

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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	

MR. TOLSON

DATE: 5/21/68

C. D. DeLoach

cc Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF WIRE TAPS AND MICROPHONES
BY ROBERT F. KENNEDY -
Specific approval of wire tap on Martin Luther King

Article by Drew Pearson and Jack Anderson,
Friday, 5/24/68

Jack Anderson called and stated he wanted to speak in confidence. I told him if it concerned an official matter I could not agree with this stipulation. He stated he merely wanted to tip me off that Drew Pearson will have an article on Friday, 5/24/68, alleging that former AG Bobby Kennedy ordered the FBI to place a wire tap on Martin Luther King. He stated the article would probably hurt Kennedy a great deal.

I told Anderson we would have no comment concerning such an article; however, that I felt he was doing us a great disservice inasmuch as the article would certainly dry up Negro sources of information who have been friendly to the FBI.

Anderson stated he and Pearson were well aware of this fact; however, they felt that Kennedy should receive a death blow prior to the Oregon primary. I told him that, as he had been advised once before, the FBI would not become involved in bitter political struggles and that the record should be quite clear concerning this fact. Anderson said he well understood our position, and that he hoped Pearson's column would not affect the FBI too much. I told him that remained to be seen.

Anderson asked me if the FBI had disseminated a report concerning King's communist affiliations and sex life as of February or March 28, 1968. I told him I would make no comment. He stated he knew such a report was in existence and as a matter of fact he had read such a report. I asked for the identity of his source. He stated he must refuse to tell me. I told him we well knew that Ed Weisl, Jr. had advised him

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Mr. Tolson

concerning specific information involving an old wire tap on King. I asked him point-blank if Weisl had allowed him to read an FBI report. He stated he had already admitted to me on one occasion that Weisl was his source in the Department, but that he must refuse to reveal the identity of the source who had allowed him to read an FBI report. The conversation ended with this statement.

We did disseminate an FBI report on King dated 3/12/68. It may be that Anderson is bluffing or it may be that he is talking about this specific report. It would be my thought that he possibly knows the date of the report, but has not been given a chance to read it. We nevertheless should maintain a strict "no comment" in the event Pearson's article appears on Friday, 5/24/68.

ACTION -

For record purposes.

A ✓ *MR*
1. Absolutely
2. We must be most
careful what we send
Weisl.
H

All SAs in
Field Office.
Counsel Koz. Dr.,
a. Printed 5/23/67
TSB