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Ray 2nd NL

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Arthur J. Janes, James Earl Ray's defense lawyer, told newsmen Saturday an international Communist conspiracy was involved in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes said that immediately after King was assassinated here April 4, U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark called the slaying a one-man job. Ray is charged with murder in the death.

"But, gentlemen 3rd graf NL A235NS."

Ray Correction

Memphis Ray NL A235NS to fix long line read 5th graf starting

"Speaking at": xxx an invasion of his rights since his arrest etc.

Fixing "Since".

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Ray NL 380

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Arthur J. Hanes, defense lawyer for James Earl Ray, flew home to Birmingham Saturday after telling newsmen there was an international Communist conspiracy at work in the case.

Hanes said that immediately after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated here April 4, U.S. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark called the slaying a one-man job.

"But, gentlemen," Hanes said, "I am here to tell you right now that in my judgment the attorney general of the United States is 100 per cent wrong. There is a giant conspiracy here and my client is being used by the conspiracy."

Hanes did not elaborate except to say that he had this information from a reliable source and that it all would come out at Ray's trial next November.

Speaking at an impromptu news conference, Hanes also assailed what he called a lack of privacy for his client and an invasion of his rights since his arrest in London June 8 and his return here. And Hanes told of threats against his own family.

"I definitely feel that my client's rights are being trampled and his privacy invaded. While I think Sheriff William N. Morris and his people are trying to protect my client's political rights, they are at the same time trampling his individual rights."

Referring to the closed circuit television that monitors Ray in his jail cell, the former Birmingham mayor said:

"Neither my client nor I like the idea of cameras being focused on him 24 hours a day. He has to hide his head under a pillow in order to get any sleep. He even has the evil eye of a camera on him when he uses the bathroom.

"Furthermore, when I was there yesterday, I went to use the bathroom and I go on TV. Gentlemen, this in my opinion is an invasion of his privacy and it is hurting his health, because he can't sleep with cameras blazing on him. Gentlemen, this is cruel."

Hanes said threats had been made against him, his family, his secretary and maid.

"Gentlemen," he said, "the tempo is picking up. The ball game is getting rough. The threats on my life and members of my family are becoming more serious. There are forces at work in this country that do not want to see this man tried, and they will use any means, in my judgment, to see that neither he nor I appear in the courtroom."

Most of the threats, Hanes said, come by way of telephone.

"A call will come in and my wife will pick up the telephone and a voice will say: 'Death, death, death.' Other callers will say 'You will die.'"

The threats, Hanes said, don't bother him or his family but they have terrified the household's 70-year-old maid.

"She received a letter threatening to kill her if she didn't stop working for me," he said.

Two Memphis policemen accompanied the lawyer the entire time he was in Memphis, from his arrival Friday morning until his Saturday departure.

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