

~~JOURNAL for Politics of Assassination~~

~~Readings for November 17, 1983~~

~~Freddie Adkinson~~

*Good work
Excellent log*

A remark Mrs. King made after her husband's death, sums up well the basic FBI approach as gathered from this week's gruesome readings. She said that "...the FBI treated the civil rights movement as if it were an alien enemy attack on the United States." Hoover's preoccupation with communist infiltration, coupled with his dedication to "the existing social order" gave a wide berth to information gathering reasons and techniques. From the many wiretaps and bugging devices used over the years, to a rather handsomely paid informant, King never ceased to be a high point of interest for Hoover, the Johnson White House, and the FBI in general. The primary goal seemed to focus on frantic attempts to discredit black leadership in any way possible: through communist friendships, leanings, statements, etc.; interesting sexual activities became an absolute fetish to be recorded and offered to almost anyone interested; and finally, political leanings and plans, both personal and those of the SCLC "had" to be followed closely "for the security of the country."

When you consider Martin Luther King's victories over the years (the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act and enfranchisement of thousands of southern blacks, plus the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964), you are overwhelmed by the venom,

November 17, 1983

Page 2

8. FBI's Six month
Search for King's
Merged Service
Bank account.

the sinister hatred, and the outrageous waste of tax dollars spent by the same government in an effort to support the very racism these other efforts were meant to heal.

Stanley Levinson was a reason to open a door on Dr. King that was never again closed. Hoover's real fear was quite possibly as simple as "...King was black, and powerful, and his power was growing." FBI goals are clear from their memo dated one month before King's death. They must prevent unity, the rise of a "messiah," respectability, and growth of black groups. In the Newsday article, you become aware of the great depths the FBI would be willing to sink to achieve these results. For any arm of our government to deliberately set out to create violence and disorder in our streets is almost beyond comprehension. The word "discredit" certainly takes on new meanings for the FBI. Dr. King's Vietnam rhetoric brought on a surge of interest and animosity from the FBI that ran right through the White House. The politicians ceased to be "entertained" by King reports, but instead were outraged that a black would get involved in foreign affairs so easy to associate with "communist leanings." Dr. Martin Luther King may have come too far from Montgomery!

MARTIN LUTHER KING: 1929 - April 4, 1968

"He was more than any single man, the voice and the sentiment of the second American revolution." Newsweek 4/15/68

Education: Crozer Theological Seminary
Boston University

Interested in literature of social conscience and change. From Gandhi, Marx, and Hegel, he developed a philosophy of "non-violence, redemptive love and soul-force... ."

On December 1, 1955 when Rosa Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, blacks organized behind the two new ministers in town. Martin Luther King and Ralph Abernathy were the driving force behind a boycott lasting 381 days. This effectively did two things, first, it changed the face of black protest, and second, it made Martin Luther King a celebrity. From there, events seem to flow-- Birmingham's Bull Connor, with his police dogs and fire hoses, insured King a Civil Rights Act in 1964, while Selma's Jim Clark, with his billy clubs and violence, made "...Kings followers jokingly [vote] him [Clark] an honorary SCLC membership."