

\$15.95

**The FBI and
Martin Luther King, Jr.**
FROM "SOLO" TO MEMPHIS
David J. Garrow

"King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes.... King, like all frauds, your end is approaching.... There is only one thing left for you to do... you have just thirty-four days in which to do it... you better take it before your filthy fraudulent self is barred to the nation."

This unsigned letter was written not by a black, but by one of the highest officials of the FBI, to Martin Luther King, Jr., on November 21, 1964. Accompanying it was a tape of "highlights"—relentlessly gathered recordings of King's telephone conversations and of his life in hotel rooms across the nation.

Behind the letter and the tape lies an engrossing and alarming story. It begins with vague FBI information that perhaps King, but certainly some of his associates, were influenced by Communists. This belief on the part of the FBI led to one of the most sweeping electronic-surveillance campaigns in American history. While the bugging and eavesdropping turned up no evidence of communism, it did, however, reveal aspects of King's personal life

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JACKET DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION
BY VIVAN BERGER

ISBN 0-391-01509-2
10-81

To Harold Weiskop,
with respect
thanks for your
valuable help,
Dave Garrow