

Inv

or conspiracy

Typical of the FBI and its monumental failure in the King assassination is a characteristic memorandum x from Rosen to DeLoach of January 29, 1969 and Hoover's reaction to it. Everything of consequence and every inconsequential tidbit in which Hoover could be expected to have any interest, especially prejudice, had to be called to his ~~at~~ personal attention.

The Bureau noted that the weekly Sunday supplement Parade carried an article saying "that two prominent New Orleans businessmen reportedly contributed \$25,000 to intermediaries to arrange for James Earl Ray to murder ~~Dr. King~~. Martin Luther King, Jr."

In almost any other police or investigative agency someone would have interviewed the editor of Parade forthwith. But in the Hoover FBI heads would have rolled had this normal and proper step be taken.

First he had to be told all about Parade, from its address to its relationd with the Bureau. In the past the "Bureau has had cordial relationships with "Parade" magazine although its Washington Bureau is held at arms length since it is staffed by Jack Anderson and Fred Blumenthal."

Then the memo went into the editor, Lloyd Shearer. When his publication reached more Americans ~~than any~~ every Sunday than any other and he "requested on two occasions to be placed on the mailing list to receive the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin" he had been denied. Files were dredged and from the much emerged another report: in a "conversation" in 1947 "Shearer stated that the Director of the FBI was a 'SOB.'"

While it appears that Shearer did not use the phrase in the usual slang sense, that offense against the great one was not forgotten. With visible trepidation and apparent uneasiness the Assistant Director in Charge of the Investigative Division recommended that the New York office interview Shearer to learn the basis of the allegation of conspiracy. Eight of the highest officials of the FBI affixed their initials in approval. A ninth wrote an explanation ~~of it~~ of why "This is necessary," for the record and to protect the FBI.

Below them all on the last page, blacker than any of the other writing there appeared

three letters: "No." followed by "H."

It was not nearly as important to learn the evidence that might lead to those who paid for the crime as for Shearer to continue to be the object of FBI vengeance, even if the FBI and law-enforcement were the victim of the vengeance.

Once Shearer was accused of sacrilege, even if of more than two decades earlier - and the FBI's files never forget - Hoover would not consider any evidence the iconoclast might have or lead to.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: January 29, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Tolson
 DeLoach
 Mohr
 Bishop
 Casper
 Callahan
 Conrad
 Felt
 Gale
 Rosen
 Sullivan
 Tavel
 Trotter
 Tele. Room
 Holmes
 Gandy

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

An article appeared in the "Parade" magazine (the magazine contained in various Sunday newspapers in the country) to the effect that two prominent New Orleans businessmen reportedly contributed \$25,000 to intermediaries to arrange for James Earl Ray to murder Martin Luther King, Jr. We do not have any information to this same effect.

The magazine lists the Editor-at-Large as Lloyd Shearer and the office of "Parade" magazine is listed at 733 Third Avenue, New York, New York.

Bureau indices indicate that Bureau has had cordial relations with "Parade" magazine although its Washington Bureau is held at arms length since it is staffed by Jack Anderson and Fred Blumenthal. The president of "Parade" magazine, Arthur H. Motley, is on the Special Correspondents list

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Bureau records further indicate that Lloyd Shearer has requested on two occasions to be placed on the mailing list to receive the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, and on each instance, this was denied. In 1947, Shearer was interviewed by a Special Agent in connection with an investigation. In the preliminary conversation, Shearer stated that the Director of the FBI was a "SOB." The Agent asked Shearer for an explanation of the comment and he backed down somewhat and he explained that this was a typical phrase used in his position writing stories for the screen. He also contacted the Bureau regarding the Bureau's cooperation in furnishing material for articles that he was writing, and again he was advised that the Bureau could not cooperate in this matter.

Our files contain no information concerning Shearer beyond September of 1963.

Enclosure

1200 XEROX

FEB 6 1969

REL:jms
(7)

ACTION - PAGE TWO

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

If approved, the attached will be sent to the New York Office instructing them to interview Lloyd Shearer concerning this allegation and for any information he may have of a similar nature. New York is being instructed that if any reasons exist which would preclude the interview with Shearer, the Bureau should be advised.

John *clm* *alt* *rel*
Jim *R* *Pl* *is*

This is necessary simply for record purposes, but undoubtedly a waste of time

no. ✓
H

WTR
5/11/54
6/1/54