

FBI and Dr. King**Jack Anderson**

THE SENATE Intelligence Committee is investigating allegations that the FBI tried to smear the late Dr. Martin Luther King by spreading stories about his sex life.

Some senators regard this as a classic abuse of police power. It will get special attention, therefore, from the committee.

King won the Nobel Peace prize for his nonviolent crusade to gain equal rights for black Americans. He faced the police dogs and fire hoses of Southern sheriffs without flinching. His cry, "We shall overcome," stirred his people.

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KING'S RHETORIC however, led him into a collision with the late, powerful FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover. This became one of the famous feuds of the 1960s.

Senate investigators are now trying to determine whether Hoover used the FBI to carry on his vendetta against King. They want to know who ordered the snooping and who leaked the sex stories to the press. They are also searching for FBI agents who participated in the actual surveillance of the civil rights leader.

We were the first to reveal on May 24, 1968, that the FBI had tapped King's telephones. He reported

that the wiretaps had divulged information about his alleged love affairs, a subject that was none of the FBI's business.

There is bitter disagreement over who first suggested that the FBI eavesdrop on King. But in October 1963, Hoover obtained some say wrangled — a memorandum from then Attorney General Robert Kennedy authorizing the controversial wiretaps.

The FBI continued its electronic surveillance of King, according to our sources, until his death in April 1968.

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IN OTHER WORDS, the FBI continued listening to Dr. King's most private conversations for nearly five years. Yet during all this time, the FBI picked up no evidence that he had committed a crime or was likely to commit one. J. Edgar Hoover's boys just kept filling up folders with idle gossip and vicious slander about the great Dr. King. His FBI dossier can only be described, therefore, as a blackmail file.

But the blackmail, apparently, didn't work. King's close friend and associate, Representative Walter Fauntroy, (Dem.D.C.), told us the late leader was fully aware of the FBI's surveillance and wasn't the least deterred by it.