

HOOVER ASSAILS WARREN FINDINGS

Says F.B.I. Was Criticized
Unfairly on Oswald Check
—Calls Dr. King a 'Liar'

By BEN A. FRANKLIN

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18—J. Edgar Hoover charged today that the Warren commission report on the assassination of President Kennedy had unfairly criticized the Federal Bureau of Investigation for not notifying the Secret Service that Lee Harvey Oswald was in Dallas.

In a wide-ranging, three-hour interview, the director of the bureau leveled sharp criticism at the commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren. He accused the panel of "taking out of context the testimony of certain witnesses."

"It is not a fair report, as far as the F.B.I. is concerned," he declared. "It is a classic example of Monday morning quarterbacking."

Mr. Hoover also charged that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was "the most notorious liar in the country" for saying that F.B.I. agents in Georgia had failed to act on Negroes' civil rights complaints because the agents were Southerners.

The Warren Commission recommended closer communication between the F.B.I. and the Secret Service and urged tighter Presidential security arrangements. Mr. Hoover said that, as a result, the bureau was now sending the names of thousands of persons to the Secret Service.

He said that the Warren Commission report had "almost charged the F. B. I. with the obligation of psychiatrists."

In his attack on Dr. King, Mr. Hoover was reported to have said: "The truth is that 70 per cent of the agents in the South were born in the North and four out of five agents in the Albany, Ga., office are Northerners."

The four Northern agents in the Albany office were born in Kingston, N. Y.; Auburn, Ind.; Arlington, Mass., and St. Peter, Minn., "and Mr. King knew it," an F.B.I. spokesman said.

Tried to Reach Dr. King

The spokesman readily confirmed that the statements attributed to Mr. Hoover were accurate. Miss Caryl Rivers, a correspondent here for El Mundo of San Juan, P. R., reported the substance of the interview late today.

An F.B.I. spokesman commented that Mr. Hoover "had had these things on his chest for a long time and felt this was as good a time as any to say something."

The director reportedly told the newswomen that he had tried to reach Dr. King to "clear up the matter" but that the Negro leader had not responded to telephone calls.

Dr. King, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, won the Nobel Peace Prize this year for his leadership of the nonviolent Negro protest movement in the United States.

According to Miss Rivers's report, later confirmed by the F.B.I., Mr. Hoover strongly contended in the interview that Dr. King had distorted the facts about the activities of F.B.I. agents in the South.

Denounces Sheriffs

The director told the group that Dr. King had advised civil rights workers in the South not to report acts of violence and other incidents to the bureau because the agents were all Southerners and would not act on them.

Mr. Hoover's wrath fell with, for him, unusual frankness on both sides in the civil rights struggle.

It was the third public controversy in which the usually taciturn F.B.I. chief had become involved in recent weeks.

On Oct. 2, Mr. Hoover made available to The Washington Evening Star parts of his secret testimony before the Warren commission. His testimony revealed his disagreement with the commission over its proposals to tighten protection of the President.

Sent Jenkins Flowers

"I don't think you can get absolute security without almost establishing a police state," he said. His testimony has yet to be released by the Warren commission.

On Oct. 15, Mr. Hoover sent flowers and a sympathy card to the hospital room of Walter W. Jenkins, former special assistant to President Johnson, who resigned Oct. 14 after the disclosure of his two arrests on morals charges.

This gesture brought some of the harshest criticism of Mr. Hoover's 40-year career from some of his staunchest admirers among conservative groups. The bureau was subsequently ordered to investigate the Jenkins case, and the critics accused Mr. Hoover of a "blunder."

Mr. Hoover, who will be 70 years old Jan. 1, would ordinarily have to retire on his birthday. However, President Johnson has been considering a plan to waive the compulsory retirement age in an order permitting Mr. Hoover to remain as director.

Some observers here raised the question whether Mr. Hoover's remarks today might have a bearing on the President's decision concerning his retirement.