Constable, N.Y., believes the late J. Edgar Hoover deliberately avoided an investigation of the far right in connection with the assassinations. "I'm convinced he thought — or even knew — that it would lead in a direction that would be embarrassing to his right-wing friends and supporters," he said.

"It seems awfully strange to me that King and the two Kennedys, all liberals, were murdered in such a relatively short space of time," he continued, adding that their assassinations effectively eliminated strong leadership in the civil rights and liberal movements in the nation."

Summing up his feelings about the FBI, Murtagh admitted: "I was ashamed to be a part of it. It was a disgusting, degrading experience."

He recalled an incident that happened to him the day King was assassinated. "One agent stopped me in the hallway at the Atlanta bureau and announced: 'They just got Zorro in Memphis!' 'Zorro was the FBI code name for King. The agent was jubilant, really excited and happy. That's the kind of man we had in the FBI.'"

EX-FBI AGENT Arthur Murtagh "We never looked for conspiracy."