

Speculation Over Ray's Attorneys

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Attorney Percy Foreman of Houston arrived here last night and his presence touched off speculation that he would replace or join former Birmingham Mayor Arthur Hanes Sr. as defense counsel for James Earl Ray.

Foreman, who successfully defended Candace (Candy) Mossler against murder charges in a sensational Florida trial and was part of the defense team of attorneys for Jack Ruby, would not talk to newsmen.

The development came just before the scheduled start of Ray's trial on charges of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King.

There also was speculation that the trial, scheduled to start tomorrow, would be delayed several days.

Shelby county sheriff William N. Morris called a news

conference for today for "an important announcement in the Ray case," but refused to give further details.

The 100 block of Washington street housing Ray's steel-plated, television-monitored suite of cells and the courtroom where his trial will be held was put off limits late yesterday as officials clamped on the strictest trial security in American history.