

Clark Is 'Convinced' Hoover Should Quit

BUG, From A1

terribly unfair and deceptive" and carefully selected.

And at his Thursday night press conference Mr. Nixon said the Director enjoyed "my complete confidence" and that there had been no discussion of his tenure. Mr. Nixon went on to say, in words that seemed to back Hoover's side of the King controversy, that his personal check showed that all FBI eavesdrops had received the approval of the Attorney General.

The White House, as part of an apparent Administration-wide effort to cool down the argument, refused all comment yesterday when asked how far Mr. Nixon meant to go in backing up Hoover. By yesterday the issue had become, not whether, the late Robert F. Kennedy authorized the wiretaps, which no one disputes, but whether it was he or Hoover who pressed for their use and which man doubted Dr. King's loyalty.

The Justice Department would not say whether Hoover acted with the knowledge or approval of his nominal superior, Attorney General John N. Mitchell, in making disclosures about the wiretapping affair that Clark labeled "both

Another former Attorney General, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, along with other former Kennedy associates, acknowledged that Kennedy did approve tapping Dr. King's phone in 1963, but they insist that the tapping was done in response to Hoover's requests made "over and over again" for two years and in an attempt to dispel Hoover's charges that Dr. King was a security risk.

An aide to Hoover said the Director would have no reply to Clark's suggestion. He said Hoover would not grant an interview nor make any comment to The Washington Post. Asked whether Hoover might talk to The Washington Post at some future time, the aide said he had "no way of knowing."

Syndicated columnist Carl T. Rowan, whose published charges first provoked the FBI into stating that the wiretap had been approved by Kennedy for an "internal security investigation," charged yesterday that the FBI maintained some sort of electronic surveillance of Dr. King well past President Johnson's June, 1965, order prohibiting the practice.

Rowan said that he read FBI surveillance reports on Dr. King "long after" the date of April 30, 1965, when Hoover said the wiretaps terminated. He accused the FBI of evading the thrust of his charge of illegal snooping by refusing to answer further pertinent question he had raised.

In response to questions, Rowan said he read the reports while still director of the United States Information Agency, a post he left in September, 1965. He said he could not tell from the reports what type of surveillance was involved, but he said the dates and events definitely indicated that the reports were current.

Clark Says Hoover Should Retire Now

By John P. MacKenzie
Washington Post Staff Writer

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark said yesterday that the controversy over FBI wiretapping of the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has convinced him that Director J. Edgar Hoover should retire.

The suggestion, unprecedented from a former Government official, was not considered likely to stir the 74-year-old Hoover to quit his job. For the first time in three days neither Hoover nor his aides had anything to say to any newsmen.

"I think perhaps the time has come when he should retire," Clark said in a televised interview, "both in the interests of his own career, which has been distinguished, and in the interests of the FBI, which has been a great investigative agency."

Clark made the suggestion

on a CBS news program in elaboration on his assertion Thursday that Hoover had given a misleading impression that he had been the "reluctant eavesdropper" of Dr. King. Clark said that Hoover sought permission to resume eavesdropping of Dr. King as late as two days before the civil rights leader was assassinated last year.

The former Attorney General was not available for further comment yesterday, but it was learned that he has documentation for his claim that Hoover kept after him about Dr. King.

The man who was Hoover and Clark's boss, former President Johnson, assured Hoover that although past retirement age he could stay in office "as long as I am in the White House."

See BUG, A17, Col. 7

6-21-69