

Paper Says Letter Shows London Suspect Is Ray

CHICAGO, July 15 (AP)—The Chicago Daily News said today in a copyrighted article that a recent letter written by James Earl Ray to a brother had removed any doubt that Ray and Ramon George Sneyd are the same person.

Sneyd was the name under which Ray was arrested in London in connection with the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Daily News said the letter had been written to John Ray and had been signed Lord R. G. Sneyd.

John Ray said the handwriting was his brother's and he added, "I don't know where he got the name of Sneyd, but he had lots of names."

Asked about the title, "Lord" John Ray said, "That's probably his idea of a joke."

The Daily News published portions of the letter, which in part read, "I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars so I might close it up about Tuesday."

There was no indication which Tuesday the letter referred to. John Ray said he interpreted the letter as evidence that his brother did not kill Dr. King, who was shot to death on the balcony of a Memphis motel April 4.

"If he really did it," John Ray was quoted as saying, "he wouldn't be thinking about signing those extradition papers, would he?"

Sufficient Money Seen

The letter was mailed to a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, The Daily News said. It was not dated. The newspaper did not say

Brother Got a Report Signed 'Lord R. G. Sneyd,' Chicago Daily News Asserts

where the Ray brothers had been reached.

United States officials who are seeking to obtain Ray's extradition have said they are convinced that Ray and Sneyd are the same person. But the fact that the alias was used has caused a point of legal confusion during the extradition hearings.

The letter also implied that Ray would have sufficient funds to finance his defense.

"If you could," the letter said, "I would like for you to give the Attorney Arthur Hanes \$600. You can get some of it off Jerry [another brother] and I will straighten it up with you when I get back."

Mr. Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala., is representing Ray in proceedings in Memphis, where Ray is to stand trial if he is returned.

Mr. Hanes said in Birmingham: "I don't know John Ray. I have had no contact with John Ray and have received no money." The lawyer declined to comment further on the letter.

The article quoted John Ray as saying he had written a letter to his brother addressed to London's Heathfield Road Prison. He said he had asked about hiring a Texas criminal

lawyer, Percy Foreman, to handle his brother's defense.

The letter said, "You mention Percy Foreman. He is a good attorney, but I will wait until I get back as I want some attorneys who can work together, so I will let Hanes decide on someone he thinks would be best."