

FBI Used King File in Killer Hunt

By Jack Anderson

Now that the lid has been lifted on intimate aspects of Dr. Martin Luther King's life, this column can reveal details which good taste dictated we withhold at the time of his murder.

After the Nobel prize winner was gunned down on the balcony of his Memphis motel on April 4, 1968, the FBI began painstakingly piecing together the complex strands of his life in hopes this would lead them to his killer.

The FBI's work was made easier by the fact that it already had a substantial file on Dr. King compiled through a series of wiretaps started in 1963 at the direction of Attorney General Robert Kennedy.

This electronic snooper, first disclosed by this column, illuminated some dark corners in the civil rights leader's private life. The FBI reports showed that the minister's dynamism and courage had made him enormously attractive to many women.

One of these was the "wife of a prominent Negro dentist in Los Angeles," said a report dated Feb. 20, 1968. This information was furnished by a confidential informant who said Dr. King had been having an "illicit affair . . . since 1962 with the woman.

"The source related an incident which occurred some

time ago in a New York City hotel, where King was intoxicated at a small gathering," the report said. "King threatened to leap from the 13th floor window of the hotel if this woman would not say she loved him."

The dentist was known to be furious about the reported liaison. In fact, the information given the FBI suggested that the wife's baby might have been fathered by Dr. King.

Sifting each fact in the murder case, the FBI found that James Earl Ray, the suspected killer, had been in Los Angeles shortly before he returned east to stalk Dr. King. Could the jealous dentist, the FBI wondered, have hired Ray to slay King?

This column, at about the same time, learned the name of the dentist and we flew immediately to Los Angeles. There, in an emotional interview, the wife told us her relationship with Dr. King was "merely a friendship." Her husband loyally backed her up.

We asked her whether she had called Dr. King and she responded sharply, "I didn't call him. He called me." She said, however, he had telephoned frequently and that on at least one occasion she had seen him off at the airport.

She said Dr. King had confided in her that the FBI was watching him. But she steadfastly denied any intimacies.

Our interview and checks around Los Angeles convinced us that the dentist could not have had anything to do with Ray. The FBI came to the same conclusion.

Buckley a Traveler

While most reporters scheme and save to take those foreign trips that give stories exotic datelines, columnist William Buckley journeys at the taxpayers' expense.

The urbane Buckley, a member of the advisory commission to the United States Information Agency, has taken three overseas trips for USIA head Frank Shakespeare.

USIA has benevolently picked up some \$3,768 in travel and other expenses while Buckley has served two masters—the USIA and the demands of his trenchant column. The junkets took the millionaire-writer and sometime politician to Vietnam, Thailand, Vienna, Russia and Eastern Europe.

Buckley commented that when he took his advisory job 13 months ago he told USIA "I wasn't going to adjourn my professional life. I write from wherever I am." The columnist spoke of all the hours he has put in for USIA on his travels, then purred, "In fact, I am an unsung philanthropist."

Town Is Ailing

Fuguay-Varina, N.C., is a lit-

tle farming town whose people have found themselves almost without medical care. Two of its four doctors have died recently.

Parents have to drive miles for their children's appointments. The two doctors left in the area work literally night and day. Like so many small communities, it is impossible to attract young general practitioners to Fuquay-Varina.

But although the doctors have stayed away, the politicians haven't. This time, it has been a lucky thing for the town. One of the political campaigners was Rep. Nick Galifianakis (D.-N.C.).

The congressman saw both a political and a medical issue. Since then, the congressman has won the support of 127 of his colleagues for a solution to problems like those in the little town.

It would allow the federal government to pay off education loans of young doctors and dentists who go to practice in such towns and in poor urban areas for three years. The measure would cost only about \$10 million a year, but has an uphill struggle in this Congress.

Meantime, Galifianakis has his staff looking for doctors who want to practice in the pleasant rural town of Fuquay-Varina, N.C.