

King Wiretaps Put In Archives

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A federal judge has ordered all the FBI's tapes of its surveillance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. sealed in the National Archives for 50 years.

U.S. District Judge John Lewis Smith issued the order yesterday after hearing a damage suit against the FBI by Bernard Lee, a former assistant to the slain civil rights leader, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Smith refused to order the tapes destroyed, as Lee asked. Instead, he gave the FBI 90 days to give the archives all copies of the tapes and transcripts of its bugs and wiretaps of King and the conference offices between 1963 and 1968.

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