

BANK HOLDUP LAID TO RAY IN LONDON

His Prints Reported Found
at Scene of May Robbery

By ANTHONY LEWIS

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LONDON, July 3—James Earl Ray, the alleged killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was reported today to have robbed a London bank of the equivalent of \$240 late in May.

Scotland Yard would not confirm or deny the report, but usually reliable sources said there was evidence connecting Ray with the robbery.

This evidence is said to be a paper bag that was dropped after the robber handed it to a cashier when he demanded the money. The bag is reported to bear Ray's fingerprints.

Ray arrived in Britain on May 17, using a Canadian passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd. There is no public knowledge of what he did until May 28, when he registered at a small hotel. He was arrested at the airport June 8 as he tried to leave for Brussels.

Yesterday the chief London magistrate, Frank Milton, ordered Ray held for extradition to the United States on the murder charge and, as an escaped convict. He has 15 days to go to a higher court and will do so.

Safe Deposit Box Sought

When arrested, Ray is believed to have been carrying about \$144 in pounds. The hotel in which he had stayed from May 28, the New Earls Court Hotel, charged \$5 a night.

Scotland Yard said today that it had checked hundreds of banks to see whether a safe deposit box had been rented under Ray's name or any of his known aliases. The answer so far is no.

In a courtroom statement yesterday, Ray complained about not having been allowed to see Arthur J. Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, Ala., whom he had asked to be his lawyer in the United States if he was extradited.

Mr. Hanes will soon fly back to London and will be per-

mitted to visit Ray in jail, it was learned today. He was here two weeks ago but left before the Home Office acted on a petition by Ray to let him make a visit.

Letter From Britain

According to Mr. Hanes, he got a letter on June 14 signed "R. G. Sneyd." It was sent from Brixton Prison, where Ray is being held, addressed to Mr. Hanes in care of the Birmingham Bar Association.

There is no thought of Mr. Hanes's having anything to do with the legal effort now going on here to prevent Ray's extradition. He is not admitted to practice before the English courts, and an English barrister, Roger Frisby, will continue to argue for Ray.

If the efforts to block extradition fail, Ray will probably be flown back in an American Government plane to Memphis. It was there that Dr. King, the civil rights leader, was shot to death on April 4.

Mr. Hanes told reporters here two weeks ago that he was prepared to defend Ray on the murder charge and would be able to appear in the Tennessee courts. He said he would be paid his fees, "but I will not tell you who will pay."

Memphis Tightens Security

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 3 (AP)—Security is gradually being tightened around the Shelby County jail and court complex in anticipation of Ray's return to stand trial in the slaying of Dr. King.

Officials refuse to discuss their security plans, or even to confirm that extraordinary steps are being taken.

But one aspect came to light when District Attorney Phil M. Canale, the man who will lead the Ray prosecution, revealed that a security door had been erected in the hallway leading to his and his assistants' offices.

"We've been meaning to put up this door for some time," Mr. Canale said. "The Ray case caused us to move a little faster."

The county's five criminal court judges, one of whom will preside over Ray's trial, have called for immediate remodeling of a wing of the criminal courts building to provide more security and at least two new courtrooms.

The judges met today with Jack Ramsay, chairman of the Shelby County Commission, to discuss what they termed the "dangerous security conditions" and "cramped court space" in the courthouse.