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GEN DESK ONLY FOR INCLUSION IN RAY PM

MYSTERY SURROUNDED THE QUESTIONS MONDAY NIGHT OF WHEN AND HOW RAY WOULD BE MOVED THE 210 MILES FROM MEMPHIS TO NASHVILLE. A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SAID NO FURTHER STATEMENTS WOULD BE ISSUED ON THE RAY CASE BY THAT DEPARTMENT SINCE RAY BECAME A PRISONER OF THE STATE AFTER THE CONVICTION.

SECURITY PRECAUTIONS CONTINUED AT MAXIMUM LEVEL AT THE JAIL. PHOTOGRAPHERS HUDDLED IN NEAR-FREEZING WEATHER IN HOPES OF BEING ABLE TO GET A PICTURE OF RAY WHEN HE IS BROUGHT OUT OF THE BUILDING.

MANY RESIDENTS EXPRESSED RELIEF THAT THE TRIAL WAS OVER. POLICE HAD FEARED TENSIONS MIGHT RISE IF PROCEEDINGS BECAME LENGTHY, AS IT APPEARED THEY MIGHT WHEN RAY WENT TO TRIAL APRIL 7. CITY OFFICERS AND DEPUTIES WERE PUT ON 12-HOUR SHIFTS AND THEIR DAYS OFF WERE CANCELLED DURING THE WEEKEND.

THE HEARING, PERHAPS BECAUSE OF ITS SUDDENNESS, DID NOT GENERATE THE INTEREST ON THE PART OF THE PUBLIC THAT HAD BEEN ANTICIPATED. OUTSIDE OF REPORTERS, FEW PEOPLE ATTENDED. ONLY FOUR OF THEM WERE NEGROES, AND NONE WERE MAJOR REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY CIVIL RIGHTS GROUPS.

SOME SPECTATOR SEATS WERE OPENED TO THE MEDIA WHEN THE COURTROOM DID NOT FILL.

ARTHUR HANES, THE BIRMINGHAM, ALA., ATTORNEY RAY FIRED AND REPLACED WITH FOREMAN, SAID, "I'M SURE THAT THE GOOD PEOPLE OF MEMPHIS ARE BREATHING A SIGH OF RELIEF THAT THIS THING IS OVER, THAT THE TENSIONS WITH WHICH THEY HAVE LIVED FOR A YEAR ARE LIFTING."

AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, THE MAN NAMED BY RAY AS HIS BIOGRAPHER, SAID "THE TRIAL WENT OFF ACCORDING TO SCRIPT. I'M NOT SURPRISED THAT RAY GOT UP IN COURT AND SAID WHAT HE DID ABOUT A CONSPIRACY. HE'S SAID ALL ALONG THERE WAS ANOTHER MAN IN THE ROOMING HOUSE (FROM WHICH THE SHOT WAS FIRED)."

"AND THERE ARE THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS," SAID HUIE.

WEAPONS COMPLAINTS WERE FILED AS HOLDING CHARGES AGAINST RAY IN BOTH LONDON AND MEMPHIS. IN ADDITION, RAY HAS A WARRANT OUTSTANDING AGAINST HIM FOR ESCAPE FROM A MISSOURI PRISON. HE HAD NEVER BEEN IN CUSTODY AFTER THE ESCAPE UNTIL HIS LONDON ARREST IN THE KING CASE.

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WE ARE UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTION ON WHAT RAY DID WHEN HE WENT BACK TO HIS CELL MONDAY AFTERNOON.
MEMPHIS VIA NS

MARCH 11 BD1214ACS CWNME