

A018

ryyr

Ray Bjt 320

By DOUG STONE

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Maximum security measures are being maintained for James Earl Ray as he waits in an air-conditioned third-floor jail cell for arraignment on a charge of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's lawyer, Arthur Hanes has hinted that Ray may appear for arraignment in a closely guarded courtroom today.

Hanes, who-like other principals in the Ray case-is under a court order to restrict what he says about the trial, told reporters at a Sunday news conference to "expect an announcement" today.

Hanes did not indicate what plea Ray, 40, might make to the indictment charging him with first-degree murder in the April 4 slaying of King.

But the lawyer's former Birmingham, Ala., mayor, said he wants "gimmicks" removed from the atmosphere in which Ray will be tried. Hanes said Sheriff William N. Morris Jr. has sworn on his "Boy Scouts honor" that conversations between Ray and Hanes will not be monitored.

By gimmicks, Hanes said he meant bodyguards and bullet-proof vests of the type worn by Ray when he was whisked into Shelby County jail early Friday after an overnight flight from London.

Hanes and his son, Arthur Hanes Jr., had a city police bodyguard Sunday when they toured the neighborhood where King was shot.

The elder Hanes said he and his law partner visited the Lorraine Motel where flowers and a plague mark the spot where the civil rights leader was standing on a second-floor balcony when he was shot.

The lawyers also visited a rooming house which overlooks the motel. It was from this house and its communal bathroom that police say the fatal shot was fired.

A mattress fire broke out on the third floor Sunday night.

City firemen rushed into the building. Sheriff Morris would say only that the fire did little damage and was extinguished quickly.

The sheriff would not say if the fire was set, where on the third floor it broke out, or whether it was considered the work of other inmates who reportedly are irked over the elaborate treatment Ray is receiving.

Hanes described Ray's mood as one of optimism. "He's in good health and has no complaints whatsoever. He reads newspapers and magazines."

HP340aed July 22