

General the electronic surveillance that I testified to previously here today.

So to answer your question, at all times the FBI had this in mind in my opinion and attempted to get corroborative evidence from the brothers, but that has not come to light.

Mr. PREYER. Thank you.

Mr. DELOACH. Thank you, sir.

Chairman STOKES. The gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Devine.

Mr. DEVINE. Mr. DeLoach, for purposes of the record, could you outline for the committee the jurisdiction of the Bureau as it relates to Dr. King, both preassassination, during assassination, and postassassination? How did the Bureau get involved? Start with the preassassination. Was that purely on a security issue?

Mr. DELOACH. That is correct, Mr. Devine, and the orders of Attorney General Kennedy to establish the electronic surveillance. The investigation did go on prior to that, but that culminated in the authorization by Attorney General Kennedy. It was conducted as a security investigation or what I believe was security matter—C, security matter—Communist, to determine the extent of infiltration by the Communist Party.

At the time of the assassination, of course, as has been testified to earlier, the Department of Justice gave the FBI jurisdiction by order of the Attorney General under the civil rights statutes that Dr. King's civil rights had been interfered with and consequently the FBI should determine who had perpetrated this particular incident—the assassination.

The FBI could, as I testified to earlier, Mr. Devine, could have done a fugitive investigation under the Fugitive Felon Act, as passed by the Congress, giving the FBI the authority to investigate a fugitive case when local law enforcement officials determine that a felony has been committed and possibly the fugitive has crossed State lines. They may step in and ask the FBI to investigate the matter and the FBI does that at their specific request.

Mr. DEVINE. Was it true Mr. DeLoach, that following the apprehension of James Earl Ray that the Bureau virtually lost interest in the case? I ask that question on the basis of that chart to your far right showing FBI activity both as far as dollars are concerned and automobile mileage are concerned, that measurably, dramatic drops occurred in Bureau activities following the apprehension. Would you care to comment on that?

Mr. DELOACH. Yes, Mr. Devine.

With all due respect to the committee, I believe that would be a gross exaggeration insofar as possible loss of interest is concerned. I am not with the FBI today and I have not been for 9 years, but I think the FBI is still interested in this case and will still carry out any leads with respect to conspiracy, not only this case but the Kennedy case and any other major case.

To my knowledge that case is still pending in the FBI and will never be closed as long as leads are being received.

But the fact that the fugitive investigation has been completed certainly would curtail some use of automobiles and curtail to some extent expenditures. It does not mean the FBI has lost interest in the case. It means that one phase of the case has been

completed and they are still such as conspiracy angle.

Mr. DEVINE. While you have high supervisory capacity, orders from Mr. Hoover to investigation of the King case.

Mr. DELOACH. No, Mr. Devine.

To answer your question, Mr. Hoover, who was the major duties following the location, I felt he was the man who as

Whether any other curtailment or not, I don't recall, but pending status and every other thing.

Mr. DEVINE. On another occasion, you testified that you never had an appearance before this committee.

If I accurately recall so far that he had never met Mr. Hoover, I have been in the Bureau for 11 years and I describe Mr. Hoover as a man.

I would ask you, Mr. Devine, if you were at the Bureau under Mr. Hoover, could you get one much closer to him than I am in your capacity as Assistant Attorney General? I would like any descriptive analysis of Mr. Hoover under his direction and control.

Mr. DELOACH. Yes, sir. I think Mr. Hoover was a gentleman. In my opinion, the best I know of. I think, however, he stayed close to the office. He had retired some years earlier and had somewhat of a tower society, but by the same token, he had a great extent.

I have seen Mr. Hoover at moments of emotion, when a tragedy happens to a religious man in many respects, somewhat egocentric in his personality. He came from a very strong prime mover in his church movement, and many other things.

I think that Mr. Hoover is sometimes mistakenly felt to be put it crudely, or his anger that concerned the organization.

Mr. DEVINE. I think you are right, Mr. DeLoach. Just one more question.

Mr. DELOACH. Yes, sir.

Mr. DEVINE. I think your testimony or during the question was arranged between Director

HS at VTB