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# Files Show FBI Tried to Discredit Critic of Bureau

WASHINGTON — FBI files show the bureau tried to discredit a former agent who wrote a book critical of the bureau's handling of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and its investigation of the slaying of a black man in a Washington, D.C., parking garage.

William Turner, a former FBI agent, wrote the book, "The Bureau's Role in the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," in 1977. The book provided a detailed account of the bureau's handling of the assassination and its investigation of the slaying of a black man in a Washington, D.C., parking garage.

The book was reviewed by the Washington Star, which reported that the bureau had tried to discredit Turner. The review stated that the bureau had provided Turner with a list of names and addresses of people who had written letters to Turner, and that the bureau had tried to get Turner to retract his statements.

There was no indication in the FBI files that the bureau was involved in trying to discredit Turner, and if it was, it was done with the knowledge of the bureau's top officials. Turner, who lives in a small town in Virginia, called the campaign "a waste of taxpayers' money" and "a squandering of investigative resources."

"What it boils down to is they couldn't stand criticism," the 43-year-old former agent said. "They couldn't stand having their act exposed."

Turner, among the first of a series of applicants to write books about the bureau, said he made the FBI last year the target of his criticism for the first time.

FBI agents sign a confidentiality agreement not to divulge information obtained as a result of their work with the bureau, but no exception has been presented for Turner's book.

Files of the FBI's former campaign were released under the Freedom of Information Act.