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A KLAN ORGANIZER MADE PRISONER

J. B. Stoner Talks With the Prisoner of Aiding Defense

By MARTIN WALDRON

MEMPHIS, Oct. 2 — J. B. Stoner, known as an organizer of the National States Rights party and the Ku Klux Klan and as an apostle of anti-Negro violence, visited James Earl Ray in his Memphis jail cell last Saturday.

Mr. Stoner, who has lived in Atlanta and Augusta, Ga., discussed with Ray the possibility of his joining in Ray's defense against a charge that he murdered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April.

Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, refused to accept Mr. Stoner as an associate in the defense.

In Birmingham, Ala., where he lives, Mr. Hanes said that he had no comment.

"But I don't mind saying that I would not allow that man Stoner to be associated in any case that I was involved in," Mr. Hanes said.

An Exchange of Letters

Before visiting Ray in the Shelby County Jail at Memphis, Mr. Stoner had been writing defense letters to and receiving letters from Ray since the escaped C. C. L. convict was arrested in London on June 10.

At one point in this exchange

of letters, the National States Rights party offered to pay for Ray's defense.

Mr. Hanes' invitation to Stoner prompted Mr. Hanes to announce to Criminal Judge W. Preston Battle in a courtroom in Memphis last Friday that "serious differences" had arisen between Mr. Hanes and Ray that he might withdraw as attorney.

Monday, Mr. Hanes told Battle, who has been asked to try the murder charges against Ray, that the differences had been resolved and he would remain as Ray's lawyer.

In his letters to Ray, Stoner suggested that several persons might be sued for their part in the assassination of Dr. King and as a

report reported for Stoner's brothers were reported to have advised Ray to accept Stoner as a defense attorney and to follow his advice.

Mr. Stoner has been known since 1945 as a Ku Klux Klan organizer and as an attorney for the National States Rights party.

The National States Rights party, which has a limited membership and was later moved to Savannah, Ga., by Dr. Edward

Dr. E. L. Edwards, a chiropractor, in June made public a list of members of the National States Rights party to finance Ray's

defense. A colleague of Stoner's were active in organizing civil rights movements in the South for the last 10 years.