

## HATEMONGERS HIT BY FBI DIRECTOR

### Rights Leaders Warned On Red Infiltration Efforts

Washington, Dec. 4 (AP)—Edgar Hoover cautioned civil rights leaders today to beware of Communist attempts to infiltrate the rights movement.

And the FBI director—omitting any direct reference to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy—delivered a scathing attack on political extremists, hate-mongers and the general state of American morality today.

To suggest that Negro aspirations for equal rights are Communist-inspired, Hoover said, is absurd.

#### Must Remain Alert

But "some individuals and groups exploit the tension for purposes not confined to the equality of human rights under the Constitution of the United States," Hoover cautioned. "The crusade should not become a vehicle for political radicalism or violence. Devotion to race should not supersede devotion to established institutions."

The FBI director said legitimate civil rights groups must "remain constantly alert to attempts by the Communists to influence their actions, take over their programs and corrupt their ranks."

Hoover's remarks were made at a testimonial dinner of the Broth-

erhood of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, which presented the FBI chief its Brotherhood Award.

While not mentioning Mr. Kennedy's murder in his speech, Hoover said:

"The cause of communism is well served by the hatemongers, the lunatic fringe and other rebels who preach a doctrine of malice and intolerance toward their fellow man."

He added, "These venomous fanatics, whether they are extremists of the left or right, are carriers of a highly infectious disease . . . they have brought forth the bombs and ignited the flames that have killed decent Americans and even innocent children . . . they are a national disgrace."

Invariably, Hoover said, "These merchants of hate attempt to drape themselves in a cloak of patriotism. But their real objective is to profiteer and capitalize upon ignorance, prejudice and bigotry while destroying the very ideals which they claim to uphold."

#### Moral Lethargy

Communism, he said, cannot be defeated "by hysteria and name calling, but it can be defeated by education and living proof that our way of life is best."

However, "moral lethargy, self-indulgence, neglect of duty—these lethal forces are undermining many facets of business, labor, industry and government," Hoover added.

Their influence has been felt, he said, "in the repulsive attitude of half-way Americans to whom life in this country is the enjoyment of rights and privileges devoid of responsibilities."

Another barometer of declining American morality, Hoover said, is a sharply rising crime rate.

"Disrespect for law and order," he said, "is a tragic moral sickness which attacks and destroys the American traditions of honesty, integrity and fair play."

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