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KKK Man to Be Ray's New Lawyer

SAVANNAH (Ga.) (AP) — J. B. Stoner, an attorney long associated with anti-Jewish and anti-Negro campaigns, was retained today by James Earl Ray in his effort to win a new trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Edward R. Fields, director of the segregationist National States Rights party, said Stoner would help Ray change his plea from guilty to innocent and would ask for another trial.

Stoner is an NSRP attorney whose office is located in the party's headquarters here.

Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in Memphis to last year's sniper-slaying of Dr. King.

Fields said Stoner was en route to Nashville where Ray is in the Tennessee State Penitentiary. He said Stoner would confer with Ray tomorrow morning.

Stoner, 44, has been involved in Ku Klux Klan and anti-Jewish activities since boyhood. At 16, he was an organizer and officer of a Chattanooga Klan and once was shown as the Kleagle of Tennessee.



JAMES EARL RAY'S NEW ATTORNEY
J. B. Stoner holds up Confederate flag in 1964 photo
—AP Photo