

## Coretta King Urges Congress To Enact Tough FBI Charter

Associated Press

The widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday urged Congress to enact a tough FBI charter, saying that in the past the agency has "grossly misused its power."

Coretta Scott King told the Senate Judiciary Committee that her late husband had been "the target of the most intense effort to suppress political beliefs and free expression that was ever directed against any American."

She also disclosed that an attorney representing the King family has discussed with the Justice Department the possibility of "reparations" for damage the FBI did to King's reputation.

According to FBI files released in recent years, FBI agents conducted a secret campaign to discredit King during the 1960s. The campaign included sending tape recordings to Coretta King that implicated King in extramarital sexual activities.

"There have been damages particularly where my children are concerned," she said. "This is a very difficult thing for my children."

She defended her husband as a "moral leader, a very decent man, and a very excellent father and husband." She added: "I think history will vindicate Martin Luther King Jr."

She was accompanied to the Senate hearing by her 22-year-old son, Martin Luther King III.

The Judiciary Committee is considering a proposed FBI charter that its sponsors claim would define and limit the authority of the FBI so as to enable it to investigate crime while preserving individual rights.

After the hearing, Coretta King told reporters that the effort to seek damages from the Justice Department for the FBI's campaign against King did not involve a suit against the government.

She said the reparation effort was being conducted privately with high-ranking officials of the department. She added that any money obtained from the government probably would be used as an endowment for the Martin Luther King Foundation for Social Change in Atlanta.

Because legal proceedings are not involved, such a payment apparently would require an act of Congress.

While generally supporting the proposed FBI charter, King urged the Senate committee to include "strong remedies" for citizens who are harmed by FBI abuses.

"You should remember that even the most fundamental rules of human decency can be violated," she said. "This has been clearly demonstrated by the FBI."