

History 228

Re: Notes w/ Hoover Vendetta Against King
Use w/ LBJ and Civil Rights Movement

Begin w/ OPR of the Justice Department. The JD task force that examined whether King had any CP associations, etc. The Task Force did its work in 1976. Found that King was never influenced by the CPUSA. (See the Folsom op-ed piece). Just to clear the air

I. The FBI's Vendetta Against King--to destroy him and his movement.

A. Hoover's rampant racism. Before there was King there were the Director of the FBI. For example, in the 1940s the Hoover Bureau placed the NAACP under FBI surveillance because Hoover could not believe that blacks were intelligent enough to organize and articulate their grievances on their own, therefore the NAACP had to be a front for the CPUSA. A tool of the Kremlin. Even in the 1960s when some of his top intelligence people urged him to drop the surveillance on the NAACP because it was wasting precious manpower, the Director insisted that he was right and that his agents were simply not clever enough in detecting the guiding hand of the Communist manipulators, etc.

B. Vendetta directed against King.

King interested Hoover during the Montgomery boycott of the 1950s. But it appears that it was the 1963 March on Washington where King gave his "I Have A Dream" speech that convinced the Director that the civil rights movement in general and King and the SCLC, in particular, would not wither away, and that he and his agency would have to destroy King and his movement before it destroyed the Director's dream of what American was supposed to be all about. Hoover viewed the civil rights movement as a threat to his way of life, his bureau cracy, and his vision of a white, Christain, and harmonious America.

1. Hoover, King, and Stanly Levison.

2. Hoover and Kennedy White House. Use of Levison "file" to pressure Kenendy brothers into sanctioning an electronic surveillance on King.

Hoover broadens on own authority to use "bugs."
Willard Hotel tapes. Hoover tried to peddle them around Washington, D.C. and with infleuntial newspaper people.

History 228

Re: Notes/Outline w/ Hoover Vendetta Against King

3. Other dirty tricks--see notes

Snafu audience w/ Pope.

To poison well of Granting foundations. Ford Foundation
for one.

To spike Marquett University's award of honorary degree.

Invitation to suicide after it was announced that King
was recipient of the Noble Peace Prize

Poison the mind of President LBJ.