

Around the Nation

Black Leader Challenges F.B.I. to Issue King Data

ATLANTA, May 29 (UPI)—The head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was still trying to discredit black leaders, and challenged the bureau to "put up or shut up" about the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Joseph Lowery, president of the civil rights organization that Dr. King founded, said the F.B.I. should make public all its information about Dr. King and the S.C.L.C., rather than blotting out the name of a black leader with whom the bureau allegedly conspired to ease Dr. King out of the movement.

"I find it incredible that any reputable black leader would engage in a conspiracy with the F.B.I. to 'remove' Dr. King from the civil rights scene, Dr. Lowery said in an interview. "Many, many of us feel that this may be another attempt on the part of the F.B.I. to raise serious doubts about black leadership and to shift the blame for Dr. King's tragic death from the F.B.I. and racists to blacks."

In Washington, the Center for National Security Studies recently made public files it obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, showing that the bureau sought to promote another black leader in place of Dr. King in the 1960's. The other black leader was not named. Dr. Lowery said that if the F.B.I. had the name, it should be released.