

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.

JAMES E. RAY,
Plaintiff

vs.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND
RECORDS SERVICE,
Defendant.

Civil Action no. _____

COMPLAINT

This is a Complaint against the National Archives and Records Service, Judicial and Fiscal Branch, for the release of recorded tapes, and transcripts thereof, ect., pertaining to the Dr. Martin Luther King jr. homicide, and related matter & investigations thereof.

The Plaintiff, James E. Ray, complains against defendant, National Archives and Records service, and alleges:

1. JURISDICTION:

A) That this court has original jurisdiction of this action under Title 28, United States code, section 1361.

B) Additional original jurisdiction of this court is founded in: Lee v. Kelly, U.S. District court for the District of Columbia, No. 76-1185 & 1186.

C) Further jurisdiction of this action is provided the court, under the public information section of the administrative procedure Act, Title 5, United States code, section 552 as amended by 81 Stat. 54 (1967).

D) Relief is also sought pursuant to the federal declaratory judgment Act, Title 28, United States code, section 2201 and 2202.

2. Plaintiff, acting pro se, requests that the court issue summons in accordance with Rule 4 (a) (e) of the Federal Rules of Civil procedure.

3. Plaintiff presently resides in the state of Tennessee wherein he is incarcerated in the States penitentiary at Petros, Tennessee, serving a ninety-nine (99) year sentence in the murder of civil rights Leader, Dr. Martin Luther King jr. ("M.L.K."jr.)

4. NATURE OF THE ACTION:

On January 31, 1977, this court ordered that voluminous recorded tapes, and transcripts thereof, resulting from the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("F.B.I."), microphonic surveillance of Dr. Martin Luther King jr., during the period between 1963 and 1968, be removed from F.B.I. jurisdiction and placed in the National Archives under seal for a period of fifty (50) years. (EXH--A). Daid order apparently being pursuant to defendants demand in, *Lea v. Kelly*, supra.

The apparent rationale for the court's findings ordering the sealing of said recorded tapes/and transcripts thereof, and sequestering them in the National Archives for a period of fifty (50) years, was that the contents therein could violate the privacy of Dr. Martin Luther King jr. through publication in the news media of the recording contents; however, this court also found, in denying damages because of statute-of-limitations provisions, that said recording/transcripts had previously been offered and alluded to in the news media.

If in fact said recording/transcripts were offered & refused by the F.B.I. to the national news media for publishing & airing it is difficult for plaintiff to comprehend why the same press would be willing/egar to publish at this late date the material in controversy.

5. That on February 5, 1977, upon learning of, *Lee v. Kelly, supra*, herein plaintiff posted a letter to this court invoking what-ever legal right Plaintiff may have had in the suit under Rule 19 (c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. (EXH-E).
6. That said Recording/Transcripts thereof could not in their entirety be of a salacious & embarrassing nature.
7. That an investigation conducted and published October 10, 1975, by syndicated Columnist, Jack Anderson, at the request of Dr. Martin Luther King jr. associates, Anderson found there was nothing in said recording/transcripts thereof embarrassing to M.L.K. jr. (EXH-G).
8. That the F.B.I. has informed syndicated columnist, Paul Scott, and published by Mr. Scott in July 1978, that if the Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives investigating the murder of M.L.K. jr. is to thoroughly explore M.L.K. jr. murder, the committee must obtain permission from the court to examine said recording/transcripts because of the information they contain. Mr. Scott goes on to quates the F.B.I. as saying "secret communist" were involved in, and knew, M.L.K. jr.'s movements in Memphis, Tennessee, the day he was murdered, thus the sequestered tapes/Documents should be examined for possible new leads. (EXH-D).
9. That conversely, there have been published reports that it was the F.B.I., rather than secret communist, who were surreptitiously managing Dr. Martin Luther King jr.'s movements in Memphis, Tennessee, the day he was shot.
10. That there have been reports in the national news media that the F.B.I., in conjunction with certain establishment Black Leaders, were attempting to "eliminate" Dr. Martin Luther King jr. (Collective EXH-F).

11. That the Chairman of the aforementioned Select Committee has misled the public, through news conferences, that said Committee has viewed or perused said Recording/and transcripts thereof in the National Archives.

12. That syndicated columnist, Jack Anderson, has published in a column dated December 17, 1975, that the late Congressman, Hale Boggs, informed he (Anderson) that the F.B.I. was in effect Blackmailing certain Congressmen. (EXH—G).

13. That plaintiff has informed said Select Committee in writing that if any of said recording/transcripts thereof are embarrassing to Dr. Martin Luther King jr. then that portion(s) of the recording/transcripts can be destroyed forthwith. Plaintiff makes the same declaration in this Complaint.

14. That said Recording/transcripts thereof will provide leads that will assist in the exoneration of plaintiff in the Dr. Martin Luther King jr. homicide.

15. The plaintiff respectfully suggest to this court that the purposes of the National Archives is to preserve records and make them available to scholars and the general public, not to cover up political murders and perpetuate the blackmailing of politicians.

WHEREFORE, in view of the aforesaid the plaintiff, James S. Kay, ask:

A) That all of the aforementioned Recorded Tapes/Transcripts thereof, be made available to counsel representing Plaintiff, Mark Lane Esq., the general public, and the Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives investigating the King case.

B) That the court invite said Select Committee to enter this law suit in the public interest in order that all of the facts surrounding

the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King jr. can be layed before the American people.

C) That the court take into consideration that plaintiff is a layman and access, because of plaintiff's incarceration, to the proper law Books to bring this action is limited. Thus the court overlook technical errors in this Complaint.

D) That the court approach this suit in the law & spirit that the court's/Judge's colleague, Hon. John Sirica approached & adjudicated the Watergate affair.

Respectfully submitted

James E. Ray

Plaintiff, pro se

Brushy Mountain Prison

Petros, TN. 37845.

cc: Select Committee, U.S. House of Representatives.



General Services Administration
National Archives and Records Service
Washington, DC 20408

July 11, 1978

Mr. James E. Ray #65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, TN 37845

Dear Mr. Ray:

This is in reply to your letter of June 27, 1978, concerning records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

On January 31, 1977, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia ordered that:

"within ninety (90) days of the date of the entry of this Order, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall assemble at its headquarters in Washington, D. C., all known copies of the recorded tapes, and transcripts thereof, resulting from the FBI's microphonic surveillance, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's former president, Martin Luther King, Jr.; and all known copies of the tapes, transcripts and logs resulting from the FBI's telephone wiretapping, between 1963 and 1968, of the plaintiff's offices in Atlanta, Georgia and New York, New York, the home of Martin Luther King, Jr., and places of public accomodation occupied by Martin Luther King, Jr."

The Court further ordered:

"that at the expiration of the said ninety (90) day period, the Federal Bureau of Investigation shall deliver to this Court under seal an inventory of said tapes and documents and shall deliver said tapes and documents to the custody of the National Archives and Records Service, to be maintained by the Archivist of the United States under seal for a period of fifty (50) years."

It was also ordered that:

"the Archivist of the United States shall take such actions as are necessary to the preservation of said tapes and documents

EXHIBIT--A

but shall not disclose the tapes or documents, or their contents, except pursuant to a specific Order from a court of competent jurisdiction requiring disclosure."

These records have not been made available to any researchers since they have been in the custody of the National Archives. Access to the records would require an appropriate court order. We do not know if any researcher has attempted to obtain such an order.

The records are intact as received from the F.B.I. and are stored in a secure area.

If we can be of any further assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Clarence F. Lyons, Jr.

CLARENCE F. LYONS, JR.
Chief
Judicial and Fiscal Branch
Civil Archives Division

Hon. John Lewis Smith, Jr.
U.S. District court for
the District of Columbia
Washington, D.C. 20001.

February 5, 1977

re: Ray (def) v. Tennessee. Cr. Indictment no. 16645;
Shelby County, Tennessee. (1968).

Dear Sir:

I, the defendant in the above captioned indictment, learned for the first time through a newspaper article dated February 3, 1977, published in the Knoxville News-Sentinel that as a result of a suit by plaintiff, Mr. Bernard Lee, this court ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") to turn over to the National Archives, and therein remain sealed for fifty (50) years, all tapes and transcripts gathered by the FBI in the wiretapping of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

While I am not familiar with the official transcript of Mr. Lee's suit I believe I have a substantial interest and claim in the case under Rule 19 (a) (2) (1): The claim being, and which I have litigated, and am in the process of further litigating, that the FBI and other unnamed agencies and, or, individuals acted in collusion to falsely imprison me for the murder of said, Dr. King; and that the aforementioned tapes & transcripts could furnish information and leads to substantiate said claim.

Further, I would also like to respectfully note that no notice was given me by plaintiffs under provision of Rule 19 (c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, thus intervention by me under Rule 24 (a) (2) was not possible.

In addition, any relief demanded by me would have been limited and in accordance with Rule 20, that is to say I am not concerned with anyones personal affairs, just material which could furnish information or leads as delineated by a 1975 ruling—a ruling which I don't have the citation exact date or number—by the U.S. court of appeals for the District of Columbia directed at the FBI.

Concluding, I don't believe it would be acceptable to any cr. defendant to let the FBI-JD determine ex-parte what would furnish information or leads. Therefore I will mail a cc copy of the foregoing to the below listed counsel (Jack Kerchaw, ESQ.) representing me.

EXHIBIT--B

cc: Hon. Henry Gonzalez,
Ch. Select Committee.
cc: Jack Kerchaw, ESQ.
cc: [unclear]

Respectfully; James E. Ray #65477
P.O. Box #73
Petros, TN. 37249

ER

Clearing Up Martin Luther King Smear

WASHINGTON — Associates of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. have asked us to investigate the FBI's smear charges against him and to publish our honest findings. His widow, they say, hopes we will clear his name.

Not long afterwards, Hoover was visited by Atlanta's police chief, Herbert Jenkins, who was then president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Suddenly, out of context, Hoover blurted that he had three enemies whom he hated more than anyone else in the world. He identified them as, his former deputy Quinn Tamm, ex-Ally Gen. Robert Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The dumfounded Jenkins later encountered his friend, Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., on the streets of Atlanta. Jenkins took the occasion to warn the old man pointedly that "Junior better be on the alert. It may be that the FBI is looking into him and they look pretty thoroughly."

Indeed, the FBI kept the civil rights crusader under surveillance and even bugged his hotel suites. Then the FBI used the

information to start a whispering campaign against him. At the urging of his associates, we have now checked into the stories that the FBI spread about him. Here are our findings:

Did Dr. King have secret Communist connections? He was in touch with a known Communist attorney in New York City, who tried to influence his civil rights campaign. However, Dr. King never let the Communists take over his movement and remained a staunch anti-Communist.

He eventually accepted some of the attorney's anti-Vietnam War views. But those who knew Dr. King agree he was motivated by humanity, not ideology.

Did the FBI tape a sex orgy involving Dr. King, at Washington's old Willard Hotel? Willard recall that he used some ribald language but indulged in



no sexual acts.

There was evidence on the tape, according to those who heard it, that sexual intercourse occurred. But Dr. King was not one of the lovers. The man's voice was identified as that of an acquaintance.

Did Dr. King, while in Norway to accept the Nobel peace prize, chase a woman through an Oslo hotel? Rumors of the hot pursuit were whispered around Wash-

ington by the FBI.

Witnesses recall that some supporters of Dr. King let their jubilation get out of hand and brought prostitutes into the hotel and raised a ruckus. The witnesses remember clearly that King was not among them but on the contrary, tried to quiet the celebration.

Did Dr. King carry on a romance with the wife of a Los Angeles dentist? To check out this FBI report, we spoke directly with both the dentist and his wife. Both agreed that she was Dr. King's close friend but not his lover. Thus the FBI's attempt to besmirch the great civil rights leader, as Dr. King himself predicted before his martyrdom, has backfired against the FBI.

Footnote: Neither Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. nor Herbert Jenkins would comment about the incidents involving them. But our sources had direct knowl-

edge of the incidents.

They also told about another warning which Jenkins gave to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. before a dangerous visit to Alabama. "Don't go to Alabama or they'll kill you," urged the Atlanta police chief.

The black leader replied quietly: "If that's the Lord's will." On April 4, 1968, still guided by the Lord's will, he was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn.

INTERPOL INVESTIGATION: A confidential Senate memorandum questions about the use of FBI data which is distributed to relationships through Interpol, the international police agency.

The staff memo, addressed to Sen. Joseph Montoya, D-N.M., notes that nations of all political persuasions have access to FBI data through a computer at the Treasury Dept.

Should the U.S. underwrite a butreaning intern bank it cannot fully asks the memo. "T of laundering a re Iron Curtam coun mation on an Amer should be explore urges.

It points out that of the Interpol h operation in Paris. lication of Interpol hies cannot but t understanding to ours has become a sly." the memo d Sen. Montoya h hold hearings next out more about In Footnote: Spoke that American gov ployes keep careo erything released f to Interpol. Only h criminals and cri provided, the sp ended.

New King Assassination Hearings To Be Televised

By Paul Scott

WASHINGTON—James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, is going to finally get his chance to tell his story over nationwide TV and radio — that is if he still wants the national forum.

The House Select Committee on Assassinations is offering Ray the top billing in five days of public hearings set to begin on August 14 into the King assassination and the handling of its investigation by the FBI and local and state law enforcement officials in Tennessee.



Since his public admission of guilt and life sentencing in a Tennessee State Court, Ray, personally has hinted in letters to members of Congress, including Sen. James Eastland, D. Miss., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, that others were involved in the King assassination.

When contacted in the past, however, Ray has refused to testify unless allowed to come to Washington and appear publicly before a Senate or House Committee without having first to reveal his proposed testimony in advance of the hearing.

With no way to check out the accuracy of what Ray

might say in advance of his public appearance, members of Congress including Senator Eastland have shield away from giving the convicted killer a national forum.

Rep. Louis Stokes, D. O., chairman of the Select Committee on Assassinations, has now sent word to Ray that he can testify on his terms. Although Committee investigators have questioned Ray in his prison cell, they still don't have any idea of what he will say.

The Committee's invitation to Ray was indicated in a memorandum which Representative Stokes is circulating to members of Congress in detailing plans for a series of public hearings in the fall, Representative Stokes reported.

"The schedule now contemplates holding approximately 20 days of hearings into each assassination. The first five days of the public hearings planned are on the assassination of Dr. King. These hearings will commence on the 14th of August. The hearings will be concerned with Dr. King's activities in Memphis in 1968, his assassination and the involvement of Mr. Ray, of Mr. James Earl Ray in the assassination. Effort will be made to secure the testimony of Mr. Ray in public sessions at that time. Other hearings will involve the assassination of President John Kennedy."

OTHER INVOLVED IN SLAYING — By including the words "if any" in the sentence regarding the involvement of Ray in the assassination, Representative Stokes has raised

speculation that his committee may be planning to show that others were responsible for the killing of King.

When questioned by several of his colleagues, Representative Stokes refused to confirm or deny whether Committee probes have uncovered new evidence that would involve others in King's assassination. All the Cleveland Democrat will say is that field investigations are continuing.

The Committee's inquiry already has ranged over three continents with investigators retracing Ray's travels abroad following the King assassination. Ray was arrested in London after returning from Portugal. The Committee's inquiry already has cost more than \$2.5 million.

While Committee probes have reviewed all of the FBI's investigative reports on the King assassination, they still have not sought permission to examine hundreds of other FBI's documents and tapes on the 1968 activities of King and associates which a federal judge ordered sealed in February, 1977.

A number of these documents and tapes deal with known secret communists, who were closely associated with the Civil Rights leader shortly before his assassination. Since these persons were deeply involved in the planning of King's activities and knew his movements in Memphis, the documents should be examined for possible new leads in the tragic slaying.

The U.S. Federal Court here was petitioned to have these

documents and tapes sealed by officials of the Southern Christian leadership conference, which King headed at the time of his slaying. The reasons they gave for their request was that the information involved King's private life, contacts and was gathered by FBI monitoring.

If the Committee is to thoroughly explore the activities of King and these associates in Memphis during the period before his assassination, FBI sources say the lawmakers must obtain permission from the Court to examine these documents and tapes because of the information they contain.

THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION — The Stokes Committee has scheduled 18 days of public hearings in September to consider evidence uncovered in the assassination of late President Kennedy.

While Chairman Stokes isn't saying anything public other committee members reveal privately that none of the new information obtained by their staff so far upsets Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was the assassin.

The investigations of both the Kennedy and King assassinations by the Stokes Committee is expected to be completed by the end of the year. A final report is expected to be made to the full Congress early in 1978. James Earl Ray's public testimony could be a major factor in shaping both the tone and content of the Committee final report on the assassination of King.

111-1571-1-115

Williams Probe Halted FBI Taps

By CHARLES HAYBLETT
Journal Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The FBI wiretapped the offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Atlanta headquarters for 2½ years in the mid-1960s, but called off the surveillance for fear it might jeopardize a "possible prosecution" of civil rights leader Hosea Williams, according to newly-released FBI documents.

Williams, now a state representative from DeKalb County, was investigated but never accused in connection with the alleged theft of several automobiles that wound up being used by SCLC workers in civil rights efforts in the South.

See WIRETAPS, Page 26-A

Wiretaps Continued From Page 1-A

Two other men, Harold Belton Andrews and Morris Finley, who is now an Atlanta city councilman, were convicted in connection with the alleged thefts. Finley was later allowed to enter a no contest plea and sentenced to two years probation.

The wiretapping of the SCLC's Atlanta office, the Atlanta residence of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the New York office of the SCLC was described in a series of memoranda from the "official and confidential" files of the late FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover.

The files were released after they were demanded by the Center for National Security Studies under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

According to one internal FBI memo, the wiretap was installed at SCLC's Auburn Avenue headquarters Nov. 8, 1963, and "maintained" until June 21, 1965, "when Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach ordered it discontinued since he thought it might be prejudicial to the possible prosecution of Hosea Williams, Southern Christian Leadership Conference official, under Interstate Transportation of Stolen Vehicles Statutes."

A number of documents in the 317-page file show that Williams' link to the case stemmed from a charge by another defendant in the case — apparently Andrews — that he had stolen cars to sell to the SCLC's voter education effort, which Williams headed. The documents do not indicate that the bureau was able to substantiate those charges.

At the same time, several of the memos contained clear references to the sensitive nature of the case and one dated Nov. 18, 1965, said King's hotel rooms at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco from May 1964, and at the American Hotel in New York from 3 to 4, 1965.

Nine memos containing information from the taps were sent to Kennedy the FBI, the documents at

dated June 22, 1966, said that because of the "ramifications" involving SCLC and the civil rights movement, the prosecution was being handled by the Justice Department's Washington-based criminal division rather than the U.S. attorney's office in Atlanta.

Williams said Tuesday that the two stolen cars that were used by SCLC workers were purchased in Atlanta, and he indicated they were virtually the only ones out of "30 or 40" that were not donated by a new-car dealer in Connecticut through the SCLC chief there.

He said that at one point the allegations that he was implicated in the thefts were so strong and persistent the King personally called Williams into his office and asked whether he was involved.

"He said, 'I want you to tell me the truth, Hosea,'" Williams recalled. "As long as I believe in your character, I can fight for you. . . . I did buy those cars knowing they were stolen. . . ."

"I said, 'Dr. King, honest God, I did not.'"

"He said, 'I believe you; on home. Rest in peace.'" The FBI documents reveal that King's Atlanta home was under electronic surveillance from Nov. 8, 1963, to April 1965. Although the authorization for the wiretaps, signed by then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, covered any residence to which King might move, the documents indicate that the surveillance was ended when he moved to a new home.

According to the documents, a total of 16 "bugs," microphone plants, and telephone taps were "installed" King, in the language of one FBI memo. Among the surveillances not previously revealed were bugs planted in King's hotel rooms at the Sheraton Palace Hotel in San Francisco from May 1964, and at the American Hotel in New York from 3 to 4, 1965.

Nine memos containing information from the taps were sent to Kennedy the FBI, the documents at

FBI-Black Activist Plan To Remove King Bared

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Newly released files reveal the FBI and an unidentified black activist worked together "in an effort to eliminate (Dr. Martin Luther) King" a few years before the civil rights leader was murdered.

The late FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's secret office files were obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization, and published yesterday.

The name of the collaborator was blanked out in the released document, which was dated Dec. 1, 1964.

"(Blank) stated to DeLoach (another top FBI official) that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," the memo said.

"HE INDICATES in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (Blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

It suggested that (Blank), black lead-

ers such as James Farmer and labor leader A. Philip Randolph, and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group on the security background of King" . . . including "the use of a tape . . . with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, (and) should be most convincing."

THE SENATE Intelligence Committee reported in 1976 that the FBI had bugged hotel rooms used by King, allegedly recording meetings he had with women.

With the purpose of "destroying his marriage," the Senate report said, the FBI mailed King a copy of the recording, with an accompanying note "which Dr. King and his advisers interpreted as threatening to release the tape recording unless Dr. King committed suicide."

In another document made public Sunday, then-Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach gave Hoover blanket authority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority as was required at the time.

King was shot and killed in Memphis, April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

EXHIB. -- E, 1

Black Leader Assisted FBI's Anti-King Effort, Files Show

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An unidentified black leader apparently worked with the FBI in the 1960s in an effort to remove Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement, according to just-released FBI files.

The secret office files belonging to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover were obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization.

They "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the

FBI and kept under government surveillance during the five-year period before King's assassination" in 1968, the center said.

It said, for instance, a Dec. 1, 1964, interoffice memo to William Sullivan, then No. 3 in the FBI hierarchy indicated "the FBI and a black leader apparently worked together in an effort to eliminate King."

The name of the collaborator was blanked out in the released document.

See KING, Page 10-A

ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Inside

5-28-78

Continued from Page 1-A

"(Blank) stated to DeLoach (another top FBI official) that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," a copy of the memo showed. "He indicates in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (Blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

The memo then suggested that (Blank) get together with black leaders such as James Farmer and labor leader A. Phillip Randolph, and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group on the security background of King." The briefing would include "the use of a tape, such as contemplated in your memorandum, with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, (and) should be most convincing."

"This might have the effect of increasing the stature of (Blank) who is a capable person and is ambitious," it said.

The Senate intelligence committee reported in 1976 that the FBI had "bugged" hotel rooms used by King, allegedly recording meetings he had with women.

With the purpose of "destroying his marriage," the Senate report said, the FBI mailed King a copy of the recording, with an accompanying note "which Dr. King and his advisers interpreted as threatening to release the tape recording unless Dr. King committed suicide."

Another document made public Sunday referred to the Sept. 9, 1964 "monitoring" at Atlanta of a conversation between King and Muhammed Ali, who was then facing federal draft evasion charges. In another document, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach gave Hoover blanket au-

thority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority as was required at the time.

King was shot and killed in

Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

6-1-78 *Atlanta*

The Nation Today

FBI Bugged SCIC Headquarters

ATLANTA — The FBI bugged the Atlanta headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from 1963 until 1965 when, according to FBI documents, it was decided the eavesdropping could prejudice the prosecution of Civil Rights leader Hosea Williams.

Williams was investigated in connection with several car thefts but never charged.

Collier Trophy Found in Park

Wilkins Reportedly Discussed Removing King

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Washington Post says Roy Wilkins is the black leader described in an FBI memo as having discussed with the agency the removal of Dr. Martin Luther King from leadership in the civil rights movement.

The Post, in today's editions, referred to a Dec. 1, 1964, FBI memo released earlier this week, which referred to an unnamed black leader who cooperated with the bureau's undercover campaign against King.

However, the Post said Wilkins, the retired NAACP executive secretary, told the Senate Intelligence Committee staff in 1975 that the FBI memo was "self-serving and full of inaccuracies."

Wilkins' wife called The Post story "absolute fabrication."

THE ATLANTA Constitution said in today's editions that a comparison of the FBI memo with Wilkins' testimony to the committee indicates that Wilkins may have been the leader who met with the FBI.

The Post quoted informed but unnamed sources as saying the former offi-

cial of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People met on Nov. 27, 1964, with then-FBI Assistant Director Cartha DeLoach about the bureau's attitude toward King.

In a memo written Nov. 27, DeLoach said the meeting ended with Wilkins promising to "tell King that he can't win in a battle with the FBI and that the best thing for him to do is to retire from public life."

The Dec. 1 memo was a followup written by FBI official J.A. Sizoo to suggest further action against King. Addressed to late FBI Assistant Director William C. Sullivan, it picked up some of DeLoach's remarks but deleted Wilkins' name.

The Sizoo memo was obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by the non-profit Center for National Security Studies.

DeLoach, in an interview with The Atlanta Journal, said he has "a vague recollection of some black leader coming to see me. I don't remember who he was. I have no idea what we talked

about."

WILKINS WAS NOT available for comment. His wife, who said she was speaking for him, called the allegation an "absolute fabrication. I heard him tell that to someone else," she said.

Mrs. Wilkins also commented on a previous comment by Senate investigators that the FBI's anti-King campaign included a proposal to groom a new national black leader to take his place.

She said she and Wilkins learned the identity of the leader from someone who worked with the Justice Department.

But she added, "I can't tell you, I wouldn't tell you because it would be very detrimental to the man."

She said she did not think the man knew anything about it and that the FBI selected him because he would be "amenable to them."

"I can't imagine any reputable black person who would have agreed to work with the FBI in (the late FBI Director J. Edgar) Hoover's day. I'm sure this person they had in mind had not worked with them."

The Washington Post — Roy Wilkins, the black leader described by the FBI as a cooperative contact in its undercover campaign to discredit the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., repudiated any such sympathies more than two years ago in an interview with Senate investigators.

The FBI's claims were publicized earlier this week as the result of a newly declassified Dec. 1, 1964, FBI memo that said an "ambitious" black leader, whose name was deleted, was apparently willing to work with the Bureau "to remove King from the national picture."

According to informed sources, the memo referred to Wilkins, then NAACP executive secretary, who had met several days earlier, on Nov. 27, 1964, with FBI assistant director Cartha DeLoach about the Bureau's attitude toward King.

In a memo written that same day, Nov. 27, DeLoach pictured Wilkins as apprehensive and said the meeting ended with Wilkins promising to "tell King that he can't win in a battle with the FBI and that the best thing for him to do is to retire from public life."

Wilkins, however, told the staff of the Senate Intelligence Committee in the fall of 1975 that DeLoach's account was "self-serving and full of inaccuracies." The NAACP official, now retired, denounced the remarks attributed to him as "pure invention" and indicated he had done little more than express his concern "that accusations about Dr. King would cripple the civil rights movement."

(DeLoach told the Atlanta Journal Tuesday that he has "a vague recollection of some black leader coming to see me. I don't remember who he was. I have no idea what we talked about.")

(In a telephone interview from New York, where he is an executive for PepsiCo Inc., DeLoach said, "You're asking about something that was 14 years and thousands of memorandums ago. He probably wanted to see Mr. Hoover and was referred to me.")

(He said he could not remember if the black man he met was publicly known at the time or one who later came to public prominence.)

See WILKINS, Page 26-A



EX-NAACP OFFICIAL ROY WILKINS - Said FBI Account Was 'Pure Invention'

Wilkins Continued From Page 1A

"If I knew any facts today, I would tell you. But it would be ancient history," added DeLoach, who said he felt public disclosures of a campaign by Hoover to have King replaced were "blown all out of proportion."

The Dec. 1, 1964, memo following up on Wilkins' visit with DeLoach, written by FBI official J.A. Sizoo to suggest further action against King, picked up some of DeLoach's previously unpublicized remarks about Wilkins. Senate investigators had been privy to them but never made them public. The Sizoo memo, with Wilkins' name deleted, was

finally obtained from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act by the non-profit Center for National Security Studies.

Its release this week left the impression that the black leader mentioned in the Sizoo memo might be the same person as the now — and much younger — "national Negro leader" that the FBI had once secretly nominated to take over the civil rights movement once King had been "completely discredited." Informed sources, however, said Tuesday that Wilkins was not the mystery man. His name has never been made public.

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Hoover Stayed On King Even After Dec

WASHINGTON—The vendetta against Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., didn't end with his murder. The old FBI building J. Edgar Hoover, who had tried to blacken King's name while he was alive, also tried to tarnish his death.

Not long after King was "assassinated" the balcony of his Memphis motel on April 4, 1968, Hoover sent word to me that the motive behind the murder was not racism but cuckoldry, that the assassin apparently had been hired by a jealous husband.

I have held back this story for more than seven years because of my rule against revealing sources. But Hoover is now fading from the contemporary scene into history. His incredible attempt to panic King into committing suicide, it seems to me, also atrophies any right he may have to confidentiality. Therefore, I have decided it is in the public interest to tell the story.

Back in 1968, I was on good terms with the old FBI curriculum. He sent word through an intermediary that King's killer, James Earl Ray, had been in Los Angeles shortly before he returned east to stalk the civil rights leader.

Hoover's messenger suggested that Ray had been hired by a jealous husband, who had become enraged by the discovery that his wife had borne King's child. The intermediary identified the Los Angeles couple and showed me supporting data, including an FBI report describing a passionate interlude between the wife and Dr. King in a New York City hotel.

I was eager, of course, to find out who was behind the assassination. So I flew to Los Angeles and did my damndest to confirm the FBI leads. I waylaid the wife and husband separately for confrontational interviews and questioned others who might

have known of the alleged love affair, the paterfamilial of the child or the attitude of the husband toward King.

I could find absolutely no evidence which contradicted the couple's own explanation that Dr. King was an honored friend of the family, a frequent guest in their home and nothing more.

I also discovered with deepening apprehension that there were no FBI agents on this trail that was supposed to be so hot. I returned to Washington satisfied that the FBI story was erroneous and half convinced that it was a deliberate hoax.

Yet I was reluctant to believe ill of Hoover. Like so many others, I wanted to believe there was at least one rock of integrity in Washington. He had, after all, created a miracle — an honest and efficient police force out of what had been in 1924 a corrupt menagerie of drunks, hacks, mistis and courthouse hangers



on. So I kept the jury out on Hoover.

In late 1970 the jury came in, for me. I happened to be on an airplane with the late Rep. Hale Boggs, D-La., then the House Democratic leader. He told me how members of Congress were being intimidated. It not black-mailed by Hoover.

He said that the FBI would

come upon a skeleton in a member's closet — a woman, a vice, a shady business associate — and then get word to him that an accusation against him had reached the FBI and they wanted to alert him so he could be on his guard. From then on, the congressman was likely to be a captive of Hoover's.

For the next few days, I circulated among officials and newsmen who were likely to know something about the dark side of Hoover. I discovered that every last one of them was afraid of Hoover. A check of the newspaper morgues in late 1970 demonstrated the result of Hoover's carrot-and-stick mastery of public relations: decades of laudatory, often idolizing coverage; but no sustained, brass-knuckled, mass circulation attack and few criticisms of any kind.

Because we believed no police official should ever become this powerful in America, we began an investigation of the FBI chief. In a series of columns that ran sporadically from December, 1970, through the fall of 1971, we revealed among other things:

That Hoover had received \$50,000 for books written in his name by FBI personnel on government time; that he had accepted annual free vacations at the Hotel Del Charro near the Del Mar, Calif., racetrack from oil millionaire Clint Murchison, Jr.; that Hoover used the FBI to dig up and circulate dirt about the

private lives of Americans who had no crime; that he pressed men under them lied about it.

We also discovered a man of steel, the delirious-sized bronze bust in the foyer of his reality, even as you with a sweet tooth full of gas pains; a burglar-prone, whose own Christmas been vandalized; man who crouched corner of his bulletin and propped another corner.

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