

SATURDAY

NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

# Ray Lawyer Threatens to Quit

MEMPHIS (AP) — Arthur Hanes Sr. said in court yesterday that he may have to withdraw as James Earl Ray's lawyer.

"Serious difficulties have arisen between me and my client on the best way to handle this defense," Ray's chief counsel said without elaboration.

Hanes, former Birmingham, Ala., mayor, was retained by Ray before Ray was extradited from England and held in Memphis in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

HANES WAS in court yesterday for a hearing in which a committee of lawyers recommended that he and two news-

men and a private detective be held in contempt of court on grounds they violated an order prohibiting prejudicial news statements in connection with the Ray case.

After the recommendation, Hanes charged that "prejudice is showing like a grandmother's petticoat under a miniskirt."

"I'm going to do everything I can to defend my client against whatever arises, including committees of lawyers. I do not know what their motives are, although I have my ideas," he said.

The hearing was continued until Monday.

RAY, CHARGED with the assassination of King in Mem-

phis on April 4, is scheduled to go on trial Nov. 12. He was captured in England.

Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle appointed the committee of lawyers to watch news coverage of the Ray case. The committee recommended that Hanes; Refno Hays, a private investigator retained by Hanes, and reporters Charles Edmundson of the Commercial Appeal and Roy Hamilton of the Press-Scimitar be cited.

The committee based its recommendation on stories by Edmundson and Hamilton in which Hanes and Hays were quoted. The stories concerned Ray's health and his ability to stand trial.



*'Difficulties Have Arisen Between Me and My Client'*

ARTHUR J. HANES JR.