

N.J. Probes Phony King Write-in

By Jack Anderson

New Jersey authorities are about to open a political Pandora's box that Federal authorities have tried discreetly to keep shut.

This is the case of the phony write-in campaign for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Negro civil rights hero, during the 1964 presidential race. There is evidence it was promoted, in part, by an official of the Republican National Committee in a last-minute effort to divert votes away from President Johnson.

The Justice Department looked at the case a year ago and decided it didn't violate any Federal statute, since Dr. King wasn't a formal candidate for President.

Government attorneys ignored the fact, however, that the write-in campaign was clearly intended to defeat President Johnson, not to elect Dr. King.

More than 1.4 million leaflets were distributed in Negro districts and radio announcements were broadcast in 11 cities, urging Negro voters to cast write-in ballots for Dr. King.

The leaflets were signed by the Committee for Negroes in Government, which also paid



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for the one-minute radio commercials. Some of these viciously attacked the President as anti-Negro and pro-lynching.

Scare Commercial

In one commercial, for example, a piercing scream was heard, then an anguished Negro voice cried: "My boy died because Lyndon Johnson voted against the antilynching law!"

The Committee for Negroes in Government was traced to Louisville, Ky. Its chairman, Thomas Frazier, turned out to be a laborer for the Louisville street repair department. The secretary, Oliver Miles, operated a city incinerator.

Investigation disclosed that Miles had paid \$10,000 in cash to a Chicago advertising firm, Bozell and Jacobs, for the radio announcements.

The man who had ordered the leaflets, however, was Clay Claiborne, who happened to be Director of Minorities for the Republican National Committee. By an interesting coincidence, he also happened to be in Louisville two months before the 1964 election.

Yet President Johnson, who complained bitterly over the scurrilous 1964 campaign tactics, has shied away from taking action. Possible explanation: The case could lead to a grand jury investigation of election irregularities which would be bound to uncover Democratic as well as Republican violations.

Since the leaflets were printed in Atlantic City, however, the State of New Jersey went ahead with its own investigation. Last month, the state indicted Claiborne for failing to identify the origin of the leaflets. He pleaded not guilty and posted \$5000 bond.

The trial, scheduled for Jan. 31 in Atlantic City, could have widespread political repercussions.

1966 Outlook

President Johnson's top advisers have taken a long look at the year ahead and turned in their prognostications. Here are some of the highlights:

The prospects for peace, as they see it, are poor. Ho Chi Minh, the aging leader of North Vietnam, is believed to be willing enough to negotiate. But he is surrounded by young hotheads who believe it would be a betrayal of Communist principles to talk peace.

More peace feelers likely will pass back and forth between Washington and Hanoi, but the White House doesn't expect peace in Vietnam during 1966.

The American commitment in South Vietnam probably will have to be doubled. This will mean higher taxes, bigger draft calls, and active duty for several more Reserve units.

Across the border from Vietnam, Communist China is making belligerent noises and menacing moves. Yet the fact

remains that China is ringed by American bases from Thailand to Japan.

On Okinawa, the Marines are ready with plans for establishing a beachhead on the Chinese mainland in case of a military showdown. Red China is expected to continue roaring like a tiger but staying discreetly in its tank.

On Capitol Hill, Congress will concentrate less on passing new legislation than on investigating legislation already passed. Both Congress and the President will study reports on civil rights violence to determine what must be done to discourage race riots and protect civil rights workers.

Both Congress and the President will also review foreign aid with a critical eye. They probably will slash funds for countries that continue to insult and abuse the United States.

The next attempted Communist takeover is expected in Guatemala. Communist guerrillas, led by a half-Chinese, Marco Antonio Yon Sosa, are terrorizing the countryside.

If the outlook seems gloomy, the President's advisers also foresee spectacular progress in space, science and medicine for the ultimate good of mankind.

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Jack Anderson, substituting for Drew Pearson, will discuss prospects of military involvement with Red China, over Radio WTOP tonight at 6:40.