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IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY , TENNESSEE

DIVISION III

STATE OF TENNESSEE

|

Vs.

|

Nbs. 16,645 and 16,819

JAMES EARL RAY

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MOTION TO REQUIRE DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL TO PREPARE AND PRESENT TO THE COURT PROPOSED STIPULATIONS AS TO THE UNDISPUTED TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES

TO SAID HONORABLE COURT:

COMES now, James Earl Ray, Defendant, acting herein by and through his attorneys of record, and files this his motion to require the prosecuting attorneys in this case to prepare and present to the Court and to said attorneys for the defense a proposed stipulation of the testimony of all witnesses residing outside Shelby County, Tennessee, whose names have been furnished said attorneys for the defense as possible witnesses for the prosecution, in support of which motion said Defendant would respectfully show the Court:

I.

The office of the District Attorney General has heretofore, pursuant to an order of the Court so to do, furnished defense counsel with the names of some 360 or more witnesses as possible witnesses to be called and offered as witnesses for the prosecution at the trial of the above case or cases.

A very large number of these witnesses reside abroad or in other States than Tennessee. The expense of bringing said witnesses and their maintenance during this trial could conceivably cost the taxpayers of Shelby County and the State of Tennessee as much as a half million (\$500,000.00) dollars, that could be better spent for other needful purposes.

Because, Defendant says, from magazine and newspaper articles available to him and his attorneys, purporting to reflect his travels, contacts and activities in distant states and foreign countries, most, if not all such reports will not be de-

nied and this Defendant and his attorneys are willing to stipulate either to the fact or the testimony of such absent witnesses, so as to save the expense of their transportation and maintenance as witnesses throughout the trial of this case. Defendant says that if the prosecution insists on the bringing of said witnesses in person, that his attorneys can not, in good conscience, agree to their release and return to their distant homes until the conclusion of the trial, and therefore their maintenance may cover a period of three to six months, more or less.

II.

Defendant further says the presentation of said witnesses in person, rather than by stipulation as prayed for herein, will unduly delay, impede and waste the time of this Honorable Court, needlessly and wastefully. That there is not physical possibility of this case terminating in less than four months, if the prosecution persists in the personal presentation of said witnesses. Furthermore, such an extended trial is calculated to so confuse a lay jury as to prevent the proper consideration by the jury of the pertinent and essential facts and testimony to the issues raised by the pleadings.

III.

Defendant says that it is not meet nor proper that the time of jurors who might be selected in this case be consumed for weeks on end by undisputed and immaterial testimony that can be made available and received into evidence by stipulation. Nor is it fair to the treasury of Shelby County that the processes of justice be strained and penalized, when such can be avoided by stipulation.

IV.

Defendant says that such witnesses whose testimony can be stipulated come from: England, Canada, Portugal, California Alabama, Washington, Georgia and elsewhere and the law requires the advance to them of ten cents (\$.10¢) per mile each way plus living expenses while in attendance on the Court.

V.

Defendant says that this motion is filed herein approximately one month before any of said witnesses will have left their homes and thereby obligated Shelby County, Tennessee, for the payment of their travel and living expenses, and in ample time for the preparation, presentation and consideration of the proposal to stipulate and for the entering into said stipulation.

Furthermore, that the prosecution has in its possession a detailed report of the interviews of such witnesses by the agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and by its own investigators and is well aware of what their testimony will be and the preparation of such proposed stipulations will not unduly inconvenience the prosecution, and that for every penny of expense incident to the preparation of such stipulation, approximately \$1,000.00 can be saved the taxpayers of Shelby County, Tennessee.

V.

This Defendant and his attorneys verily believe that every word of testimony that could be available from 99.99% of said witnesses, in person, can be stipulated and made a part of the record thereby.

WHEREFORE, premises considered, Defendant prays that an order enter directing the District Attorney General and his assistants attorney general to prepare and present to this Court within five days of the presentation of this motion a proposed stipulation as to the testimony of each and every witness it has furnished Defense Counsel, who reside beyond the limits of Shelby County, ~~Texas~~^{ennessee}, to the end that such proposed stipulations or as much thereof as may be undisputed be entered into in advance by the Defendant and his attorneys, before the financial expense and drain on Shelby County's treasury shall occur, as Defendant, in duty bound, will ever pray.

James Earl Ray

JAMES EARL RAY.

Of counsel

Percy Foreman

Percy Foreman

Hughes Stanton

Hughes Stanton

PUBLIC DEFENDERS.

O R D E R

On this the ____ day of February, A.D., 1969, the foregoing Motion to Require the District Attorney General and prosecuting attorneys to prepare and present proposed stipulations as to the testimony of witnesses residing beyond Shelby County, Tennessee, was presented to and considered by the Court, and the Court having considered the same, and believing the administration of justice would be facilitated and the trial expedited by such stipulations, as proposed by the Defendant and his counsel, it is, accordingly:

GRANTED as more particularly appears by an order to that effect this day entered herein

OVERRULED and REFUSED, to which action of the Court in overruling and refusing to grant said motion the Defendant then and there in open court excepted, and said motion, together with this order thereon and Defendants exception to the action of the Court in overruling and refusing said motion are here-now ordered filed as a part of the record of this case.

W. PRESTON BATTLE, Judge