

To Sheriff Bill Morris

The C-8 City desk is pushing me on a story as to how much extra it has cost the county to prepare for the safekeeping of James Earl Ray and how much the total extra cost to ~~your office~~ ^{your office} will have been by the time the trial may be presumed to have finished. This would include the pay of 23 extra ~~deputies~~ deputies it is understood you have had to hire (for the duration of the trial only, or will they be permanent additions to the force?).

The general figure from the usual courthouse sources is \$200,000 for the above. But we would like to have the figure from you, and if possible itemized as to ~~the cost of individual items:~~ the cost of individual items: the television surveillance, the video identification of those entering the courtroom, strengthening of the cells Ray and his ^{guards} occupy by means of steel plates ^(on the stairs) cost of extra deputies, etc.

Squire Baker's office says he has taken up with Washington the possibility of having the Federal Government, probably through the Department of Justice, indemnify Shelby County for as much of this extra cost as possible. It is ~~reported~~ reported that Washington is not encouraging in its reply but that you do not consider the cause by any means lost. If you can call me and talk about this before the story is put in type--and I may be directed to write it for tomorrow--it will be greatly appreciated.

Charles Edmundson

*Shelby County
Sheriff's Office
1500*