

Doubt Fair Trial

Dismiss Ray, Lawyers Ask

MEMPHIS (Tenn.)—(UPI)—Attorneys for James Earl Ray, accused as the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, asked today that the murder charges against him be dropped.

They said "persuasive and widespread" publicity on the case has ruined Ray's chances for a fair trial anywhere in the United States.

Arthur J. Hanes Jr. of Birmingham, Ala., filed the formal motion with the Shelby County clerk of court.

The motion said the publicity in the case was "calculated to and is having the effect of creating widespread public excitement and animosity" toward Ray.

It also said radio and television network programs "so canonized and so depicted the victim of the crime (King)" that "widespread public outrage and hatred have been generated" toward Ray.

Hanes also asked that Criminal Court Judge Preston W. Battle order the prosecution to produce all its physical evidence—from fingerprint records to ballistic tests on the rifle slug that killed King—for inspection by the defense.

Another motion asked that prosecution witnesses be made available for questioning by defense attorneys.

King was killed by a single rifle bullet April 4 as he stood on the balcony of Lorraine Motel.

Ray was the object of an intensive manhunt and was arrested at a London airport early in June.