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BLACK STUDIES RESEARCH SOURCES:

rofilms from Major Archival and Manuscript Collections August Meier and Elliott Rudwick, General Editors

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Martin Luther King, Jr. T

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documents and is an essential source for the study of Dr. King and his now, and it should not be confused with other less comprehensive collec throughout the 1960s. Most of this file has never been published until compiled by headquarters officials at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, details the heavy surveillance and painful harassment that J. Edgar tions of FBI material on King. This file contains hundreds of substantive Hoover's FBI directed against America's foremost civil rights leader The recently released 17,000-page file on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

enabled them to pass along memos detailing King's upcoming political plans to interested superiors, including Attorney General Robert Kennedy and Presidents John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

The copious FBI headquarters file on Dr. King allows the scholar, stuclock surveillance kept FBI executives aware of King's every move and listened in on thousands of his phone conversations. Such round-thenist functionary, Bureau agents closely monitored King's activities and confidants, New York lawyer Stanley Levison, was a long-time Commuof the American Communist Party told the FBI that one of King's closest role in the civil rights movement.

Beginning in 1962, when highly valued informants within the top ranks

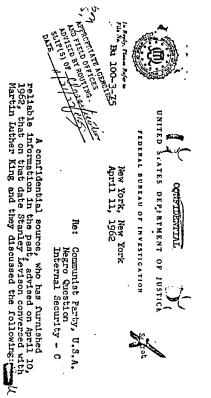
ward to the White House, the Pentagon, and other federal offices. the Bureau's information on King and the civil rights movement flow out expand their blanket-like coverage on King, and as reports summarizing and other cities, as top FBI executives write to each other about ways to blow, as reports flow in from FBI field offices in New York and Atlanta dent, or interested citizen to track the Bureau's pursuit of King blow-by.

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agents of the FBI carefully noted. paper many of the important ideas and concerns that the omnipresent citizens, a man whose hectic life did not allow him the time to put on of King produced an invaluable historical record of the day-to-day development of King's own career and civil rights activities in a way never before possible, for ironically the Bureau's heavy-handed pursuit thoughts and endeavors of one of America's most tamous and important The FBI's declassified documents also allow the reader to follow the

King's hotel rooms by specially skilled teams of Bureau agents. Although a 1977 federal court order sought to limit the after-effects of these outmight harm King's public reputation and destroy his political influence.
One upshot of this virulent antipathy was an extensive—and expenof King even further. Wiretaps were placed on King's own home and of shared by top-ranking Justice Department officials, and in the fall of rageous violations of King's personal privacy by removing from the FBI's means ot surreptitious "bugs" or microphones secretly implanted in sive—FBI effort to listen to and record King's most private moments by fice phones, and hostile FBI officials began plotting ways in which they 1963 Robert Kennedy authorized the Bureau to expand its surveillance FBI worries about King's supposedly dangerous associates came to be



King related that he had a successful visit, ston, D.C. in which he was able to organize

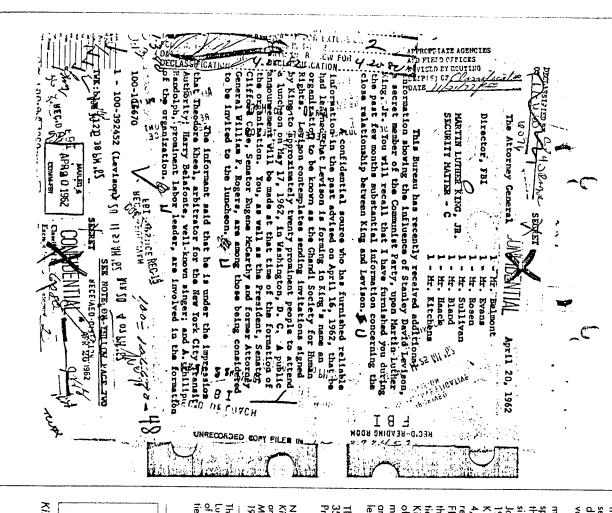
in Washington, D.C. in which he was able to organize a new unit of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and also visited with the Attorney General and the Vice President. King stated that a mass meeting was also held in Washington at which \$3000.00 was raised that would net \$2500.00 after expenses. Icvison commented that was not bad considering it was Washington, D.C. King was convinced that he could have raised \$5000.00 if he had a little more time in have raised \$5000.00 if he had a little more time in organizing the meeting in advance. who is he could

Levison stated that Jack O'Dell (Finter Pitts, O'Dell) and Levison had been discussing the forthcoming concert which would be held in Atlanta for the purpose determine the date for Harry Machted (phonetic) to come down to Atlanta to visit King. It was quested that April 23, 1962 would be an agreeable data. Exist emphasized that he wanted King to invite Vericel to King's home so that Wanted king to invite Vericel to King's home so that Wanted king to that his King lived in a modest dwelling. Levison stated that Harry could be of great assistance in fund raising for King. to come

of raising funds. King and Levison discussed the arrangements which would be necessary to rent the auditorium in Atlanta for this concert. They indicated \mathbb{Z}_2

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files all of the "fruits" of this repugnant electronic surveillance and by sealing these items in the National Archives until 2027, the remaining documents fully detail all of the FBI's efforts against King, while not invading those private matters not appropriate for public review.

and law a crucially important documentary record on one of the central makes available to researchers in history, political science, sociology, of the FBI's file on King and on his role in the civil rights movement leaders and one of the central issues of our time. King throughout the previous decade. Taken as a whole, this publication mation on King's planning of civil rights protests in such Southern hot-spots as Birmingham and Selma, on his tension-ridden 1966 foray into tions of the 1970s that focused on the FBI's distasteful activities against through the Bureau's responses to the many complaints and investiga-FBI's harassment of him, and these sections guide the curious researcher recurring controversies that emerged after King's death concerning the 4, 1968. The final sections of the FBI's comprehensive King file trace the King was cut down by a sniper's bullet in Memphis, Tennessee, on April sion to vocally oppose the Vietnam war policies of President Lyndon the segregated ghettos of Chicago, and on his controversial 1967 deci Johnson. It also maps the planning of King's final great crusade, the 1968 Poor People's Campaign, which was about to get underway when This important research collection supplies invaluable firsthand infor-

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David J. Garrow is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is the author of The FBI and Martin Luther King, Jr.: From "Solo" to Memphis and Protest at Selma: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as well as the forthcoming Bearing the Cross: Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 1955–1968.

This is a collection as indispensable to a comprehensive appreciation of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the civil rights movement as it is crucial to an understanding of the establishment forces by which the movement—and by extension civil liberties in their broadest context—were imperiled.

David Levering Lewis
 Howard University, Author of King: A Biography

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AND BLACK AMERICA NEW DEAL AGENCIES

Edited by John B. Kirby

ceived as often linked to the destiny of Roosevelt's New black Americans whose personal destinies were percial and social protest, and on the lives of average ership, on the development of new expressions of rawas carried over to the civil rights era of the postwar ernment policies on race, politics, and economics and eral government as they were during the New Deal unique understanding of the relationship produced in the critical years of the 1930s and early 1940s between pact on traditional black organizations and black lead years. At the same time, the 1930s had considerable implex interrelationship between the Roosevelt adminis-Deal reform and recovery programs tostered a comyears. From 1933 to the eve of World War It, New rectly tied to certain policies and priorities of the fedblack people's individual and collective needs more di black population. At no time since Reconstruction were tration and Atro-Americans that was reflected in govhe Franklin D. Roosevelt administration and America's New Deal Agencies and Black America provides a

New Dealers, whose commitment to racial justice often varied, were such important black figures as Eugene K. black communities. tuted the major tie between national government and like Bethune, Weaver, and Oxley trequently consti-New Deal more directly to black America. Referred to by some as Roosevelt's "Black Cabinet," individuals and with limited authority as they sought to bring the and other blacks often labored in relative obscurity as "race relations advisors" to the New Deal, these eral Writer's Project. Brought to Washington to serve curity Administration, and Sterling Brown of the Fedpartment of Labor, Joseph H.B. Evans of the Farm Se-U.S. Housing Authority, Lawrence A. Oxley of the De-C. Weaver of the Department of the Interior and the Bethune of the National Youth Administration, Robert Jones of the Department of Commerce, Mary McLeod Aubrey Williams, and others. Involved with the white Frances Perkins, Will A. Alexander, Harry Hopkins, Deal's most prominent spokespersons: Harold L. Ickes, and departments in the 1930s were some of the New pression and the New Deal. Heading federal agencies blacks and, second, black people's response to the deagencies charged with developing and administering government programs. New Deal Agencies and Black economic, social, and political relationships more vividly revealed than in the activities of those federal Roosevelt administration's policies with respect to America is a major source for analyzing, first, the Nowhere is this complicated and intricate web of

eral agencies and departments responsible for shaping ble for the first time the rich resources of the many fedhe vast array of federal departments and agencies of the New Deal-black American relationship. To comb New Deal Agencies and Black America makes availa

> are the personal and official files and correspondence of black and white New Dealers, letters and statements walks of life, who struggled to survive the devastation of depression and racism in the 1930s. Included in the economic conditions, but they also offer equal insight ties of black leaders and organizations, and the hopes and frustrations of both blacks and whites associated black education and arts, rural and agricultural condi-tions, public housing, and black business and politics. black America; and official and unofficial studies and documents of New Deal Agencies and Black America er. Now much of this material has been made accessible within a single collection. Not only do these papers sion decade. with the New Deal reform and recovery in the depres formation on numerous aspects of black life, the activifocus on black employment, racial discrimination, reports—trom tederal, state, and local levels—that written to various agencies from every segment of into the experiences of countless black people, of all Roosevelt administration's response to black racial and shed much light on the policies and attitudes of the take literally months of effort for an individual research countless sub-agencies and separate projects would he 1930s where racial matters are buried often in This collection is a rich depository of basic data and in

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invaluable material on black social history. This is a rich repository of primary sources on blacks of several classes and regions. I apploud its publication on microfilm. This collection of material on the members of Franklin Roosevelt's Black Cabinet is part of the recovery of primary sources that is revolutionizing the writing of Afro-American and the Public Housing Administration—but it also provides of impartant agencies—the Civilian Conservation Corps viduals—Mary McLeod Bethune and Robert Weaver—and history. It is valuable not only for the study of famous indi--Nell Irvin Painter

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