

Kelley Says King Harassment Instigators Deserve Blame

By LAWRENCE L. KNUTSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said yesterday FBI policy makers responsible for harassment of the late Martin Luther King Jr. should be "brought to account."

Kelley told the Senate Intelligence Committee he believes responsibility should be borne by the officials who created the campaign against King and agents who merely carried out their orders should not be punished.

NOT HANDS? →

WITNESSES HAVE said FBI efforts to discredit the civil rights leader were largely the result of a personal vendetta by the late director, J. Edgar Hoover.

Kelley, however, said that not all of those responsible are dead. He did not make clear to whom he was referring.

Kelley said also the bureau has retained the tapes of King's conversations obtained through a total of 16 telephone taps and eight electronic bugs and has no present plans to destroy them.

CHAIRMAN FRANK Church, D-Ida., said he sees no reason for the FBI to retain the King tapes so many years after his murder. But Kelley said they cannot be destroyed while the Justice Department is considering whether to reopen the King assassination probe.

The question of the tapes was raised by Sen. Barry Goldwater who asked if committee members could review the tapes "to determine ourselves whether Mr. Hoover was off on a wild goose chase or actually had something."

Hoover told associates he suspected King of associating with a known Communist whom Hoover feared might influence King and the civil rights movement.

CHURCH SAID the staff members decided to refrain from listening to the tapes, feeling to do so would compound what they consider an invasion of privacy.

Witnesses have said information concerning alleged sexual misconduct by King received from the bugs and taps was used by the FBI to write an anonymous letter to King which King considered a suggestion to commit suicide.

On another subject, Kelley said former FBI informant Gary Rowe was inaccurate

testifying the FBI hardly ever acted to prevent violence by the Ku Klux Klan.

THE FBI director also urged the committee to seek a legal congressional charter for the FBI outlining limits of its jurisdiction. He also urged creation of a congressional oversight committee to monitor results of FBI investigations and to keep the bureau within agreed upon guidelines.

Kelley said he believes most of the thousands of abuses documented by the committee's investigation can be understood by the temper of the times and the need of FBI reaction to curb the violent acts of revolutionary terror which were occurring throughout the country.

"The FBI employes involved in these programs did what they felt was expected of them by the President, the attorney general, the Congress and the people of the United States," Kelley said.