

N.O. States-Item

Ray's Lawyer Denies Links 'Right or Left'

LONDON (AP)—Attorney Arthur J. Hanes Sr., retained by James Earl Ray to defend him against the charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., told newsmen yesterday he is not allied with any group "right or left." But he would not say where the money to pay him will come from.

Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., arrived in London yesterday morning and said he would represent Ray if he is extradited.

He refused to say who would pay his legal fees, commenting, "I have faith that I'll get by."

Ray is being held in the former death cell at London's Wandsworth Prison awaiting an extradition hearing next Thursday.

SFChronicle

Attorney for Ray Arrives In London

London

Arthur J. Hanes, the former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., who described himself as a "pretty fair country lawyer," arrived in London yesterday to prepare for the defense in the United States of the accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

His client, James Earl Ray, Alias Ramon George Sneyd, is in Wandsworth Prison, awaiting an extradition hearing next Thursday. It was regarded as unlikely that Hanes would be permitted to see Ray.

The 51 year-old Hanes, who arrived with his 26-year-old son and law partner, Arthur J. Hanes Jr., refused to say who would be paying for his services.

"I work for money but I will not tell you who will pay," he said. "I cannot discuss the fees. I have the faith I'll get by and I'll make expenses."

Asked for his thoughts about the late Dr. King, Hanes replied:

"I've seen him and I've met him. As far as I'm concerned his business was his business and mine was mine. I don't knock anyone's kick."

On the question of whether he was a segregationist, Hanes replied that he did not believe in labels.

"You don't label liberal lawyers 'integrationist,'" he replied. "This question doesn't enter into this case. My views on civil rights are too far afield here."

Hanes represented the Ku Klux Klan members accused of the 1965 highway murder in Alabama of Mrs. Viola G. Liuzzo of Detroit, a white worker for Dr. King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

New York Times