

8 San Francisco Chronicle ☆☆☆ Fri., June 14, 1968

British OK Ray Extradition Step

London

The United States won formal approval of the British government yesterday to proceed with its case to return James Earl Ray to America to be tried for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Home Secretary James Callaghan signed an order authorizing the Chief London Magistrate to go ahead with a hearing on the U.S. request for Ray's extradition.

The hearing was expected to be held within a week at the Bow Street Magistrate's court.

Meanwhile, responsible sources said Scotland Yard detectives had run into a blank wall in their efforts to track down several persons who contacted Ray or were seen with him before his arrest at the London airport June 8.

The detectives were interested in a mystery woman

with a "twangy" American voice who telephoned at one of the cheap hotels, at which Ray stayed, promised to call back, but never did.

Scotland Yard also sought clues on a male telephone caller who refused to give his name, and a man or men seen with Ray when he arrived at two other hotels seeking rooms.

Ray is under constant observation by two guards at Wandsworth prison under the name of Ramon George Sneyd, listed on his fake Canadian passport when he was picked up last Saturday. He was charged with carrying a loaded .38 caliber pistol and two false Canadian passports.

Responsible sources said U.S. legal experts were not worried by the "double identity" aspect of the case. They said the American extradition request covered the possibility of aliases.

United Press

'Fat Man' Mystery Is Solved

Toronto

The mysterious "fat man" of the James Earl Ray case, subject of an intense police hunt here, has been found. He has no criminal connection with the case.

The "fat man," the subject of widespread newspaper speculation, was said to have delivered a letter to Ray at a rooming house here four days before the accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King explained for London.

He walked into police headquarters voluntarily yesterday.

Toronto police gave this account:

Ray had apparently written a letter about a job and had accidentally dropped it in a pay phone booth. A middle-aged Toronto man found the letter, which was unsealed, in the phone booth, read it, and walked to the rooming house at 962 Dundas street west where Ray was living.

Police said the "fat man," who asked to remain anonymous, could not remember to whom the letter was addressed nor very much about its contents; he is now cleared of any criminal involvement in the Ray affair.

Police professed to be pur-

suing a number of other leads in the Ray case, many of them having to do with alleged female friends in the Toronto area.

Times-Post Service