

SHERIFF WILLIAM N. MORRIS JR.
Criminal Courts Building
150 Washington Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee
Telephone 525-7531

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sheriff William N. Morris Jr., today announced the appointment of two former Memphis newsmen to act as press representatives during the trial of James Earl Ray, accused killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The two --- both former reporters for The Commercial Appeal in Memphis --- are Charles Holmes, who now serves as public information officer for Memphis State University, and E.W. Brody, president of a Memphis public relations firm, Sheriff Morris said.

Both men are former police reporters and Mr. Holmes acted as volunteer press secretary to the Memphis Police Department in the days immediately following the slaying of Dr. King.

"With their assistance, we will assist the more than 1,000 U.S. and foreign news representatives expected for the trial in quickly and accurately disseminating the news and in accurately portraying Memphis and Shelby County to their readers, listeners and viewers," Sheriff Morris said.

Mr. Holmes will act as press secretary for the law enforcement agencies involved in the trial and will be responsible for dissemination of information concerning the case on a day-to-day and hour-to-hour basis.

"Mr. Brody will assist the Sheriff's Department in handling special requests from the media and will represent the department in what we hope will become a community-wide effort toward taking advantage of an unparalleled opportunity to present Memphis and Shelby County to

the nation and the world," the Sheriff said.

"Memphis was treated somewhat less than fairly by some news media in the wake of Dr. King's slaying, and we overcome any lingering misconceptions concerning our community by insuring that all media representatives who come here for the trial are exposed to the full story of Memphis and its accomplishments."

"Mr. Brody has agreed to assist the Sheriff's Department in this effort, enlist assistance from other organizations in the community, and co-ordinate our plans with those of any groups which may be similarly disposed."

The trial can be expected to continue for several months, Sheriff Morris said, and newsmen assigned to come to Memphis will have ample opportunity to gain a complete and accurate picture of our city and its people provided we give them an opportunity to do so.

Mr. Holmes will work with the Sheriff's Department, the Attorney General's office, the Memphis Police Department and the court to insure that the news media are afforded all information which can be made available within limits established by the courts and the Constitution, the Sheriff said.

He will serve for the duration of the trial under an appointment by Governor Buford Ellington with the approval of Memphis State University President Dr. C.C. Humphreys.

"We anticipate that the trial will begin in the fall and may continue for as long as three months," Sheriff Morris said. "Our work to meet the needs of the news media will be complicated by a critical shortage of courtroom seats and of working space for the press.

"In order to most effectively utilize available facilities, we are making plans for a series of meetings with representatives of the

court, the law enforcement agencies involved, and the news media to determine how best to meet the needs of all involved."

A news media committee consisting of William Sorrells, Assistant Managing Editor of The Commercial Appeal; Van Pritchard, Jr., City Editor of the Memphis Press Scimitar; and Norman Brewer, News Director of WACT, has been appointed to represent those who will be covering the trial.

"With Mr. Holmes and Mr. Brody, we will meet with them and take all possible steps to insure that the needs of the media are met," Sheriff Morris said.

TO: Memphis State University Faculty Members
FROM: Public Information Office, Memphis State University
SUBJECT: Information to be used for publicity releases.
DATE: August, 1968

INFORMATION: It is requested that this form be completed and returned to the Public Information Office as soon as possible. The information will be maintained on file for use for future publicity releases. Please indicate if a photograph or negative is on file in the University Photo Lab. Photo on file X; Photo NOT on file _____. If no photograph is available, you will be contacted to arrange an appointment.

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO PIO, ROOM 119, ADMINISTRATION BLDG., MSU.

Full Name CHARLES F. HOLMES

Rank at MSU Director of Public Relations

Area or Department _____

How long at MSU (date of arrival) July 1, 1962

Where, when and what degrees obtained B.S., 1957, MSU, M.A. 1967, MSU

Where formerly taught _____

Where born and reared Sept. 1, 1935 - Hickory Valley, Tenn.

Family Wife, Joan; two daughters, Charlotte and Katrina

Local address 106 S. Greer

Outstanding publications or research _____

Honors Who's Who, the Hall of Fame, Delta Kappa, Pi Delta Epsilon, ODK,

Professional affiliations PRSA, ACPPA

Vita Sheet for Charles F. Holmes, June 21, 1968.

ROUGH DRAFT

Parents: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Holmes, 735 South Graham, Memphis.

Grammar school: in Covington, Tenn., Treadwell in Memphis, M.C. Williams in Germantown. Junior High School at Snowden in Memphis. Graduated from Tech High School in Memphis in 1953, enrolled in Memphis State College that fall. At Memphis State, I was editor of the Tiger Rag weekly newspaper, part-time public information director my senior year in absence of full-time person, graduated in May, 1957, with major in Journalism, minor in English.

Married L. Joan Thompson, 32 S. Humes, Memphis, in September, 1957, and began work for The Commercial Appeal full time (having worked there the summer previous) in June, 1957. Drafted into the Army in April, 1958, stationed for basic training at Ft. Hood, Texas, until October, 1958, when sent to Frankfurt, Germany, for duty as information specialist with 3d Armored Division information office. Included in duties there were press conferences for returned ex-prisoners of the East Germans, some publicity on Pvt. Elvis Presley. Promoted eventually to Sp.4 and returned to the United States in January, 1960, for discharge and return to work with The Commercial Appeal.

One daughter, Charlotte Alexia, born in Frankfurt, May, 1959. Other, Rosalind Katrina, born in Memphis Baptist Hospital in August, 1961.

Last two years at The Commercial Appeal assigned mostly to coverage of police stories. Accepted appointment to the newly created position of director of public information at Memphis State University on July 1, 1962. Member and committee chairman of Public Relations Society of America, Memphis Chapter; elected treasurer of American Collegiate Public Relations Association, Southeastern Region, for current year; member of Shelby United Neighbors public information committee; member and past board member of Memphis Press Club.

Public Information Office at Memphis State includes: News bureau director and staff; Photographer and staff; University artist and staff; director of films and director of radio services.

**Received Masters Degree, May, 1967, major in English, minor in Sociology.