

CLASSIFIED: TOP SECRET..EXEMPT UNDER (b)(1)

(TS) - ?

In addition to this reason, however, the early files reveal that much of the King investigation was based upon a perception, real or imagined, that King was using his influence to discredit the FBI and cause Hoover to be replaced. To the extent that this was a cause for the FBI's investigation, plainly it was an extra-legal one which was not justified even by the somewhat different standards of operation and perceptions which prevailed in the Bureau at the time. (u)

Other reason clear & not indicated more in part of a black action tw.

The nature of the Bureau's investigation significantly changed when in 1964 Attorney General Kennedy authorized the wiretapping of Dr. King, and thereby gave official sanction to the Bureau to intensify its surveillance. Again, this authorization, when viewed by the law enforcement standards of the time, appears to have been within the authority of the Attorney General. While his judgment in authorizing it might now be questioned, one must conclude that at the time the authorization was technically legal. (u)

Not the real question

The wiretaps soon led the FBI to add a new dimension to its investigation, the collecting of personal information about Dr. King through microphone surveillances (misurs) of his hotel rooms. The evidence of [...(b)(7)(C).....] stems to have confirmed Hoover's belief that King was a dangerous revolutionary who should be exposed and replaced as a leader in the civil rights movement. (u)

Does not say what Hoover did, replaced by FBI

It is in this ensuing long campaign to discredit King that the Bureau most clearly overstepped its investigative and law enforcement functions. This is not a judgment which rests upon the benefit of hindsight. As an investigative agency, the FBI had no legal authority to make such determinations nor to act upon them. For reasons beyond the scope of this analysis, the historical fact is that the Department did not control the FBI effectively in such matters. We have seen no records in the files that the Attorney General or other key department officials were advised of the actions taken to discredit King, although certainly the product of the microphone surveillances was known to Attorney General Kennedy and the White House. The Attorney General did retrieve the distribution of a "monograph" or memorandum outlining allegations of Communist connections and highly personal and derogatory information about King, but it is unclear whether this was done primarily to curb the Bureau's impropriety or to preserve the credibility of the Attorney General's earlier public conclusion that King was free from Communist Party influence. (u)

wider applicability as in my case

R.F.12