

RAY IS REPORTED CHANGING LAWYER

Hanes May Be Replaced by
Percy Foreman — Delay
in Trial Is Forecast
11 NOV 68

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, Nov. 10 — The murder trial of James Earl Ray, accused of assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., faced a postponement tonight. It was reported that Percy Foreman, a noted Houston lawyer, would defend Ray, whose trial had been scheduled to begin Tuesday. 12 NOV

Mr. Foreman was in Memphis. His office in Houston said he had left for Memphis earlier today, but he was not available for comment.

Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. had said earlier that "there has been an important development" in the Ray case, and added that it would be announced soon.

Ray has been represented since his arrest in London on June 10 by Arthur J. Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, Ala. Neither Mr. Hanes nor his son, Arthur Jr., who has been working with his father, was available tonight.

But Mr. Hanes himself had said previously that Ray appeared to be not completely

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Ray Reported to Be Replacing Hanes With a Houston Attorney

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satisfied with the status of the defense. He had been corresponding with J. B. Stoner, a lawyer who is a former organizer for the Ku Klux Klan, from Georgia. Mr. Hanes said that if Mr. Stoner should be associated in the case he and his son would withdraw.

The early speculation was that the trial might be delayed no more than a few days. It had been scheduled to begin at 9:30 A.M. Tuesday.

Ray, who has been confined in an air-conditioned cell in the Shelby County Courthouse since mid-July, was reported to be unhappy over a series of articles written about him in Look magazine by William Bradford Huie, of Hartselle, Ala.

\$30,000 Paid

Mr. Huie said that he had paid Ray \$25,000 as a down payment on his life story and \$5,000 more later. The money had been used as a defense fund.

The Alabama author has not disclosed the complete financial arrangements that he has with Ray. The second of five articles that Mr. Huie wrote for Look is scheduled to appear on Tuesday.

Mr. Foreman, who for years has been a prominent defense lawyer in the Southwest, in 1964 was for a short time an attorney for Jack Ruby, the slayer of Lee Harvey Oswald.

A tall man, Mr. Foreman has a mane of graying hair. He is noted for his dramatic courtroom technique. Mr. Foreman, who has charged as much as \$250,000 to defend murder cases, gained national attention two years ago when he defended Mrs. Candace Mossler, who with her nephew was accused of murdering her husband. Both were acquitted.

Hanes Was Cited

Mr. Hanes, Ray's attorney, has been cited along with two Memphis newspaper reporters and a private detective for contempt of court in violating a "no interviews for publicity" order handed down by Judge W. Preston Battle.

Mr. Foreman is a study in contradictions that led one writer to call him "strange... amiable—and utterly distant."

A millionaire, he says he "can afford to be choosy about my clients." However, he has rejected wealthy clients to represent the destitute. His fees

have ranged from \$253,00 to a beat-up typewriter.

Prosecutors and opposing attorneys call Mr. Foreman ambitious and pompous. He calls everyone he meets "my good friend," and has been known to explode at annoyances.

However, he speaks quiet words of encouragement to elevator operators and struggling young lawyers and is a gentle man with children and horses.

A 6-foot-4, 250 pounder, his voice can boom and his big fists pound a table at one moment, and in the next he can flash a smile and turn a gentle phrase to charm a jury.

Mr. Foreman was born 66 years ago, one of eight children, in a log cabin in the east Texas town of Cold Springs. He studied law at the University of Texas after World War I.

He boasts of having tried more murder cases in a year than Clarence Darrow in a lifetime. He has more than 700 capital cases behind him—and only one execution.

Rigid Security in Effect

MEMPHIS, Nov. 10 (UPI)—The strict security for the trial of James Earl Ray, went into effect today when the block of Washington Street housing Ray's suite of cells was put off limits.

No one was allowed beyond five wooden white painted guardhouses especially built for the trial unless they had permission from Sheriff Morris. Visitors to other prisoners in the jail where Ray is confined had to submit to searches before entering the five-story building.

Among the final security steps taken today was a detailed search of courtroom number 3 and the newly-refurnished jury dormitory for such things as hidden cameras, microphones and even time bombs, said Charles Holmes, a spokesman for Sheriff Morris.

Ray's cells are almost directly above the courtroom. When he is brought from the third-floor cells to the second-floor courtroom, not only will he never be exposed to the outside but he also will walk along a corridor cleared of all persons except sheriff's deputies.

The jury quarters were re-furnished for the trial. A pool table was donated for the jury's recreation room. Cubicles were built in to insure privacy for the jurors' beds, which replaced rows of cots.