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Volunteer Counsel for Ray No Stranger to Race Strife

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Arthur J. Hanes, who has tentatively agreed to defend the man accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is no stranger to racial controversy.

He was mayor of Birmingham in 1963 when racial disturbances shook the city and international attention was focused on Public Safety Commissioner Eugene "Bull" Connor and the use of police dogs and fire hoses to put down demonstrations.

He defended three Ku Klux Klansmen accused of the 1965 slaying of civil rights worker Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Hayneville, Ala. Two of the accused went free on state charges but were convicted on federal conspiracy charges. The third died.

When he was mayor, Hanes accused King of being one of the instigators of Birmingham's troubles.

Now, he is getting ready for a hurried trip to England to talk with the man accused of killing King while the civil rights leader was directing a protest in another Southern city—Memphis, Tenn.

Hanes plans to leave tomorrow to confer with James Earl Ray who, in a letter signed "R. G. Sneyd" asked Hanes to take the case. Sneyd is the name Ray was using when arrested.

The lawyer said he does not know who will pay Ray's legal fees but added "I understand this man has funds."

Hanes' first taste of political life came in 1948 when he finished second in a five-man



ARTHUR J. HANES
May defend Ray

race for the presidency of the Jefferson County Commission. He then had a law practice in Birmingham.

Next came three years as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Chicago and Washington.

In 1961, he was elected mayor of Birmingham. And with the office came a head-on confrontation with the forces of integration.

Of the disturbances in his city, Hanes said they were not spontaneous but had been carefully plotted at a Communist-inspired workshop a year ago.

Even after a change in the form of government ended the Hanes administration, he continued to speak out. In one speech he said, concerning the Federal Government, "You

have a bunch of Reds mixing in there with the blacks and whites."

In the summer of 1963, he charged that a community affairs committee was "loaded with leftists, pinkos and active integrationists." He warned that through integration Birmingham would become "a Negro town where white people will cower behind barred doors."

A month before the opening of the fall 1963 school term, Hanes called for a "human wall of white citizens" around Birmingham schools to block desegregation.

Hanes, 51, comes from an old central Alabama family. His maternal grandfather was a Confederate officer during the Civil War. His father was a Methodist minister. He obtained his law degree from the University of Alabama.

Although he says that politics has always fascinated him, he has devoted most of his time since stepping down as mayor to his private law practice. One of his sons, Arthur Jr., is his partner.

SF Chronicle

Birmingham Lawyer May Defend Ray

Birmingham, Ala.

A Birmingham attorney has tentatively accepted the defense of the man accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King.

Arthur J. Hanes, 51, said at a news conference yesterday that he had been contacted by a man who identified himself as R. G. Sneyd, now imprisoned in London, and by London attorneys for Sneyd, regarding the case.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has said that Sneyd actually is James Earl Ray and also has used the name Eric Starvo Galt. A first-degree murder warrant has been issued for Ray charging him with the King slaying.

PARTNER

Hanes said he and his son and partner, Arthur Hanes Jr., will fly to London tomorrow to look into the case. He said he hopes to determine whether he will have full representation of Ray in the United States. He said he will interview Ray and, if he accepts the case, begin preparation of the defense immediately.

Hanes said he received a telephone call Thursday from one of Ray's London attorneys, Michael Eugene of the London law firm of Michael Dresden & Co.

On Saturday, Hanes added, he received a handwritten letter signed "R. C. Sneyd," asking that he handle the case in the United States if extradition proceedings are successful.

He said the writer indicated that he had read of Hanes while in prison in the United States. Ray served time in a Missouri prison and is wanted there for escape.

FIRST

Hanes said the letter and phone call were the first contact he has ever had with Ray.

Hanes added that he "understands that this man has funds," but said he has given no indication as to who might pay defense fees.

Hanes received international attention when he defended three men accused of

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murdering civil rights worker Viola Gregg Liuzzo at Hayneville, Ala., in 1965.

Hanes served as Birmingham mayor in the early 1960s. He is a former president of the Birmingham Board of Education and is a former FBI agent. He has been a frequent critic of the federal government's integration efforts.

Associated Press