

Black Leader Honored Here

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Rustin Assails FBI 'Snooping'

By RAY LINCOLN

Black leader Bayard Rustin charged here today that FBI surveillance of him and other prominent blacks is part of an "atrocious situation" involving government snooping on "millions of Americans."

Rustin, interviewed with other civil rights figures who were honored at the Amistad Research Center's biennial banquet at the Royal Orleans Hotel, said this has "become a peeping society, and it ought to be protested."

Besides Rustin, executive director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the research center based at Dillard University honored Kivie Kaplan, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Charles H. Wesley, executive director

of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History.

IN ADDITION, former Dillard president Dr. Albert W. Dent and Dr. Hollis F. Price, former president of LeMoyne Owen College, Memphis, Tenn., were presented the Amistad Medallion for representing the ideals of the American Missionary Association, which sponsors the Amistad Awards.

Rustin said snooping is a bigger problem today than ever, not because of any change in government policy, but because technology has increased the effectiveness of surveillance devices. It now requires "a much more vigorous fight" to combat such invasions of privacy, he said.

In a story carried in yesterday's States-Item, columnist Jack Anderson said Rustin and other black leaders

have been victims of a one-sided campaign of "systematic surveillance" by the FBI.

Asked about the column, Rustin said it would be a mistake to believe such surveillance is limited to blacks. Millions of Americans, black and white, are targets for FBI snooping, he said.

RUSTIN SAID the death of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover should not obscure what he called his "antidemocratic" philosophy.

Kaplan said the problems of American blacks are primarily economic, and predicted, "We won't have any rest in this country" until black earning power is more equal to that of whites.

"I hope the white power structure will realize this," he said.

Wesley said he is primarily interested in the "spread of truth and information about black people."

He said the attitude that black people are "not only different but inferior (to whites) goes farther in creating and continuing the development of racism" than anything else.

Wesley said there is a need for blacks to look to their African heritage the same way as white Americans honor their European origins.

RUSTIN NOTED an "ambivalence" in recent civil rights developments in that there has been "more progress in the United States in the last 10 years than anywhere in the world in regard to social change" but this has "put us into deeper problems because the aspirations of black people have far out-reached the progress."

He said if the economic disparity between whites and blacks is to be narrowed, it will be accomplished not by "psychological gimmicks" but by the ballot box. "I am more interested in the redistribution of wealth than in the problem of racism," he said.

Dr. C. Vann Woodward, Yale University historian and an expert on Southern race relations, was the principal speaker at today's awards banquet.