

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated the FBI launched a massive non-investigation. The FBI was so successful in avoiding any investigations of this terrible crime, the most costly in our history, that from the time King was felled by a single bullet, at about 6 p.m. April 4, 1968, until ¹⁹⁸¹ the writing of this book, through a series of Congressional investigations and lawsuits under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), the FBI was able to avoid any investigation of the crime itself.

I have and have read every word of the FBI's ~~massive and costly~~ records on its massive and costly non-investigation. They not only reflect the fact that the FBI steadfastly refused to investigate the crime, they boast of it.

Control is the name of the FBI's game. It exercises control by seizing it as fast as it can. It continues to exercise control by secrecy, which is both possible and acceptable for a criminal investigative agency.

In the King case the FBI is not able to produce the order of the Attorney General that it investigate the crime, although it claims to have ~~xxx~~ acted at his direction. I sought it in the largest and longest-lasting of my FOIA suits to obtain copies of the FBI's records pertaining to the crime. ~~Nothing~~ The FBI ^{and} nor its parent, the Department of Justice, both state no Attorney General's directive exists.

Even if it did exist there is ample reason for the FBI not to ~~xxxxxxx~~ produce it: the FVU seized the case without authorization. Authorization came later, in the form of a request from the Department's Civil Rights Division. But before then, FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ) had instructed its Memphis field office to move in and take control.

It was another 13 days before the FBI bothered to cover the nakedness of its raw seizure and exercise of power. On April 17 it filed a civil rights conspiracy charge against one Eric Starvo Galt - but not in Memphis, where the crime was committed. In Birmingham, Alabama, where no crime was committed. The FBI didn't trust the United States attorney in Memphis. It did trust the United States Attorney in Birmingham.

However, from the first, the FBI persisted that there had been no conspiracy, that James ^{one of} Earl Ray, whose many aliases was Galt, had pulled the job himself. The reasons the FBI alleged a conspiracy are two: without the allegation there was no

federal crime and no jurisdiction; and without being able to claim that it has exhausted all conspiracy leads it was subjected to criticism for not investigating a conspiracy when so clearly the crime was the end product of a conspiracy.

The FBI's means of proving there was no conspiracy was simple. It was standard FBI operating procedure. It was diligent in exploring every nut theory, every incredible report it received, all the many patent fabrication of so many seeking special considerations of various kinds - anything and everything that without reasonable doubt had nothing to do with the crime itself. It was no less diligent in avoiding all the many proofs/it had and could not avoid. In later chapter we examine some of these, including those that point to the complicity of those connected with the FBI.

To the FBI statistics are the answer to everything. This began with the earliest appearances before congressional appropriations committee by the ~~XXXX~~ FBI's founding father, the late J. Edgar Hoover. When despite its vast expenditures it was not able to capture James Earl Ray the FBI was criticized, its answer was to inform the press that its search for Ray was the largest hunt in its history.

Contemporaneous, and incompletely, it was anxious to report ~~the~~ large expenditures, equating expenditures with diligence and results. Since then it has refused to provide a summary of what it spent in covering up its failures rather than investigation of the crime. It ~~refused~~ refused in 1981, under my 1975 FOIA request, repeated in 1977 and thereafter, the FBI refused to disclose any ~~breakdown~~ summary of the costs. It claimed, falsely, that it had provided this information during the course of the litigation, that it was all tabulated in monthly reports from the 59 field offices, filed in the so-called "MURKIN" file, 44-38861 at FBIHQ.

There is another reason the FBI wants no attention to its expenditures. From Hoover's earliest days the FBI has blackjacked appropriations out of Congress with its statistics allegedly reporting the unpaid overtime its Special Agents (SAs) were required to put in. The requirement was Hoover's, ~~his~~ his means of representing a need for more money.

The unpaid costs are not tabulated in the FBI's cost accountings. These include the ~~the~~ unpaid use of non-FBI cars.