

CHARLES F. HOLMES PAPERS: PRESS LIAISON, JAMES EARL RAY TRIAL
1967-1969, n.d.

MS 298

Acc. # 88-6

Folder 1. Arthur J. Crowns, Jr., "A Case Study Analysis of Police Relations during the Hot Summer, 1967, in Memphis, Tennessee."

21 page report. "The basic assumption of this study was that conflict between white and colored groups in Memphis, Tennessee, should have exploded into rioting during the summer of 1967." (p.2) Crown was an assistant professor, MSU Sociology Department.

Folder 2. Papers, April - May, 1968. 14 items.

Notes on Ray and Sirhan trials; arson report; MSU Information Bulletin; joint statement of Fire and Police Director and Rev. James Lawson on march from Clayborn Temple (also draft); Memphis Police Department information bulletin on investigation of Dr. King's assassination; notes on arrests (April 5,6, 1968); camera locations; possible list of names of news agencies and reporters; MPD information bulletin with draft about having not yet received an FBI report on the weapon used in the King murder; MPD information bulletin on march; Holloman statement that there were no injuries during march; notes, "The Strategy Committee does not want television media to have flatbed trucks on Hernando."; Departmental Communication - MPD counts 19,000 people in King March, April 8; Media Guidelines for Mass March, April 8 (also draft); MSU Public Information Office, May 7, on 3rd Annual Law Enforcement Training Conference where police will "examine their image."

Folder 3. Papers, June 6 - June 28, 1968. 15 items.

Press releases from Sirhan B. Sirhan trial - 'Pitchess explains security', 'Accused Kennedy slayer indicted', 3 Los Angeles District Attorney's Office News Releases, Weekly Summaries on Sirhan trial; applications from news media personnel for places in courtroom during Ray trial; June 26 letter from Judge Faquin on crowded courtroom facilities; June 26, June 27 references to procedures at Jack Ruby trial, Dallas.

Folder 4. July 1 - July 31, 1968. 19 items.

Correspondence and press releases on press arrangements for Sirhan trial in Los Angeles; applications from media representatives for courtroom seats; July 12, Sheriff's Office release describing Shelby County jail; court orders- 'Order on Courthouse and Courtroom Procedures and Publicity', 'Amendment on Order'; Sheriff's Department information bulletin; press procedures report; news release to Editor and Publisher on Holmes' position as Sheriff's Office press liaison; court order - 'Report of Amici Curiae Committee'.

Folder 5. August 2 - August 29, 1968. 7 items.

Los Angeles County Court order on publicity; correspondence on forms, applications for press credentials, proposed public opinion poll 'to find out how the people of Memphis feel about the James Earl Ray case'; George McMillan requests permission to interview Ray.

Folder 6. September 4 - September 23, 1968. 11 items.

Correspondence on press credential applications; Search for Meaning Committee asks to interview some police officers; press releases from Los Angeles Sheriff's Department - 'Additional Information', 'Judicial Proceedings Regarding Sirhan B. Sirhan', 'Sheriff Releases Photo of Sirhan's Jail Cell'; paper by Frank C. Holloman, 'Civil Disorders - Where to Now?'; memo to Judge Battle on questionable publicity; Shelby County Court Petition for Contempt; press arrangement checklist.

Folder 7. October 3 - October 17, 1968. 20 items.

Correspondence on press accreditation applications; Los Angeles Sheriff's Department press releases - 'Judicial Proceedings Regarding Sirhan B. Sirhan', 'Application for Sirhan B. Sirhan Trial Seating'; list of names on Accreditation Information Forms; Shelby County Court order on seating accomodation; seat assignments for news media representatives; protests about news media seat assignments; Shelby County Court order - 'Supplemental Report of Amici Curiae'.

Folder 8. October 18 - October 21, 1968. 15 items.

Correspondence and protests about press accreditation applications; letter to Judge Herbert Walker, Superior Court, Los Angeles, on press seating arrangements for Ray trial; request from Harold Frediani, Criminal Courts Coordinator, Los Angeles, to visit Judge Battle's Shelby County Court.

Folder 9. October 22 - October 25, 1968. 13 items.

Los Angeles Sheriff's Department press release - 'New location for press conference'; correspondence and protests on press accreditation; October 23 letter from Harold Frediani, Los Angeles Superior Court, expressing interest in Memphis security during Ray trial.

Folder 10. October 28 - October 31, 1968. 6 items.

Correspondence on press accreditation; form letter from Sheriff's Office to accredited media representatives on ID cards, press room, trial transcripts; list of names, Accreditation Information forms.

Folder 11. November 4 - November 11, 1968. 11 items.

Correspondence on press accreditation; November 7 memo from Martest Otwell, Court Reporter, on equipment 'submitted for approval of the Court'; Nov. 7 letter from British solicitors who represented Ray during his extradition; Nov. 10 draft letter from Ray, releasing Hanes as his attorney; list of names for staffing auxiliary press room; Shelby County Court order - 'Defendant's first motion for a continuance.'

Folder 12. November 12 - November 26, 1968. 13 items.

Shelby County Court order with changes, 'Defendant's first motion for a continuance'; drafts of 4 letters denying reserved seating requests; notes on trial; correspondence on seating requests; November 19 WDIA editorial on Ray trial security.

Folder 13. December, 1968. 17 items.

Correspondence and a statement by Sheriff William Morris on use of the new State Office Building and Percy Foreman, Ray's attorney; biographical sketch of James Beasley; correspondence on press accreditation; December 3 press requests memo; December 18 list of those in press seats; December 18 response with draft to press requests memo (Dec. 3); Los Angeles County Court order - 'Publicity and Security'; December 31 list of seat assignments at Sirhan trial; list of those 'cleared to go into courtroom,' Ray trial.

Folder 14. January 1 - January 23, 1969. 20 items.

January 7 press seats list; correspondence on hotel accommodations for news people; January 8 editorial and fact sheet on Sirhan trial security; January 9, Holmes reviews film Uptight for Sheriff William Morris; January 15, Holmes to Morris on Los Angeles press facilities for Sirhan trial; January 16 information bulletin, Shelby County Sheriff's Office, disallowing closed circuit television transmission of Ray trial; January 20, Holmes to Morris on Ray trial facilities; correspondence on press seating at Ray trial; January 23, 'Interim Report on Sirhan B. Sirhan Trial.'

Folder 15. January 24 - January 30, 1969. 19 items.

Correspondence on press seats at Ray trial; January 29 on remote audio.

Folder 16. February 3 - February 13, 1969. 11 items.

Correspondence on press seats; Shelby County Court order permitting a "photographer of his [Ray's] selection to take photographs of said defendant for the purpose of obtaining funds with which to prepare for the trial"; Shelby County Court order permitting Ray to confer with William Bradford Huie, author; February 5 'Report of Amici Curiae'; February 7 list of names for press seats; notes regarding Huie written on manila folder.

Folder 17. February 14 - February 27, 1969. 11 items.

February 14 list of names for press seats; February 14 note from Walker Percy; February 17 memo from Holmes to Judge Battle about additional press seating; correspondence on press seating.

Folder 18. March 9 - June 23, 1969, February 15, 1988. 15 items.

Procedures for Press Room, Court Room, photographs and network television; March 10 list of names for press seats with notes on back; March 26 letter from George McMillan stating that Life will not use his story. "My piece was another casualty of the American paranoia." He refers to the conspiracy theory, "But frankly the whole business is taking on the irrational characteristics of Ray's thinking, and I am just glad to be out of it."; April 2 bulletin from Director of Fire and Police about April 4 Memorial March; April 4 press release about curfew (also draft); April 4 Media Guidelines for Mass March; correspondence on press seats at trial; Shelby County Court order limiting seating in court room; February 15, 1988 memo proposing MSU-symposium on King assassination which was never held.

Folder 19. 'Study of Shelby County Sheriff's Office, Criminal Courts, and All Shelby County Law Enforcement Agencies' to determine the adequacies of the present facilities. Report projects for period 1966 to 1990. 45 pages.

Folder 20. Papers, n.d. 20 items.

News teletypes on defense attorney Percy Foreman's statements; notes on Foreman; list of witnesses called; notes from trial; notice that curfew will continue; note about curfew to Holloman; note that Memphis Police Department "proved again yesterday that it is the nation's finest."; section of Memphis code on civil emergencies; draft with corrections about route of march; handwritten note on route of march; sketch on yellow paper of press room; typescript, "Public Statements Regarding Trial of James Earl Ray or Events Leading Up to the Trial."

Folder 21. Papers, n.d. 16 items.

Draft acknowledging court room seating request; draft memo on Los Angeles press facilities; draft letter to Harold Frediani, Los Angeles; correspondence on hotel accommodations for news people; draft memo from Shelby County Sheriff's Office on Ray; draft memo on press procedures; list of news representatives who "will be called to a press conference to be held in Judge Faquin's court room" and a press conference agenda; notes pertaining to security arrangements; outlines of Holmes' background, duties, problems and successes as press liaison; news teletype questioning security; Hanes complains about effect of security measures on his client; photocopy of a judge's reflections on the trial and on Memphis.

Folder 22. Papers, n.d. 36 items.

Notes of people's names, things to do; names of news people under heading 'Contempt Hearing'; notes on things like a mattress fire on 3rd floor of jail; notes on legal arguments of Foreman and others; notes on court room and press room equipment with note to Judge Battle

Folder 22. continued

on inter-com, emergency lighting, diagram of court room; notes on rioting and curfew arrests, injuries, fines; list of stores with broken windows.

Folder 23. Papers, n.d. 15 items.

Lists of news people with changes and corrections; list of news people at Sirhan trial; list of Press Scimitar reporters with addresses; Alert Call List of news representatives giving names and local addresses.

Folder 24. Papers, n.d. 10 items.

List of names; lists of accreditation requests; lists of seating arrangements.

Folder 25. Papers, n.d. 18 items.

Biographical sketches of Flora Lewis and Robert K. (Bussy) Dwyer; story by Bernard Gavzer; torn and incomplete parody of H.E.W. rulings on desegregation; Exhibit A and B - floorplans of 4th and 8th floors of Hall of Justice; sample press cards; sample FBI press application and rules; sample information card; sample Shelby County Sheriff's Office Accreditation Information form; sample press certification; notes taken on two manila folders.

Folder 26. Papers, n.d. 39 items.

Notes on phone calls received; notes of names and addresses.

Folder 27. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 22 items.
Ahman - ByrdFolder 28. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 21 items.
Caputo - EverettFolder 29. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 38 items.
Fanion - HutchinsonFolder 30. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 40 items.
Jaffe - MulertFolder 31. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 32 items.
Nahum - RydenFolder 32. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 23 items.
Samsot - von KrusenstiernFolder 33. Press Accreditation Information Forms. 14 items.
Waldron - Young

Folder 34. Note Pads. 2 items.

Tablet 1. Pgs. 1-11, notes pertaining to MSU, such as bad check and registration policies on pg. 3. Pgs. 11-12, references to events in Memphis during the Sanitation Department strike and after Dr. King's assassination. P.13 and following notes relate to activities as press officer for Shelby County Sheriff's Office. Pgs. 26-31, loose sheets.

Tablet 2. Pgs. 1-46. Notes pertaining to duties as press liaison for Shelby County Sheriff's Office, phone calls, discussions, notes of things to do. Pg. 2, July 1, contains notes on discussion of security arrangements with people in the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office. "Not nearly as secure as our plans - Let anyone without credentials in to 'Public' trial." Pgs. 9-46 blank.

Folder 35. Business Cards. 11 items.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Folder 36. Criminal Court building, Memphis. Interior view of rear wall of court room, July 22, 1968. 4 items.
- Folder 37. Two views of court room from judge's bench. 12 items.
- Folder 38. Video-audio recording equipment, July 22, 1968. 2 items.
- Folder 39. Aerial photo of Criminal Court building. 5 items.
- Folder 40. Aerial photo of Criminal Court building, July 22, 1968. 3 items.
- Folder 41. Aerial photo of Criminal Court building from northwest, July 22, 1968. 2 items.
- Folder 42. Aerial photos of Criminal Court building looking southwest. 2 items.
- Folder 43. Interior photo of module desks. Lawyers' conference room where they would meet with clients. If Ray jury was sequestered, this room would be turned into sleeping quarters for jury members. 5 items.
- Folder 44. Interior photo of room with pool table and table and chairs. Deputies' recreation room which would also be turned into sleeping quarters for sequestered Ray jury if needed. 7 items.
- Folder 45. Sheriff William Morris and James Earl Ray (handcuffed). 5 items. Ray arriving from England and being taken to Shelby County jail.
- Folder 46. Interior photo of bed and bedside stand. Room had been set up to show how jurors would be accommodated. 5 items.
- Folder 47. Interior photo of jail cell with bed. Was Ray's cell which was part of three room suite, sealed off from rest of jail. 1 item.
- Folder 48. Interior photo of barred room with television on other side of bars. Shows exterior of 3 jail cell suite and walkway. In walkway he could talk with lawyer without being overheard. Suite was under observation at all times. 1 item.

- Folder 49. Entrance to jail, ground floor. 1 item.
- Folder 50. Interior photo of stairway which went to second floor court rooms.
- Folder 51. Two views of room with table, chairs and pitchers of water on table. This was room where jury would deliberate.
- Folder 52. Photos of journalists. 83 individual items and two sheets of photos.
- Folder 53. Empty envelopes. 24 items.

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

- Folder 54. Newspaper Clippings, June 24 - October 19, 1968. 48 items.
- Folder 55. Newspaper Clippings, October 20 - December 19, 1968. 36 items.
- Folder 56. Newspaper Clippings, January 1 - February 28, 1969. 29 items.
- Folder 57. Newspaper Clippings, March 1 - March 11, 1969. 17 items.
- Folder 58. Newspaper Clippings, March 13 - June 26, 1969. 23 items.
- Folder 59. Newspaper Clippings, October 22, 1966, August 2, 1976, n.d. 26 items.