

Ford on JFK Slaying: 'New Developments'

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President Ford says there are "some new developments" that might justify a partial re-opening of the John Kennedy assassination investigation. He also thinks those responsible for harassing Martin Luther King before he was murdered should be brought to justice.

His comments on two of the most controversial murder cases in recent history came during a news conference yesterday, at a time when circumstances of both cases remain in doubt to many Americans.

Ford was vague about the new developments in the Kennedy case and ruled out his appointing a group to investigate it without saying who should.

HE SAID HE abhorred the FBI's harassment of King, evidence of which was made public by the Senate intelligence committee last week.

When asked if those responsible for attempting to discredit and possibly blackmail the Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader should be brought to justice, the President said, "I think so."

Earlier in the day, the Justice Department said Atty. Gen. Edward Levi has ordered a review of the FBI investigation into King's assassination, a possible prelude to re-opening the case.

WHEN ASKED specifically if there should be new investigations of both assassinations, Ford responded only to the Kennedy case.

He said "there are some new developments — not

evidence but new developments" which have led one of his staff members to recommend an inquiry "just to lay those charges aside."

"If those new developments could be investigated without re-opening the whole investigation that it took us 10 months to conclude, then I think it might be good if some responsible group or organization did that," Ford said.

Ford served on the Warren Commission, which originally investigated the assassination in 1964 and concluded Lee Harvey Oswald was the sole perpetrator. Because of his membership on the commission, Ford said he should not appoint the persons to carry out any new investigation.