

A274NS

lbyleeuiv NS  
Ray Bjt 2nd NL  
By BILL JOHNSON

20 Jul 68  
531 PCD

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was described by his lawyer Saturday as being "in a good frame of mind and optimistic."

Arthur Hanes, his lawyer from Birmingham, Ala., spent two hours and eight minutes in Ray's steel-lined cell on the third floor of the Shelby County Jail discussing preliminary arrangements for Ray's murder trial.

He declined to go into what was discussed, saying only that the private session "opened up a broad spectrum." He said no arraignment date has been set.

Before going into the closely guarded, air-conditioned cellblock, Hanes met with Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. and Dist. Atty. Gen. Phil Canale to discuss "the general ground rules for the trial. They afforded me every courtesy," Hanes said.

Hanes' visit with Ray inside the jail surrounded by shotgun-toting deputies was the first he had had since his client was turned over to U.S. authorities in London and flown back to the United States.

He said he was "perfectly satisfied with the accommodations and the system set up" to guard Ray. "My client is satisfied."

The only photograph released of Ray since his return was taken by the sheriff's department and showed Ray handcuffed and wearing a bullet-proof vest.

Asked whether he would prefer some pictures showing Ray in a different light, Hanes answered:

"As times goes on, perhaps tomorrow, we will discuss this more thoroughly and see what we can do about it."

Hanes declined comment on whether his client was named James Earl Ray. He had given the name Raymon George Sneyd when arrested in London June 8.

And he said he thought his client could get "as fair a trial in Memphis as anywhere. I have great faith in the American system of justice."

Hanes said he could not estimate how long it would be before he was ready for trial: "These things can't take place immediately." He said it would depend on information given him by Ray and on witnesses.

Hanes also said he did not believe the ground rules laid down by the judge would hamper his case.

He expects to meet with Ray again Sunday before leaving for his home in Birmingham.

Hanes entered the jail just after 11 a.m. and did not leave until after 3:30 p.m. CDT.

Hanes last, 4th graf, A245NS.

BD531PCD July 20 NM



\$A

20 JUL 68  
318 PCD

A245NS

lbyluivwyyfNS

Ray NL 380

By BILL JOHNSON

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Arthur Hanes, the Birmingham, Ala., lawyer who will defend James Earl Ray on a charge of killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was closeted in the Shelby County Jail Saturday afternoon, apparently meeting with his client.

A spokesman for Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. said Hanes entered the jail at 11:02 a.m. but, he said, he did not know for sure whether Hanes had met with Ray.

"I would presume he was here on official business," the spokesman said.

Hanes last saw Ray in Wandsworth Prison in London, shortly before Ray was turned over to U.S. authorities for his secret and security-shrouded flight back to face the murder charge.

Government officials refused Hanes' requests to see Ray once they had him in their custody, and Hanes also was denied a seat on the Air Force jet that brought Ray back. The attorney flew in later aboard a commercial flight, arriving in Memphis just before midnight Friday.

Ray has been indicted on first-degree murder charge in the April 4 sniper slaying of King, the civil rights leader. The next step in the legal road which will lead him to the expected fall trial will be his arraignment, which has not been scheduled. Ray will enter his plea at that time.

Hanes, the prosecution and Criminal Court Judge Preston Battle, who will preside at the trial, are expected to fix a mutually agreeable arraignment date. It was understood that Battle will not set the trial date when the arraignment is held, but will schedule it after both sides have had time to prepare their cases.

Hanes' son and partner, Arthur Jr., joined his father in Memphis.

Hanes was stopped briefly by reporters as he headed for the jail but had very little to say. He has been served with a court order by Battle prohibiting trial principals from participating in interviews for publicity or from making out-of-court comments on the case.

Battle's order has been attacked by the local chapter of Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism society, but Battle has said "these are the rules that seem to me to be necessary."

Hanes, while not criticizing Battle's rules, said he might request some changes in both them and security measures.

"I will work with the prosecution in setting up trial procedures," he said. And he said he planned to confer with local officials on Ray's personal health and comfort.

"I am hopeful that more information on his surroundings may be given the public through the news media," he said.

"A bodyguard was with Hanes and police guards were posted in his room. It was learned earlier in the week that the police planned to provide guards for Judge Battle and all the attorneys in the case.

Hanes said he did not expect Ray's arraignment before Monday.

Bd318PCD July 20 NM