

very least pro-Communist, all evidence to the contrary notwithstanding.

3. Hoover resented King's criticism of the FBI.

4. Hoover was jealous of King's national prominence and the international awards that were offered to him.

Hoover felt that King was a deceiver because on the one hand he talked of God, the Gospel, and morality, and on the other Hoover saw bureau reports that indicated that King led a high life on which he spent large amounts of money gathered from his supporters.

Hoover believed it all and we backed him up. "The director is correct . . ." is the way many of our memos to Hoover would begin. We gave him what he wanted—under the threat of being out on the street if we didn't agree. Hoover told me that his view of King was reinforced by many citizens from "bellhops to nationally known figures." He cited Norman Vincent Peale and Roy Wilkins. Roy Wilkins of the NAACP did visit the FBI headquarters and, according to DeLoach, who at that time was the head of Crime Records, Wilkins knew of some of Dr. King's personal activities and "expressed strong disapproval of them." Wilkins, said De Loach, was opposed to exposing Dr. King because he thought that the civil rights movement would be hurt as a result. But Hoover wanted King "exposed," and instructed us that all derogatory information about him be used to inform King's important financial backers, key field workers, influential churchmen, and community leaders. Hoover insisted that speeches be prepared for congressmen about King's activities. He also kept agents busy preparing information about King for the press, partially to block him from getting honorary degrees by spreading this information to various institutions.

Hoover's hate overcame his judgment during a press conference he agreed to hold in 1964 with a group of women reporters headed by Washington veteran Sarah McClendon. When one of the reporters asked Hoover about King's allegations that the FBI wasn't effectively enforcing the law in the South, Hoover called King the most notorious liar in America.

Hoover's "on the record" remarks about King were too much for Lyndon Johnson, who was then in the White House. Suddenly the Hoover-King feud had gone public and had become a political em-

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