Oliver Stone should expose FBI's role in MLK death

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Oliver Stone's *JFK* was denied an Oscar, but it shook up many in the media, who went ballistic claiming "errors."

Why such anger when Hollywood's errors never inflamed the media before?

Cleopatra, a black Egyptian, was played by a white, Liz Taylor. *Mississippi Burning* portrayed a warm and fuzzy pro-black FBI when, in fact, it spied on civil rights leaders like Fannie Lou Hamer, offering no help when she was beaten by rednecks.

The hysteria in the mainstream press was a tip-off that Stone had produced something dangerously great. He should move on now to the suspected FBI role in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Saturday is the 24th anniversary of King's death, and a new look is needed.

JFK touched off demands for the release of documents sealed after the investigation of JFK's death. Documents from the King probe are sealed for 50 years.

In 1978, a House committee said that, in both cases, the assassins didn't act alone.

Look at the similarities between the MLK and JFK murders:

▶ Stone's movie shows a CIA role in JFK's murder as payback for his threats to phase down the Vietnam War and break up the agency. Hoover's FBI waged a vicious war against King, leaking embarrassing reports to the media, leading a search to replace him and drafting a note urging King to commit suicide. How far did the FBI's death wish go?

▶ Lee Harvey Oswald, JFK's alleged killer, was conveniently killed by Jack Ruby, which precluded a trial where Oswald's cries of being used as a "patsy" might have been heard. James Earl Ray, who plea-bargained a 99-year prison term, says his confession was coerced, the FBI killed King and these charges could be aired if he were granted a new trial.

▶ Stone's movie showed a top Secret Service agent saying he would have provided more detailed protection of JFK had he not been sent out of the country. In Memphis, a black police officer usually detailed to guard King was abruptly removed from his post shortly before King's murder.

Strangely enough, Grace Stephens, who swore that Ray wasn't the man she saw fleeing the murder scene, was locked in a mental institution for 10 years although she had no previous mental illness. Her husband, a heavy drinker who placed Ray at the scene, later recanted.

Stone probably wouldn't win an Oscar for an MLK movie either, but it could reopen the case. It would also remind us how assassins within may have changed history twice — and could do it again.