

Since '30s Is Outlined

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Testimony that American Presidents going back to the administration of Franklin D. Roosevelt misused the FBI for political purposes was presented yesterday by the Senate intelligence committee.

Through the years, the new documentation showed, the targets have been journalists, dissenting politicians, civil rights leaders and organizations opposed to prevailing national policy.

President Johnson, a staff report disclosed, requested FBI "name checks" on seven journalists, including NBC commentator David Brinkley, Associated Press correspondent Peter Arnett and syndicated columnist Joseph Kraft.

The Johnson-era FBI inquiries occurred at the height of the Vietnam war but the specific time was not disclosed. Names of the other journalists involved were withheld at their request or because they could not be reached to approve their public identification.

When John F. Kennedy was in the White House, the investigation further revealed, then-Attorney-General Robert F. Kennedy authorized an FBI investigation of a Newsweek magazine correspondent in connection with a leak of classified information. The following year Robert Kennedy authorized wiretaps on the telephone of New York Times military correspondent Hanson Baldwin and his secretary for a month, according to the staff report.

Cartha D. DeLoach, a top aide and confidant to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, testified that a White House official told him President Johnson had become convinced the Kennedy assassination was a plot and that the CIA was implicated.

Former White House aide Marvin Watson, DeLoach said, "called me and told me President Johnson called him and said he was now convinced there was a plot in the assassination." In response, the FBI provided information on the CIA's efforts to recruit Robert Maheu, then working for millionaire Howard Hughes, and gangster Sam Giancana in plans to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The committee produced for the first time documents showing written authorizations of Robert Kennedy and his successor, Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, for the wiretapping and bugging of murdered civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

Katzenbach, a witness at yesterday's session, acknowledged that he may have authorized the bugging of King's rooms in New York

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on three separate occasions in 1965 but that he had no recollection of the incident.

Documents produced by the committee showed that King was bugged in hotels and motels in Washington, Milwaukee, Honolulu, Los Angeles, Detroit, Sacramento, Savannah and New York between January, 1964, and November, 1965.

Wiretaps were installed between October, 1963, and June, 1966, at his home in Atlanta and offices of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which he headed, in Atlanta and New York as well as hotels in Atlantic City, in Los Angeles, and a temporary residence he established in New York in August and September 1964.

The longest wiretap of two years and nine months was installed in the SCLC office in Atlanta.

When asked about his signature on the FBI authorization to bug King's hotel room, Katzenbach replied with puzzlement that he did not recollect signing the memos.

"Are you suggesting that what appear to be your initials on the documents are forgeries?" asked minority counsel Curtis R. Smothers.

"If they are my initials, I am clearly mistaken in this recollection," Katzenbach replied. "I have no doubt in my mind that I would remember if I had approved...I find it difficult to conceive the memo would have been initialed and seen by me. I would have considered it (the bugging of King's room) improper...it would have been a violation of my instructions."

The bugging authorization memos, classified secret and signed by Hoover, said that the FBI's investigations of "the Communist influence in racial matters" linked King to "individuals with subversive backgrounds."

Katzenbach testified that the FBI investigation had demonstrated no significant Communist influence on King or his organization.

The wiretap authorizations signed by Robert Kennedy were also drafted by Hoover and cited the "possible Communist influence in the racial situation."

Katzenbach said he could not recall the circumstances of a note he wrote on Dec. 10, 1965, in his own handwriting cautioning about the sensitivity of certain FBI bugs and the importance of not involving non-bureau personnel. "I recall writing that note," he testified. "I do not

recall the circumstances..."

At the same time the former attorney general gave a ringing endorsement of the FBI's infiltration and disruption programs against the Ku Klux Klan during the early 1960s.

"This committee," he told the Senate panel, "had to understand the difference between the situation in Mississippi in 1964 and the Communist Party and New Left... there was virtually no law in Mississippi."

Also at the request of the Johnson White House the FBI toward the end of the 1964 presidential campaign conducted checks on members of the staff of Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), President Johnson's opponent. The checks were requested by former White House aide Bill Moyers. Another investigation centered on Agnew and Anna Chennault, and possible contacts they may have had with the South Vietnamese government in October, 1968, designed to subvert the Vietnam peace talks.

In the Kennedy administration, the staff recalled the unleashing of FBI agents on steel officials resisting President Kennedy's appeal to hold the price line in April, 1962. The committee had already publicly examined the use of the FBI in the King case as well as the Ku Klux Klan investigation.

No major examples were recalled in the Eisenhower era but the record was replete in the Truman and Roosevelt periods of involvement of the FBI in political investigations.

In the Truman administration, Hoover frequently wrote Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, White House military aide, advising him of such developments as agitation for passage of fair employment practices legislation by a Philadelphia civil action group; a planned visit by an NAACP delegation to present its ideas to the President; a lobbying campaign to make Sen. Robert LaFollette chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and plans by Chicago newspapers to crusade against organized gambling. Truman was himself reportedly disinterested in the Hoover-Vaughan contacts.

During the Roosevelt era, the FBI complied with requests to run name checks, open files and make reports on hundreds of persons who sent telegrams to the President "all more or less in opposition to national defense"—as President Roosevelt's secretary wrote Hoover.