

## Man Who Allegedly Saw Killer Of Dr. King Jailed in Memphis

**He Is Held as Material Witness in \$10,000 Bond to Assure His Presence at the Trial**

MEMPHIS, July 23 (UPI)—Fearing loss of a key witness, officials revised the status today of one of the principals in the murder trial of James Earl Ray, the man accused of slaying the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Charles Q. Stephens, who allegedly saw Dr. King's assassin flee down a rooming house hall, had been in voluntary custody in recent weeks, but officials today ordered him jailed as a material witness under \$10,000 bond.

Robert K. Dwyer, executive assistant attorney general, said Mr. Stephens's status had been changed "because we had reason to believe he might not be present when the trial will be heard."

Ray is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 12 for the slaying of the civil rights leader, who was cut down by a sniper's bullet as he stood on a Memphis motel balcony the evening of April 4. Ray pleaded not guilty at his arraignment yesterday.

Two other witnesses are in protective custody. They are Mrs. Bessie Brewer, manager of the rooming house which Mr. King's assassin allegedly used as a sniper's post, and Willie Anchutz, a roomer in the house. Mr. Anchutz reportedly saw the assassin after he emerged from the bathroom from which, the authorities say, the fatal shot was fired.

Shelby County Sheriff William Morris, replying to complaints lodged by an unidentified Negro organization, denied today that Ray was receiving preferential treatment in jail.

Mr. Morris said that Ray's cell has "the normal jail equipment—a bunk and a lavatory.



United Press International  
Charles Quitman Stephens

Like the other prisoners, he cleans up his own cell every morning.

He said Ray had no television set but watched a small black and white set that has been provided for the guards who stay with Ray constantly.

Mr. Morris said that Ray's cell was a cellblock or "tank" where, normally, several prisoners are kept.

The Sheriff said Ray was fed the same food, prepared in the jail kitchen, that was fed other prisoners, after special precautions are taken to assure that it is not poisoned.

"We want to make doubly, doubly sure that what happened in Dallas does not happen in Memphis," Mr. Morris said, referring to the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy. "The whole world is watching what we do here. Our system of justice is under a microscope. We want to show the world that it works."