

KING
FBI
JAN 26 1975

Johnson ordered FBI to wiretap Dr. King -- agent

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Johnson ordered the FBI to provide him with wiretapped information on the 1964 Democratic Convention activities of Martin Luther King, then-Attorney General Robert Kennedy and members of Congress, the Washington Post reported today.

The Post quoted an heretofore secret memo of the Senate Watergate Committee based on an interview in 1973, of Leo T. Clark, who in 1964 was FBI agent in charge of Atlantic City, N.J., where the convention was held.

Clark said a special FBI team wiretapped and bugged King's hotel room and a storefront civil rights center and gave the information to Johnson. He said the stated purpose was to provide intelligence on any plans to disrupt the convention.

The FBI team was directed by Cartha DeLoach, then assistant to the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, and the man who told the Post last week that the bureau kept personal information in its files on members of Congress.

The Post said Clark had told the committee: "The information included Kennedy's activities, identities of senators and congressmen visiting King's hotel suite, identities of persons seeking support of civil rights leaders, plans of delegates or delegations and speculation on vice presidential nominees."

At the time, FBI bugging and wiretapping was a criminal offense.

During the convention, which easily nominated Johnson for his first full term, civil rights was a key issue and there was some talk in the convention of nominating Kennedy for vice president.

The Post quoted an FBI source as saying "The

—Turn to Page 11, Col. 2

—From Page 1

purpose was to serve President Johnson's political interest. They picked up any information that concerned Kennedy and what he was up to and whom he was trying to line up support for."

It also quoted FBI spokesman James Murphy as saying the White House asked the FBI to "coordinate the

development of intelligence information concerning the plans of subversive, criminal and hoodlum groups attempting to disrupt" the convention.

Clark said the White House asked DeLoach for special assistance three days before the Aug. 24 convention, partially because "Trouble was expected from the Mississippi and Alabama delegations. . . . One of the

objectives of the FBI would be to infiltrate dissident factions and keep (Johnson aide) Walter Jenkins advised, the interest being to preclude disorders."

According to the memo: "Clark recalls overhearing DeLoach speaking on the telephone to President Johnson and to director Hoover, giving them summary information from the technical surveillance."

FBI Tapped King at
1964 Convention
WXP 26 Jan 75
Ronald Kessler
- filed FBI-II

Any later clippings on
this probably will be
filed FBI-II.