

Judge in Ray Case Cracks Down on 'Publicity'

MEMPHIS (AP) — Strict new guidelines enjoining "interviews or press conferences for publicity" were handed down today by the judge who will preside in the murder trial of James Earl Ray.

Judge W. Preston Battle acted after a committee of eight attorneys reported that his previous order forbidding interviews or extra-judicial statements had been violated.

The committee, named by Battle Sunday, said these violations had been committed specifically by Arthur Hanes, Ray's attorney; Shelby County Sheriff William Morris; Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and Memphis Attorney Russell X. Thompson. *

The order forbids anyone

connected with the case, and all persons employed in the criminal courts buildings, from participating in interviews or press conferences for publicity.

It enjoined them from making extra-judicial statements about the case which involve:

"1. The personal belief of the declarant as to the guilt or innocence of the accused;

"2. The plans of the declarant relating to the preparation or conduct of the trial, the theory, techniques and strategy of the declarant in the preparation and trial of the case;

"3. The jurors or potential jurors who may serve;

"4. The comments of the declarant about the merits of the case and about any evidence which may be presented;

"5. The credibility of or information concerning any known or intended witnesses or the treatment, acts and attitude of the defendant, and are further enjoined from making any and all other statements which may be prejudi-

cial to a fair trial by an impartial jury in the case, whether specified herein or not."

As for Hanes, the order mentioned statements he made "to the effect that the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. involved a Communist conspiracy, to the effect that his client's rights were being trampled in jail, and to the effect that he, his family and servants are being threatened by 'them'."

*same story in NYTimes, 31 Jul 68, describes Thompson as "a Memphis lawyer", no further details.