

EVANS AND NOVAK

FBI Very Unhappy with Ramsey Clark

WASHINGTON—The FBI is seated unhappily in the Hoover's Federal Bureau of Investigation with Attorney Gen. Ramsey Clark, aggravated by Clark's unwilling public opinion about a quick solution of the Martin Luther King murder.

FBI agents were told that King was the only person that could have been the murderer of Dr. King. This is not justified by the progress of the investigation. On the contrary, some agents complained that what legitimate information the attorney general did let drop risked giving up the killer's trail.

In Justice Department conferences, Mr. Clark justified his contribution to the credibility gap on the grounds that optimistic talk about closing the case "would help morale—that is, down Negro anger in the turbulent days immediately following the murder."

Simultaneously, there is considerable skepticism inside the Justice Department and FBI that the present renewed investigation of black power extremist Stokely Carmichael will result in any action.

FBI agents are making detailed probes into Carmichael's role in fomenting the Washington, D.C., riots of April 4-6 following King's death, but will never push for a Carmichael prosecution. The Justice Department staff overwhelmingly recommended a year ago that the government seek an indictment of Carmichael, but the attorney general vetoed the advice on grounds that it would only make him a martyr.

The latest secret mission by Al Barkan, organized labor's top political action agent, to stop Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's

drive for the presidential nomination wound up as complete failure.

Mr. Barkan, head of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education, flew from Washington to Indianapolis for a closed-door meeting last Tuesday (April 16) of the Indiana Ab-



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CIO executive board. His mission: To win support for Gov. Roger Branigin, the favorite son candidate, against Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Eugene McCarthy in Indiana's May 7 primary.

Mr. Barkan was supported in this view by the United Steel Workers, powerful in the Gary area—but few other unions. While many Hoosier labor leaders said they would back Vice-President Hubert Humphrey if he were on the ballot, they opposed supporting Gov. Branigin. Against Mr. Barkan and the steel workers were the United Auto Workers, machinists, plumbers, packinghouse workers, the amalgamated clothing workers, oil and chemical workers, teachers and municipal employees.

The result was neutrality by Indiana labor, a victory for Sen. Kennedy—thanks largely to his brother, Sen. Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy, who had spent the previous week urging In-

diana union heads not to commit themselves.

William E. Miller, the former New York Congressman who was Barry Goldwater's running mate in 1964, will be hunting delegates for Gov. Nelson Rockefeller in the South this spring.

As former Republican national chairman, Mr. Miller has plenty of political ties in the conservative South, although lining them up for Gov. Rockefeller will be most difficult.

Mr. Miller's impending travels mark the slow upswing in Gov. Rockefeller's unannounced candidacy for the nomination.

The moderate Republican political pro, Al Abrahams, has been signed on as Washington-based troubleshooter. He'll be making quick swings West, setting up Rockefeller-for-president state and local campaigns. Some Rockefeller strategists want Mr. Abrahams to work into a key political intelligence job for the governor as the pipeline between Washington and the New York-based Rockefeller staff.

Abrahams has excellent credentials for the job. He served as executive director of Republicans for progress, a post-Goldwater organization that provided financing and research help for moderate-to-liberal Republican candidates.

Gov. Rockefeller's personal top-level research will be handled by New York attorney Oscar Rubhausen. The highly respected Richard Nathan, on leave from the Brookings Institution, will be chief of domestic affairs and Henry A. Kissinger of Harvard will handle foreign affairs.

Gov. Rockefeller's Washington headquarters will be opened this week on Connecticut ave.—but without the usual political fanfare and flag-waving.

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Claims King's Killer Payoff Set in Orleans

New Orleans was the payoff point for a man hired to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Time Magazine said in a story appearing in this week's issue of the magazine.

The magazine said a Memphis man overheard a Memphis businessman "giving an unknown trigger man urgent orders to kill King on the balcony of his motel, and even specifying the price for the job (\$5,000) and the pickup point for his fee (New Orleans)."

THE FBI in Washington had no comment on the report.

District Attorney Jim Garrison was out of town and unavailable for comment. Assistant DA James L. Alcock said he had no knowledge that the office was investigating any such report.

Time said the witness told the magazine and later the FBI of having overheard the conversation.

The conversation tended to support a theory that the plot was a "made-in-Memphis undertaking" according to Time.

The magazine also said that "according to several current theories, the death of King was plotted about three months ago in Memphis."

At least one Memphis man reported seeing a man roughly matching the description of James Earl Ray, the suspect named by the FBI, in Memphis last fall.

King was killed April 4 in Memphis by a sniper.