

FBI Checks on Citizens, but Not Drugs

By Jack Anderson

With crime running rampant across the country, the FBI has tied up countless agents prying into the private lives of political figures, black leaders, movie stars, football players, newsmen and other prominent Americans.

Indeed, no American who speaks his mind is altogether safe from the all-seeing FBI.

FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover, the old curmudgeon of law enforcement, fiercely resisted a White House suggestion that he spare a few hundred agents to crack down on drug abuses. But he can spare agents to snoop into the sex habits, business affairs and political pursuits of individuals who aren't even remotely involved in illegal activity.

Hoover's gumshoes have loaded FBI files with titillating tidbits about such diverse figures as movie actors Marlon Brando and Harry Belafonte, football heroes Joe Namath and Lance Rentzel, boxing champs Joe Louis and Muhammad Ali, black leaders

Ralph Abernathy and Roy Innis.

It's no secret that the FBI hounded the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the apostle of racial brotherhood and nonviolent protest. We have seen FBI reports on his political activities and sex life.

Now the FBI is watching his widow, Coretta King. As evidence of what the FBI considers suspicious activity, here's a typical excerpt from her secret file:

"On February 18, 1970, a confidential source advised he had learned that Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King Jr., contemplated pursuing in the near future a program of voter registration in several Southern states."

Persecution Complex

In Joe Louis's case, the FBI went to pains to report on a mental breakdown, which led to his confinement in a Denver hospital.

The FBI keeps a particularly hostile eye on newsmen who are critical of government policies. The undefatigable muckraker I. F. Stone, for

example, is kept under regular surveillance.

"Stone's residence," his secret file shows, "was verified on February 5, 1972, by a representative of the FBI utilizing a suitable pretext."

The most suspicious notation was placed in his file in 1966. "On February 11, 1966, at 1:09 p.m." states a surveillance report, "the subject was observed to meet Oleg D. Kalugin in front of Harvey's Restaurant, 1107 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. Together, they subsequently entered Harvey's Restaurant."

The FBI added darkly that Kalugin was the "press secretary" at the Soviet embassy.

The file on one famous movie actor, not mentioned above, contains nothing but rumors about his sex life. Indeed, the file begins by acknowledging that the actor "has not been the subject of an FBI investigation."

Nevertheless, the FBI has compiled a full dossier on the actor.

"During 1965," begins the FBI summary, "a confidential informant reported that sev-

eral years ago while he was in New York he had an 'affair' with movie star _____." The informant states that from personal knowledge he knew that (the actor) was a homosexual.

"The belief was expressed that by 'personal knowledge' the informant meant he had personally indulged in homosexual acts with (the star) or had witnessed or received the information from individuals who had done so.

"On another occasion, information was received by the Los Angeles office of the FBI that it was common knowledge in the motion picture industry that _____ was suspected of having homosexual tendencies.

"It is to be noted in May, 1961, a confidential source in New York also stated that _____ definitely was a homosexual.

"Our files contain no additional pertinent information identifiable with (the actor). The fingerprint files . . . contain no arrest data identifiable with (him)."

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