

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

[REDACTED]
 St. Clair Shores, Michigan
 March 12, 1969
 [REDACTED]
 [REDACTED]

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
 Federal Bureau of Investigation
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

McGowan
Boyd

This letter to you is prompted by the sentencing yesterday of the confessed murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. to a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison along with the statement of the sentencing Judge that if the murder was indeed part of a conspiracy, the other members of that conspiracy would not sleep well in the future.

The fact that the sentenced man stated his disagreement with the former Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, who had stated that he didn't believe that there was a conspiracy, nothing more was said about the conspiracy aspects during this most unusual court proceeding.

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Nevertheless, most people, who have any interest at all in the case, are convinced that the man sent to prison yesterday was only part of an actual group of conspirators. His affluence after the murder, his extensive traveling, which in addition to money, also required sophisticated identity arrangements, is in glaring contrast with everything else known--or printed--about the man's past. What has been divulged points to some kind of coordinated effort by more than one person.

It is well known, of course, that during his lifetime the Reverend King incurred your displeasure from time to time. No doubt his regard for you was not high, either. However, these are irrelevant factors today when a great body of opinion believes King was a conspiracy victim, and that any real effort to search out the members of that conspiracy has been effectively blocked by sentencing one man.

You have directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation during its development from a small, rather ineffective agency into a truly magnificent public service and protective organization, with a secure niche in history.

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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
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The Justice Department yesterday announced that the "conspiracy" investigation as it may or may not pertain to King's death is not closed--whatever such an announcement means. What I believe is this: The FBI has sufficient competence to ascertain as a matter of fact whether there was a conspiracy, and if there was, to identify its members.

You are the Director of the FBI. You did not like King. You referred to him in derogatory fashion in print on several occasions. He was murdered. One man has been sentenced for that murder, but most people believe that more than one man was involved with the killing, and that it could not have been accomplished as it was, except by virtue of a conspiracy.

Don't you believe that, not only that the ends of justice require, but that the hard won and well earned reputation of the FBI and its Director requires that this uncertainty be resolved? I do.

Too, I held Dr. King in high regard, and sympathized with the goals he espoused as I sympathized with you when he irritated you into, let's say, colorful comment.

The manner of King's death was ugly for this country in all of its implications. To have a large body of public opinion believe that it was the result of a conspiracy, and that there is a larger effort on the part of many persons to blur that picture and to eventually prevent its disclosure conjures up uglier implications.

It is my hope that the FBI will undertake to resolve all the unanswered questions about King's death; that it will eventually prove or disprove that there was a conspiracy so that hurtful conjecture and speculation can end.

Sincerely yours,
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[REDACTED]

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