

Attorney In Ray Case Irks Judge

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A contention by attorney Arthur J. Hanes that an international Communist conspiracy is at work against James Earl Ray appears to have brought a reaction from the judge who will hear the Ray case.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle named eight attorneys yesterday to check for a possible violation of his order limiting publicity in the case of Ray, who is charged with murder in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes, the former Birmingham, Ala., mayor who is acting as defense counsel for Ray, met with his client Saturday, then called an airport news conference at which he also asserted Ray's rights are being violated.

Less than 24 hours after the news conference, Battle appointed the eight-man committee to probe possible infringement of his order issued the day Ray was returned.

The order originally prohibited attorneys, officers, witnesses and anyone else connected with the Ray case from giving "interviews for publicity" or making "extra-judicial statements."