

Dr. King Muted His Criticism of FBI Due to Sex Allegations, Time Says

New York — (AP) — Time magazine says the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. muted his criticism of the FBI after its director, J. Edgar Hoover, confronted him with wiretaps allegedly revealing extramarital activities by King.

In an article discussing a new book about King, "The King God Didn't Save," by novelist John Williams, Time gives its version of a 1964 meeting between King and Hoover.

Time says Williams reports the FBI began tapping King's telephone and bugging his hotel rooms in 1963 and while it uncovered no subversion it "did turn up an astonishing amount of information about King's extensive and vigorous sexual activities."

Time continues: "Williams has the correct outline of the FBI tape story. What he does not have is precisely what happened at the celebrated meeting between FBI Director Hoover and King in 1964.

"Hoover, Time learned, explained to King just what damaging private detail he had on the tapes and lectured him that his morals should be those befitting a Nobel Prize winner. He also suggested that King should tone down his criticism



J. Edgar Hoover



Martin Luther King, Jr.

of the FBI. King took the advice. His decline in black esteem followed, a decline scathingly narrated by Williams."

The fact that the FBI had been tapping King's telephone was disclosed last year by FBI agent Robert Nichols in a Houston, Tex., courtroom where boxer Cassius Clay was seeking to vacate a sentence for refusal to be inducted into

the Army. One of the monitored conversations was between King and Clay.

Nicholas was not allowed by the judge to say why King's phone was tapped, but he said it occurred at a time when King was attacking the FBI for assigning Southern agents, rather than Northerners, to protecting civil rights workers.

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