



# FBI on Abernathy

**Jack Anderson**

AT THE REQUEST of the late Dr. Martin Luther King's associates, we investigated the smear charges that the FBI had spread against him. We reported in an earlier column that the stories were grossly inaccurate.

The same associates complained that Dr. King's successor, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, was also kept under intensive FBI surveillance. From secret FBI files, we have confirmed that the G-men have a record of the most intimate details of his life.

★ ★ ★

THEY KNOW everything about him from his finances to his health, including the medications he takes every morning and evening. His FBI file contains a psychological profile, copies of his hotel bills, transcripts of his speeches and even an account of his traffic violations.

One FBI memo, stamped "Confidential," reveals the details of a squabble Abernathy had on Feb. 5, 1970, with his subordinates. Afterward, the memo notes, Abernathy discussed the flare-up with his wife. Their conversation is outlined in detail.

We showed the file to Dr. Abernathy, who readily recalled the conversation with his wife. It had occurred, he said, in the privacy of his bedroom. "They had to be bugging me," Abernathy told our associate, Joe Spear.

At the FBI, a spokesman categorically denied that agents had ever

used electronic surveillance against Abernathy. Several references, including other conversations between Abernathy and his wife, are attributed in the file to "confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past."

It is clear from the file that FBI agents visited the U.S. Passport Office to get his travel schedule and credit bureau offices to find out about his finances.

Under the late J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI was almost paranoid about black leaders. We have had access to other secret dossiers, indexed under "Racial Matters," on such prominent black leaders as the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Roy Wilkins, Bayard Rustin, Floyd McKissick, Roy Innis and Martin Luther King's widow, Coretta.

★ ★ ★

DOSSIERS were also kept on black artists, entertainers and sports figures, ranging from heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali and actor Harry Belafonte to comedian Dick Gregory and singer Eartha Kitt.

This FBI concentration upon prominent blacks has alarmed black congressmen who asked us to testify on Capitol Hill. We brought the evidence, complete with names and details.

Footnote: In fairness, it should be added that the present FBI director, Clarence Kelley, has abandoned his predecessor's bias against blacks and has adopted a balanced racial policy.