

KING

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**Ford Backs
Action on
King Foes**

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President Ford said last night that an effort should be made to identify individuals in the FBI who conducted a campaign of character assassination against the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the slain civil rights leader.

But in his press conference he stopped short of saying that the FBI agents should be thrown out of government or prosecuted for their part in the campaign.

According to the Senate intelligence committee, the campaign against King was organized and led by the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover.

Mr. Ford also said at the televised news conference that there should be a new investigation of the assassination 12 years ago of President Kennedy, but insisted that the new probe be limited to "some new developments, not evidence but developments."

Because he was a member of the Warren Commission, which conducted the original inquiry into the Kennedy assassination, the President all but invited Congress to

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conduct the new probe. He said the new investigation "might better be done by someone other than I appoint."

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) has called for a probe by the Senate's intelligence committee of the Kennedy assassination because of recent disclosures of CIA and FBI cover-ups. He is a member of the intelligence committee.

In agreeing to a limited reopening of an investigation into the Kennedy assassination, Mr. Ford cited the opinion of David W. Belin, a senior member of the Warren Commission staff who said Saturday that a new inquiry would "greatly contribute toward the rebirth of confidence and trust in government."

Mr. Ford stressed that the new inquiry should be limited only to information recently made public about FBI and CIA activities and said all other aspects had been covered by the Warren Commission.

The Warren Commission finding that President Kennedy was killed by a single assassin — Lee Harvey Oswald — has come under increasing attack as new information has been developed by congressional investigations into CIA and FBI activities.

This information includes the destruction by the FBI of a threatening note delivered by Oswald to its Dallas office shortly before the assassination. The Warren Commission was not told of the note.

In addition, Schweiker said that the CIA never told the commission of its plotting to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro. There has been speculation that Castro ordered Kennedy's assassination in retaliation.

"It is just to lay those charges aside that a new investigation ought to be undertaken," Mr. Ford said last night.

"If those particular developments could be fully investigated without reopening the whole matter

which took us 10 months to conclude, I think some responsible group or organization should do so, but not to reopen all the other aspects because I think they were fully covered by the Warren Commission," the President continued.

In July Mr. Ford opposed reopening the investigation into the Kennedy assassination because he said no new evidence had been produced to invalidate the Warren Commission findings.

Regarding the report of FBI attacks on King in order to discredit him as a civil rights leader, President Ford stated, "I certainly condemn those actions which were taken regarding Martin Luther King. I think it is abhorrent to all Americans including myself."

Mr. Ford also firmly reiterated his orders to American intelligence agencies to stay out of the business of plotting the assassinations of foreign leaders.

"I have issued specific

instructions to U.S. intelligence agencies," he said, "that under no circumstances should any agency in this government while I'm President participate in or plan for any assassination of a foreign leader."

"Equally emphatic instructions have gone to any domestic agency of the federal government and-or the CIA or intelligence agency that they should not violate the law involving the right of privacy of any individual in the U.S.," he said.

On Kennedy assassination, see also NYTimes same date - filed WC-R.