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Ray shot the 420 two takes total 830

BY LAWRENCE ...

Associated Press writer

... JAMES EARL RAY denied Thursday that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fighting extradition to the United States to stand trial for the murder of the Negro civil rights leader, Ray professed innocence in New Street Magistrates court.

The 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri Penitentiary took the stand in his own defense after the U.S. government unveiled a carefully detailed case against him as "the single hand" in the assassination at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

George Jacob Bonebrake, a fingerprint expert of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified he found Ray's prints on the rifle, telescopic sight and binoculars that were dropped at the doorway of a shop near the motel shortly after King was slain.

oger Arisby, may declared in a soft, reedy drawl he had never met King and that he bore him no grudge.

"Did you kill Martin Luther King?" Arisby asked.

"No, sir," the prisoner replied.

Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, presiding in a gray suit with lots of white cuff showing, later adjourned the hearing until next Tuesday. It is expected to be completed then. May went back to prison.

British lawyers retained by the United States told Milton of witnesses to the purchase of the rifle and of a disabled war veteran, Charles Stevens, 46, who said he heard the fatal shot fired from the common bathroom of a rooming house across South Main Street from the Lorraine Motel.

But May resisted moves to extradite him to stand trial for King's murder with all the legal ammunition provided by Britain's amended extradition laws.

If the court's decision goes against him, Arisby is expected to appeal to a higher court on the ground that King's assassination was a political crime, for which Britain does not permit extradition.

Arisby electrified the court by summoning May to the stand

Call my client," he ordered.

He was formally addressed as Ramon George Sneyd, the alias under which he is held here on charges of entering Britain on a forged Canadian passport.

He sat rather than stood in the witness box to make less of a target in any attempt on his life and Scotland Yard detectives clustered around him in a human screen. This was the exchange.

Risby. Did you know Martin Luther King personally?

Q. No, sir.

Risby. Had you ever met him?

Q. No, sir.

Risby. Have you any kind of grudge against him?

Q. No, sir.

Risby. Did you kill Martin Luther King?

Q. No, sir.

He was asked by the court clerk to sign a summary of this for evidence.