

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

P. O. BOX 326

MEMPHIS, TENN. 38101

Dec. 5, 1968

Sheriff William N. Morris Jr.
Criminal Courts Building
Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Sheriff Morris:

I would like to amplify my comments of yesterday on our need to switch personnel during the James Earl Ray trial at the mid-morning and mid-afternoon breaks.

As I mentioned during our meeting yesterday, the two wire services -- The Associated Press and United Press International -- are the ones who really need this opportunity.

The man who writes the trial story for afternoon newspapers will need to be in the courtroom during the early part of the morning session to get new material for topping his story. The man who writes the story for the morning papers will need to get his story moving on the wires by 1 p.m., and he will need fresh information -- particularly the "feel" of the courtroom and some color.

If one man is confined to the courtroom for the entire morning session, and the other for the entire afternoon session, neither will be able to do his job properly.

Between the two wire services, every paper in the United States will be served with trial news. All three networks, and all radio and television stations also will be served by us.

I appreciate anything you will be able to do along these lines.

I also want to restate my offer of yesterday to have The Associated Press serve as pool photographer for still photographs should Judge W. Preston Battle agree on pictures of Ray. We will have at least three photographers available, and will have a darkroom set up within one block of the courthouse so would be able to produce prints rapidly for those in the pool.

Yours sincerely,



cc: Mr. Moen, Nashville
Mr. Blackman, New York
Mr. Buell, New York

William L. Johnson Jr.
Correspondent