

Civil Rights Division King Report
My political requests in C.A.75-1996

HW 2/23/78

In an earlier memorandum after I read the excised report of the Civil Rights Division I offered the opinion that it was largely limited to what it knew the Church Committee would report and that the CRD report included a table of contents indication of the Church report.

I have also reported that the records I sought immediately from the FBI for my writing were all public and that some had been testified to by FBI officials.

This morning I read the first pages of "Intelligence Activities" of Book III of the Church Report, "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Case Study." (pp.79ff.) The table of contents of this part, which I have not checked against that included in the CRD Report, is on pp. 79,80.

Citation of some of the FBI records that remain withheld from me although they have been given to others besides the Church Committee, begins on the first page of the text, p.81.

In my comment on the excisions from the CRD report I stated that as of the late date of its review, relatively recently, the public domain was being withheld and that known names were also withheld. I named Levison, whose name appears not a single time in the copy of the CRD report we were provided, and I believe O'Dell. My uncertainty comes not from a question of fact but from a question of memory. The facts are known.

In this withholding the CRD report reviewers followed not public knowledge but the Church report itself. It withholds these names, apparently not aware that as of its earlier time the names were not secret or motivated by the fear it might further defame the innocent to include their names in an official Senate report.

Of course before this writing there was the coast-to-coast, prime time TV docudrama, King. In it Stanley Levison is a major character. His identity is that unsecret.

The treatment of the Church Report is:

"The FBI investigation was based on its concern that Dr. King was being influenced by two persons - hereinafter referred to as Adviser A and Adviser B - that the Bureau believed were members of the Communist Party." (p.84.)

Because there was no legitimate basis for these and the other withholdings I noted in my comment on the CRD Report - and none for supporting the withholding on FOIA review - I cite this as bearing on the Department's intentions at two different times,

in the CRD report itself, which amounts to a whitewash limited to what it knew was or would be known;

in the FOIA processes, a continuing whitewash and coverup, to protect the FBI and the Department's own failings (which are in the Church Report at 84 and 85).

Note that when the OPR appendices were processed a short time after the CRD report was, Levison's name was not excised. But this was after public controversy about the ~~way~~ way his part was written into the King docudrama.

The TV show does go into the FBI's allegation that the white Levison was a "Communist."