

Dear Dick,

3/17/81

Five years ago you expressed considerable interest in being able to get the FBI's files on Dr. King. If this was because of their sexual content I can't be of any help because those records at HQ at least, have been removed and sequestered in the National Archives for longer than you can hope to live. I have no knowledge of field office files of this general description but ordinarily they would be immune under FOIA. And should be.

I am reminded of this by hearing of what is in the mail to me and may come today, some of the previously withheld files pertinent in my litigation. (My request for the political records, "security" to the FBI, is separate.) Someone in Ramsey Clark's office when he was AG suspected that one of King's closest, if not his very closest white supporter, the late Stanley Levison, was an FBI informant.

After several years of intensive effort I've obtained an (incomplete) inventory of the FBI's field office files on Dr. King and his associates. These inventories alone come to more than 400 pages. Can you imagine this much paper, this much work, this intensity of effort, other than by the Nazis or KGB? Can you begin to appreciate the magnitude of Hoover's operation to "get" King? And to replace him by a "black messiah" of the FBI's selection?

These inventories are incomplete. Several indicate how they are incomplete, because the field offices correctly understood the HQ directive. In one or two cases it was too raw even for FBIHQ, so they had to be enlarged.

In most if not all cases the number of pages in each file is stated. I've not tabulated them.

Hoover's vindictiveness was so enduring he ordered the field offices to watch the commemorations of the first anniversary of his assassination under the riot statutes and to open riot-statute files on it!

I had some knowledge of these files and these operations when we discussed this, about January 1976. Since then I learned more and filed a request for them in 1977. It was stonewalled until the FBI conceived of a new way to "stop" me (the FBI's word in several records going back to 1967), by revoking the fee waiver I'd won. After that it offered me about 20,000 pages from one HQ file only. I've appealed and not pushed the appeal. It is protective to now.

Jim Lesar, my lawyer, is getting to the point where he can file another suit for me. He is also working on the appeal from the revocation. I've done all the work on the appeal as it relates to these political records but DJ wants to consider it only with the appeal pertaining to the cases in court.

While I can't now think of writing a book based on these political records, I think such a book would be a very valuable one, valuable in a number of ways, particularly now, with the reactionary turn the country has taken and the strong effort to eliminate the few

restraints imposed on the FBI and CIA.

The CIA, by the way, had its own anti-King operation. I have some of the records. They appear to have gotten even into his pockets. They had a high-level informant in New York who reported even what LBJ had in mind, a character who regarded King as a dupe of "Chicom" and pressed this view on the CIA. When it came to realize that he was verboten for them they tried to turn him over to the FBI. He regarded that as below him and refused. He remained their informant after the assassination.

I have the CIA's copies of bills for King's minor purchases as he travelled, for shirts, ties and handkerchiefs, and the notepad for him of persons he was to call and who had called him.

It would not be impossible to guide a sensitive person who lacks familiarity with these kinds of files and the persons who compile them, the special language used, the circumlocutions, buzzwords, etc.

It would work out well for a gifted doctoral candidate whose thesis could become the book.

If you have any interest, please let me know. If you don't, please tell me how to get in touch with Aaron Asher, if he is still active. Last I heard he was with Eandon House. . . .

I'll probably send copies of the records recording the suspicion about Levison to Harry Wachtel. Who was not his brother's keeper.

At the time I was ^{his}ay's investigator, meaning at the time there could have been a judicial determination of fact, I ~~was~~ made a ~~xxx~~ number of efforts to reach the King people. One white quit~~s~~ SCIC over their obdurate refusal to have any interest at all. We wrote Coretta and Wachtel and I made a trip to New York to see Wachtel and couldn't. I got a brush from a woman in his office. (I understand he has since retired from the active practise of law and is teaching. I also tried to approach him through a student who was special to him, without response from him.)

I have no reason to believe that Levison was an informer, by the way. But I don't know and the FBI had many liberal finks.

By the way, I have~~xx~~ an expurgated copy of the letter the FBI sent King in an effort to get him to kill himself and the "black messiah" memo. I also have the eating-crow letter the late William Sullivan (Domestic Intelligence) wrote Hoover after Hoover's reaction to his report that there was no red taint to King.

Excuse the haste. It is time for me to exercise to the early morning news on TV. Without something like this it is boring as hell. The foot is swollen more so I can walk less and this means I should exercise more.

Best to all,