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Ray Bjt LEAD

By BILL JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - James Earl Ray and his Birmingham, Ala., lawyer met in the Shelby County jail today for the first time since Ray was turned over to American Authorities in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Arthur J. Hanes, former Birmingham mayor, went to the heavily guarded jail this morning. He was admitted to Ray's steel-lined third-floor quarters after passing through cordons of shotgun-toting sheriff's deputies.

Hanes arrived in Memphis by plane from New York shortly before midnight Friday, after being denied a seat on the Air Force jet which returned Ray from London nearly 24 hours earlier.

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - James Earl Ray, tucked safely behind the most elaborate security screen ever seen here, awaits the first meeting with his lawyer since being removed from a London jail.

The lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., arrived by plane from New York shortly before midnight Friday, quickly got into a car and drove to a downtown hotel-escorted by six policemen.

Hanes told newsmen here he had talked briefly with Ray shortly before his client was handed over to United States authorities for the Thursday flight to Memphis.

After being searched and passed through cordons of heavily armed, helmeted sheriff's deputies, Hanes presumably will be admitted to the third-floor cell block where Ray, charged with the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is confined in the Shelby County Jail.

Quarter-inch steel plates cut off light and air from the windows, and the hum of newly installed air conditioners provides a quiet background for the talks.

There is a telephone at hand, and in the corridor there is a sandbag-lined steel box-the receptacle for any bomb or explosive device that might be smuggled past all the guards and security.

Ray, arrested in London June 8, was taken to the jail just before dawn Friday after a secret flight aboard a U.S. Air Force jet from Britain. Hanes, who caught

a later flight to the United States, protested the decision that prevented him from accompanying Ray.

No date has been set for an arraignment for Ray, and Hanes is expected to work this out with Judge Preston Battle, who will preside at Ray's trial, and the prosecution. Ray must enter a plea at the arraignment.

It was learned that Judge Battle does not expect to set a trial date at the time of the arraignment, but will give opposing counsel time to determine when they are ready.

Battle has laid down strict ground rules for the trial, sharply limiting news and photo coverage and forbidding all the principals-and even employes of the court building-from making any comments about the case. A copy of this order had not been served on Hanes when he arrived in New York from London.

In an interview at Kennedy Airport in New York, Hanes alluded to "powerful forces at work" to divide Americans against themselves.

"It has been shown that there is such a thing as an international Communist conspiracy and you must admit they are working in this country," he said.

Ray gave up his fight for extradition from Britain earlier in the week and his sudden flight back to the United States came within hours after the extradition order was signed.

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In London, meanwhile, police said they had evidence Ray may have robbed a bank. They said the evidence is fingerprints on a "give me cash" note handed a bank teller.

The note was handed to a teller in the Trustee Savings Bank in London's Fulham District on June 4—two months to the day after King was killed. The man escaped with about 100 pounds—\$240—in five-pound notes.

When Ray was arrested four days later he had 60 pounds in five-pound notes. He also had just bought a ticket to Brussels.

A description of the robber given police by the bank manager matches Ray.

The evidence was turned up as Scotland Yard prepared a dossier in an attempt to track down any hint in London of conspiracy in King's assassination.

British detectives said they could find nothing to indicate Ray had any association with possible confederates, political contacts or anyone else.

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