OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF • SHELBY COUNTY • TENNESSEE

WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR., SHERIFF
ROY C. NIXON, CHIEF DEPUTY

Suggested Press Conference Agenda:

Announce that James Earl Ray is in custody under strict security in the Shelby County Jail. This will be his place of confinement. If you can, announce his health status. Also, if you can, announce when and where you took custody of him from Federal officials.

Announce that W. Preston Battle, Judge of Division III of the Criminal Court of Shelby County, will be the judge. If you can, state the approximate time of the trial (ie, late September or early October).

Announce and read the Court Order on Courtroom Procedures and Publicity and point out that it is in effect at the conclusion of this press conference.

Announce that photographs of James Earl Ray and biography sheets on Judge Battle are available. (Call on me to distribute these. If you think it is all right, you might mention that the photograph was made by Gil Michael, Memphis State University photographer deputized for this purpose. If not, just say they were made by Sheriff's Department personnel.)

I do not recommend a question and answer period. I would suggest that, when you conclude the press conference, you remind the press that the Court Order is now in effect and they will be expected to clear the building as quickly as possible.

If some are still waiting on photographs, etc., I would suggest that you allow them to remain for a few minutes.

Unless you have some further comments at this point, I suggest that you leave the room.

Remember---BE CALM. DON'T SHOW ANGER AT QUESTIONS.

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