

## DATA ON DR. KING NOT FULLY VIEWED

Senate Panel Rejects Offer  
to Examine Complete File  
Compiled by the F.B.I.

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—Investigators for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence have declined to examine fully the file compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the activities of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., despite an offer from the Justice Department to make the complete file available to the committee staff.

One Justice Department official said in an interview that Senate investigators had thus far asked to see only "about half" of the 96-volume F.B.I. file on Dr. King, which the official said was begun in the late 1950's after the civil rights leader had attained prominence in the South, and was closed when he was assassinated in Memphis on April 4, 1968.

The portion of the F.B.I. materials that committee staff members examined laid the basis for the panel's disclosure last month that the bureau's surveillance of Dr. King on some 25 occasions had extended to include various harassments, such as mailing anonymously to him in 1964 a tape recording, made from an F.B.I. listening device, in which he reportedly was sexually compromised.

### Family Appeal

The official, who asked not to be named, said he understood that the committee's reluctance to view the remainder of the file, which he said contained a number of similar incidents of harassment that occurred before the 1964 mailing, had been based on an appeal from Dr. King's family to refrain from looking into areas of F.B.I. activity that would involve disclosure of Dr. King's personal life.

A spokesman for the panel, which is headed by Senator Frank Church, Democrat of Idaho, confirmed that the committee had been "selective" in

its examination of the F.B.I.'s file on Dr. King, but added that the decision not "to make an exhaustive search" had been the committee's own.

Asked the reason behind the decision to leave untouched the remainder of the King file, the spokesman replied that "we saw enough to satisfy our needs."

He added, however, that the panel's F.B.I. task force was not "talking about" asking the Justice Department for the rest of the materials.

### Lawyer Surprised

Harry Wachtel, a Manhattan lawyer who represents the interests of Dr. King's family, said by telephone today that he had never asked the committee not to examine in private any Government records relating to the surveillance or harassment of Dr. King, and Mr. Wachtel expressed surprise that the panel had voluntarily ignored some of the proffered files.

His only interest in the matter, Mr. Wachtel said, is that some of the information discovered in the course of the panel's investigation about Dr. King's private life, including his comments about other public figures, not be made public by the committee.

The committee's spokesman said that it was as the result of such an appeal by Mr. Wachtel last month that the panel decided, at the last minute, not to release to the press a number of documents it had obtained from the F.B.I. concerning Dr. King.

In deciding on a limited investigation of the King matter, the spokesman said, the committee did not "feel that we acted improperly."

### Inquiry Called Adequate

"The committee," he added, "feels that it's looked at what was necessary and it did not want to have a new invasion of the King family's privacy

as a product of the [Senate] investigation."

However, if the Senate panel had gone through the entire 96 volumes of material, each of which is about three inches thick, it would have been under no obligation to make any of that material public.

The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division is engaged in reviewing all 96 volumes of what lawyers there term the "pre-assassination file" on Dr. King. One source who said he had read about a fourth of the volumes thus far reported that the F.B.I.'s surveillance of Dr. King had begun as early as 1959, and possibly before that.

As far as can be determined from official F.B.I. records obtained by the Senate investigators, the bureau began tapping telephones used by Dr. King in October 1963, and placing listening devices in his offices and hotel rooms in January 1964.

The source's disclosure that the F.B.I. began the King file at least four years before the first wiretap thus raised the question, one to which the source declined to address himself, of the techniques that the bureau used in obtaining the information included in the file before 1963.