

PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT
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Martin Agronsky: The Senate Intelligence Committee charges the FBI with having used lawless tactics, with having fomented violence and unrest in its effort to denigrate the Black Panther Party. And there are further revelations about the FBI's campaign of character assassination against Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Agronsky: Listen, let's talk about...we only have a couple of minutes...about something that is truly distressing. Uh, we have the second of two reports again from the Church Committee, the Senate Intelligence Committee, on the utterly shocking and lawless-- which is the word that the Committee used in describing it--conduct of the FBI in dealing with character assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. and with an effort to denigrate the Black Panther Party. Now what distresses me about the situation as far as Martin Luther King is concerned is that the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Levi, having conducted this internal investigation apparently has overruled a Stanley Pottinger, the Assistant Attorney General to whom he delegated

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the investigation and has decided to continue investigation inside the Department--will not go outside to appoint a commission to really look at it. Now how can the FBI, or how can the Justice Department, or the Attorney General, if you like, really please himself and his department?

Carl Rowan: Well, Martin, this is part of the old insanity we've been going through since Watergate came up. I'm sick and tired of people wanting to investigate themselves.

Martin Agronsky: Yeah

Carl Rowan: I mean with all of the dirtiness and all of the nauseating violations of law involved in all of these FBI activities, I don't want anybody in the Justice Department doing the investigating. They couldn't control things and they couldn't investigate when J. Edgar Hoover was around and I'm not willing to trust them to do it now.

Martin Agronsky: Peter?

Peter Lisagor: Well, I think that uh, you know, it seems to me that the investigations have been completed. It's now what you do about it, Carl.

Martin Agronsky: That's (garbled)

Peter Lisagor: If some outside outfit were to investigate they'll repeat what the Senate Committee has done.

Carl Rowan: No. Well, uh Martin, uh what Levi is talking about--they've looked at their files in the Justice Department, but out in those regional offices there are a whole host of documents that I understand nobody has really looked at and I'd rather have a blue ribboned group of citizens look at it, and let's get the mess over with, than to have the Justice Department do it and nobody believe them.

Peter Lisagor: You used the word denigrate. I don't know whether that came out of the report about the Black Panthers, but they moved on the Black Panthers in a way to destroy them and it led to shootouts, it led to murder of, uh, some of their leaders and so on. And in Chicago where this, one of

the major shootouts occurred and Fred Hampton, the leader of the Black Panthers was killed, Martin, they're still under lawsuits you know, there's uh, still several million dollar lawsuits...(garbled) the police...

Martin Agronsky: That isn't good enough. That isn't good enough... (garbled).

Peter Lisagor: No, I'm saying denigrate is a mild word.

Martin Agronsky: Well, that's the last word, Peter. Thank you, gentlemen.