdering Mrs. Liuzzo. Wilkins's trial ended in a hung jury and Thomas was acquitted.

He later represented both men against Federal charges that they conspired to violate Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights. The two men this time were convicted and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Hanes is a former agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He said he resigned from the FBI "because I felt I couldn't express myself about the growing Communist influence in our country as an agent."

DATE 6/18/68

PAGE A-9

___ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD

___ THE EVENING STAR

___ THE SUNDAY STAR

___ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

___ WASHINGTON FREE AMERICAN

44-703-678

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>PPH</i>	FILED <i>PPH</i>
JUN 18 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<i>Dawson</i>	

(c-3)