

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mrs. King, 3 Others Denounce Magazine

ATLANTA. — (UPI) — The widow and three former top aides of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. accused the editors of Time magazine Monday of printing "gossip and innuendo" about King's alleged extramarital sex life.

"Time magazine discredits itself in seeking to throw mud on a man adored and loved by millions, black and white," said a prepared statement issued through the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

"It discredits itself in stooping to sensationalism through fiction and irresponsibility. We suggest that Time reread its own story on Dr. King's immortal contribution, published when he was named Time's man of the year (1964).

"We further suggest to the Time editors that before they print gossip and innuendo, they might check with those present for the facts."

The statement was signed by the Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, King's successor as president of the SCLC, the Rev. Andrew J. Young and the Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy. All said they were present during a 1964 meeting in Washington between King and FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

Time claims it was at this meeting that Hoover confronted King with wiretap tape recordings which purportedly revealed "extensive and vigorous sexual activities" on the part of King. The magazine article said after this meeting, the civil rights leader toned down his criticism of the FBI and, as a result, lost prestige among Negroes.

The SCLC statement said it is "blatantly untrue that Dr. King slowed down his activities because he felt

threatened. History is the witness here."

They recounted subsequent triumphs in the field of civil rights after 1964, including a Selma, Ala., march, and his efforts resulting in civil rights legislation in 1965 as evidence.

"These aggressive and forceful campaigns are scarcely evidence that he changed any aspects of his policy or toned down his demands for justice," the statement said.

In a separate statement, Mrs. King said, "the conversations between my husband and Mr. Hoover, which he related to me, does (SIC) not correspond at all to the Time magazine report."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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PRESS SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 8/11/70

Edition:

Author:

Editor: CHARLES H.

Title: SCHNEIDER

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

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