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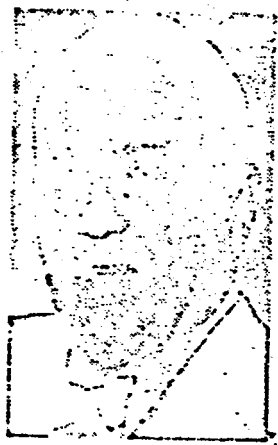
Hoover Hits Courts, King, Warren Probe

By the Associated Press

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has blasted the Warren Commission as "unfair and unjust" and called Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "the most notorious liar in the country."

Hoover boiled over on these and other matters, including Supreme Court justices, lenient "bleeding heart judges," police corruption and juvenile delinquency in a lengthy interview yesterday with a group of women reporters.

He angrily charged the Warren Commission with "a classic example of Monday morning quarterbacking" in discussing its report on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.



J. EDGAR HOOVER
—AP Photo

Commission's Charge

The commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, has said the FBI failed to notify the Secret Service that the assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was in Dallas last Nov. 22, the day Kennedy was slain.

In New York City alone, Hoover complained, 7,000 persons would have to be taken out of circulation every time a president makes a public appearance if it were deemed necessary to remove "every individual who might threaten the safety of the president."

However, the FBI director said, his office is turning over to the Secret Service the names of "thousands of beatniks, crackpots and kooks."

Called "Very Thorough"

Hoover appeared before the commission last May 14 and told newsmen after testifying the panel was doing "a very thorough job." He said it had "gone beyond what a

reasonable man would have expected" in accumulating evidence.

Shortly after the commission issued its report Sept. 27, Hoover was entwined in controversy. The Washington Star published Oct. 2 a copyrighted partial transcript of the FBI director's testimony, some of which was sharply critical of the State Department and some of the security measures taken to protect the president.

No Jealousy

Wednesday he said there is "not a scintilla" of jealousy between the FBI and the Secret Service, which is charged by law with protecting presidents.

Efforts to reach the members of the Warren Commission for their comments were not successful. Some of them are traveling abroad. Hoover let fly his blast at Dr.

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King, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in discussing civil rights.

He called the Negro integrationist, who recently was named winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, a liar for advising Negroes not to report any civil rights violations to the Albany, Ga., FBI office because the staff members were all Southerners.

Failed to Appear

When he asked King to make an appointment so he could prove that four of the five men were born in the North, Hoover said, King would not make the appointment.

The FBI director went off the record for further comments about the minister.

An aide to King said that he was vacationing in the Bahamas and would have nothing to say until today at the earliest.

But in Houston, Tex., Aaron Henry, Mississippi NAACP chairman, told newsmen in an interview that FBI agents in Southern states generally are not in sympathy with civil rights.

"Not In Tune"

"I'll go further than that," said Henry, a Clarksville druggist. "J. Edgar Hoover is not in tune with civil rights."

In discussing civil rights with the women reporters, Hoover described as a "scandalous thing to do" the suspension by a McComb, Miss., judge of the sentences of nine men convicted of bombing and burning a church. He said the men were not young, as claimed, but ranged in age from 30 to 44.

"Great progress" is being made, Hoover said, in solving the slaying of three civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss.

"Around Philadelphia, Miss.," Hoover continued, "law enforcement is practically nil and many times sheriffs and deputies participate in crime."

Police Crime

Hoover also asserted there is police participation in crime in several Midwestern cities. He said this is one reason he opposes a national police force.

"If they (local police) could write to a central clearing house for information you can imagine what harm they would do," Hoover said.

Then he went on to criticize "bleeding heart" judges and to discuss urban crime.

Cites D.C. Mugging

"You can't safely walk the streets of Washington, D.C., even in the daylight," Hoover said, citing as an example the mugging of the publisher of the Louisville Courier-Journal, Barry Bingham, and Mrs. Bingham in a Connecticut Avenue neighborhood.

(Star files show no record of an assault on Mr. and Mrs. Bingham. However, Mark Ethridge, former publisher of the Louisville newspapers, and his wife were attacked in October 1957 along Woodley Road, just off Connecticut Avenue.)

Hoover said "bleeding heart judges" shielded juveniles who have committed major crimes and that the FBI would have known that Oswald had a juvenile record if the New York courts had not kept it secret.

He said he included justices of the Supreme Court in the "bleeding hearts" class for ruling that a prisoner must be arraigned within 24 hours after arrest and cannot be held for days on suspicion of crime.

Hoover also bestowed the "bleeding heart" tag on judges who he said are to blame for the "disgrace" of urban crime.

Raise Juvenile Age

In her report of the interview, Vera Glaser of the North American Newspaper Alliance quoted Hoover as also saying:

"I am in violent disagreement with the bleeding hearts of this

country who want to raise the age for juvenile delinquents."

21. I believe it should be dropped to 16. Any person who commits a serious crime of violence should be tried as an adult and sentenced as such."

She also said Hoover described himself as a "states' rights" fighter. Naturally I get more and more irritated when I see Congress passing along to us matters that should be handled by the states. They want us to be Paul Reveres. When you weaken the state authorities you do a great disservice to law enforcement all over the country."

In Hoover's view, according to NANA, the recent troubles in Mississippi "were due to the rather harsh approach by the authorities here in the Department of Justice. Shortly after President Johnson came in, he asked me to go to Mississippi. I saw Gov. Paul Johnson. His reaction was that it was the first message he had received from Washington which was in any degree courteous."

Protection of Dog

For self-protection, Hoover thinks, reported NANA, the average person would be wise to keep a dog at his side, a practice he himself follows. Where pets are forbidden, he suggests carrying a small gas pen.

As for New York City, Hoover said:

"Central Park—no one dares walk there even in the daytime and there are holdups on Fifth Avenue at 9:30 or 10 at night. There are pedestrians on the street and no one responds."

New York City Deputy Police Commissioner Walter Arm replied to Hoover's remark by saying there is very little crime in Central Park and "the crimes that do occur . . . usually happen at night after the park is closed to the public." Arm said more than four million people use the park each year.

There were these other observations, too, in the interview, held at Hoover's invitation after the women reporters said they wished to talk with him en masse as they had with other government officials:

"The Secret Service is hopelessly ill-equipped and undermanned to do the job it is expected to do, but I have enough headaches of my own."

Work of Klan

"All the lynchings and bombings of homes in the South" were the work of members of the Ku Klux Klan and the FBI knows "pretty well who they are."

"We are looking into the activities of the Minutemen. There is nothing more like the Ku Klux Klan and we have done a job on them."

"I have always taken the position that there is no such thing as a lie detector. It has to be operated by a human being. Whenever a human being reaches conclusions he is apt to make an error."

"Sales of weapons should be restricted. There are licenses for automobiles and dogs, why not guns?"

Hoover emphasized again and again that it is not his agency's business to guard anyone.

He said this includes the President of the United States and those "who go down to reform the South."

Other Comments

On other matters Hoover: Said the FBI has never investigated the John Birch Society and said "I have no respect for the head of the society, Robert Welch."

Said the FBI is watching the activities of the Black Muslims.

Described George Lincoln Rockwell, head of the American Nazi party, as "bigoted and biased" and said "I wouldn't pay much attention to anything he said."

Director of the FBI since 1924, Hoover has been told by President Johnson his tenure will be extended "for as long as I am in the White House." The FBI chief is ~~in~~.