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5-1-68

With regard to the attached, SAC Grapp of Los Angeles called at 2:45 this afternoon to report that Chief Reddin had just returned to the city and was very upset about this editorial. Chief Reddin called SAC Grapp and apologized very profusely, stating that he had checked at Police Headquarters and could not find anyone who had talked to the Los Angeles Times. Chief Reddin stated that he personally was going to the Times and protest this unfounded editorial.



REC'D  
MAY 5 2 45 PM '68

114-37761 - 3181

ENCLOSURE

FBI, Los Angeles

Date: 4/30/68

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mr. Tolson   | / |
| Mr. DeLoach  | / |
| Mr. Mohr     | / |
| Mr. Bishop   | / |
| Mr. Casper   | / |
| Mr. Callahan | / |
| Mr. Conrad   | / |
| Mr. Felt     | / |
| Mr. Gale     | / |
| Mr. Rosen    | / |
| Mr. Sullivan | / |
| Mr. Tavel    | / |
| Mr. Trotter  | / |
| Tele. Room   | / |
| Miss Holmes  | / |
| Miss Gandy   | / |

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_ (Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIR TEL AIR MAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI ATT'N: CRIME RECORDS  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
 RE: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles call to Bureau this date.

Enclosed is a self-explanatory editorial appearing in the Los Angeles Times newspaper this date pertaining to the above-captioned case and the FBI's investigation. It mentions among other things that at least eight major metropolitan areas are important in the slaying, plus many smaller towns. It states the police were virtually ignored in the four cities where the search has been most intense--Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles. It states as of Monday, (4/29/68) the FBI still had not contacted Police Chief Thomas Reddin to ask for the help of the Los Angeles Police Department.

It appears this editorial is a rehash of old newspaper articles with datelines of Memphis, Atlanta, and Birmingham. These articles previously set forth in substance the same statements concerning the FBI's alleged "lone role."

The article is inaccurate in many respects. The Bureau's national press release and statements attributed to the Bureau called upon all citizens to give any and all information and assistance they could in identifying and apprehending the slayer. This, of course, includes law enforcement. In addition to that, the Wanted Flyers and the I.O.'s were provided to local law enforcement and gave them the basic facts. In addition, the Ten Most Wanted program plus the exposure on the FBI Series again appealed for public assistance which, of course, included law enforcement. In addition, the FBI has gone to the Los Angeles Police Department and asked for help in the form of obtaining records, photographs, results of their previous investigations concerning people involved in this matter, etc. The case has previously been discussed very briefly with COP REDDIN as well as the head of the Detective Bureau, Deputy Chief ROBERT HOUGHTON.

C. C. Bishop

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)  
 3 - Los Angeles  
 Approved: WCC:gmw Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

ENCLOSURE

*Handwritten initials/signature*

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The next time I am in personal contact with the ranking officials of the Los Angeles Times newspaper I intend to point out to them in the appropriate manner their blatant disregard for the truth in this matter as well as their exceedingly poor taste in publishing such an editorial. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

*copy of other hand ...  
"Right #"*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# The FBI and Local Police

The still-unsuccessful manhunt for the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King provides disturbing new evidence of the lack of adequate cooperation between the FBI and local police.

Nearly five weeks after the murder, a curious attitude of aloofness and secrecy persists in the bureau's investigation. FBI officials apparently want to do the job themselves despite the great significance of the case and the enormous difficulties involved.

At least eight major metropolitan areas, including Los Angeles, are important in the King slaying, plus many smaller towns. James Earl Ray, the chief suspect, left a tangled and confusing trail.

It was obvious, therefore, that there should have been the closest cooperation between federal and local authorities. Yet police were virtually ignored in the four cities where the search has been the most intense—Memphis, Birmingham, Atlanta and Los Angeles.

As of Monday, 25 days after Dr. King's murder, the FBI still hadn't contacted Police Chief Thomas Reddin to ask for the help of the Los Angeles Police Department. Such assistance would have been of great value, particularly in the early stages of the manhunt.

No single law enforcement agency, even one as large and generally efficient as the FBI, could hope to follow every lead in every city involved in the King case. Local

police personnel must be used to supplement FBI agents in investigations of such scope.

The mobilizing of all available law enforcement manpower by the bureau becomes the more urgent in view of the increasing number of federal cases and the great inter-state mobility now available to criminals. Congress, for instance, recently made new federal crimes of riot incitement and endangering civil rights workers.

Such cooperation among federal, state and local authorities has occurred in the past, but not often enough. It must be the rule in the future.

Although the FBI may once have hesitated in working with many city police departments, the quality of local law enforcement has improved markedly. Much of the credit for this better training is due the FBI.

Why then does the bureau continue to resist?

Both precedent and procedure exist for the joining of forces. What is needed to mobilize all of the nation's resources against crime is a new attitude of cooperation on the part of the FBI and its director, J. Edgar Hoover.

The protection of the public and the preservation of law and order are challenges so important that maximum use of available police manpower must always be made. And such cooperation offers the surest means of avoiding a national police force alien to the American tradition.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-4 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 4/30/68  
Edition: Preview  
Author:  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification: LA 94-  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

Being Investigated

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