

See also this file 18 Nov 64 et seq

8 San Francisco Chronicle Mon., Aug. 10, 1970

Dr. King and FBI-- Magazine's Report

New York

Time magazine says FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover confronted the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964 with some wiretaps revealing Dr. King's alleged extramarital activities, and Dr. King later toned down his criticism of the FBI.

An issue of the magazine released yesterday gives Time's version of the 1964 Hoover-King meeting in an article discussing a new book about Dr. King by novelist John Williams.

In his book, "The King God Didn't Save," Williams says the FBI started tapping Dr. King's telephone and bugging his hotel rooms in 1963.

SEX

Time says Williams reports that the surveillance uncovered no subversion but "did turn up an astonishing amount of information about King's extensive and vigorous sexual activities."

Time says "most newspapers ignored the rumors and leaks to them of King's extramarital activities, but their existence undermined King's effectiveness just the same."

"The effect," says Williams, "was one of slow political assassination. King was spared it only by the bullet of James Earl Ray," Time said.

Ray pleaded guilty to killing Dr. King in 1968.

MEETING

In presenting its version of the Hoover-King meeting, Time said: "Williams has the correct outline of the FBI tape story. What he does not have is precisely what happened at the celebrated meeting between FBI Director Hoover and King in 1964.

"Hoover, Time learned, explained to King just what damaging private detail he had on the tapes and lectured him that his morals should be those befitting a Nobel Prize winner. He also suggested that King should tone down his criticism of the FBI. King took the advice. His decline in black esteem followed, a decline scathingly narrated by Williams."

The magazine says Williams argues in his book that "white power" plot to manipulate and ultimately destroy late and ultimately destroy him.

Associated Press

Tues., Aug. 11, 1970 ☆ San Francisco Chronicle 7

Coretta King Denies Magazine Report

Atlanta

Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday denied the truth of a Time magazine article that said her late husband toned down criticism of the FBI only after J. Edgar Hoover confronted him with wiretappings that revealed extra-marital activities.

"The conversations between my husband and Mr. Hoover, which he related to me, do not correspond at all to the Time magazine report," Mrs. King said in a prepared statement.

"The love, concern and devotion which Martin expressed toward me and the

children are our most precious and treasured memories.

Time magazine said that in a 1964 meeting — some four years before Dr. King's death from an assassin's bullet — Hoover told Dr. King of the wiretaps and "lectured him that his morals should be those befitting a Nobel prize winner."

Hoover then reportedly asked Dr. King to tone down his criticism of the FBI, which Time said Dr. King did and was a resultant factor in Dr. King's popular decline in the eyes of many blacks.

United Press

New Orleans States-Item 11 Aug 70

King Aides, Widow Rap Time Story

NEW YORK (AP) — Three associates of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his widow have taken issue with a Time magazine account of a 1964 meeting between King and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. The three colleagues of the slain civil rights worker branded as "totally false" Time's report that Hoover confronted King with wiretaps revealing King's alleged extramarital activities.

Coretta S. King said in a statement yesterday from Atlanta the Time story "does not correspond" with what her husband told her.

Time, in discussing author John Williams' new book about King, "The King God Didn't Save," said Hoover "lectured" King on his morals and suggested he tone down his criticism of the FBI.

The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; the Rev. Andrew Young and the Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy said in a joint statement yesterday:

"All three of us were present during the entire discussion and at no point did Mr. Hoover lecture Dr. King or even comment on his personal life . . . Time magazine discredits itself in seeking to throw mud on a man admired and loved by millions, black and white. It discredits itself in stooping to sensationalism through fiction and irresponsibility."

In Chicago, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, national director of the SCLC's Operation Breadbasket, charged the FBI with "intentional defamation of character" in making the tapes.