

Won't Fight Extradition-- Ray Lawyer

ATLANTA (AP)—The attorney who tentatively has agreed to defend James Earl Ray says he does not plan to fight extradition which would return the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to this country from England.

Arthur J. Hanes, a former FBI agent and former mayor of Birmingham, made the comment yesterday as he boarded a plane for Washington to check on passport arrangements for his trip to England.

He was accompanied by his son, 26-year-old Arthur J. Hanes Jr., who also is an attorney.

Both received their passports today at the State Department in Washington where it was understood they would leave tonight for London.

In a radio interview, Hanes was asked if he intended to fight U.S. demands that Ray be returned to this country for trial in the King slaying.

"I'm not going over there for that purpose," Hanes said. "I do not expect to engage in those legal maneuverings."

He was asked, too, if he planned to request a change of venue once Ray is returned to Memphis for trial.

"No sir, I will not," Hanes said. "I feel that the people of Memphis and the people of Tennessee are fair-minded and just like most Americans. I feel that once they are presented the evidence and the testimony, coupled with the law the judge will charge them with, they will give a fair and just verdict."