

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: 1/19/63

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

cc Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Bowers

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING

Appointment with
Senator Robert C. Byrd (D.-W.Va.)
1/19/63

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/18/80 BY [redacted]

At his request I met with Senator Byrd in his office at 11 a.m. today. Also present was Mr. Barksdale, Senator Byrd's staff member on research and speech writing.

Senator Byrd outlined to me his responsibilities in the supervision of the District of Columbia Government. He told me he was extremely concerned over the pronouncements made recently by Martin Luther King that massive civil disobedience would be staged in the nation's capital this summer. The Senator indicated it was time that King "met his Waterloo" and that he felt this summer would do the trick. He stated this, of course, depended upon whether or not the President would allow sufficient force to "knock King down."

Senator Byrd asked me if the FBI could prepare a speech for him on the subject of King which he could give on the Senate floor next week. He stated thereafter he would like to be kept up to date on the activities of King so that further speeches could be made. He reminded me that he was a great supporter of Mr. Hoover and the FBI. He reiterated his responsibilities in connection with the D.C. Government and told me that, while other senators and congressmen were aiding and abetting the alleged civil rights cause, he had constantly sounded forth a warning as to the attachments to subversive causes which many so-called civil rights leaders had.

I told Senator Byrd and Mr. Barksdale that, while we appreciated his great interest, the pressure of work would prevent us from being of assistance and we, therefore, could not prepare the speech he had in mind. I stated if any items of a public source nature came to our attention which we felt would be of interest to the Senator, we could, of course, refer him to the appropriate source which contained these items.

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Mr. Tolson

Using generalities, I briefed the Senator and Mr. Barksdale in a very few moments, about the swing to the left of various alleged civil rights organizations such as SNCC, CORE, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I told them that the Director had pointed this out on many occasions and that the Director clearly felt that the more these groups needed money and publicity, the further left they would swing in order to gain such objectives.

I told the Senator and Mr. Barksdale they should feel free to call us at any time; however, we of course were restricted in what we could furnish them. The Senator expressed appreciation and asked that his best regards be extended to the Director.

Mr. Barksdale is a former editor of a newspaper in West Virginia. He deplored the attacks upon the Director and the FBI by the Charleston, West Virginia Gazette, and stated this paper makes little impression upon the people of West Virginia.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

[Handwritten initials]