

DEC 4 1975

The record of the late director of the FBI is at last coming into public view in odious detail. A headline reads, "The late Mr. Hoover, once revered, now seems sinister." Only now is he seen in his true dimensions, not as fearless crimebuster and upholder of laws, but as a contemptible bully, a bad administrator, an inefficient spyswatter, and a confirmed bigot.

If the director were alive, a congressional committee would surely be probing into the sordid and illegal antics he engaged in against thousands of American citizens. Congress would not stop at Hoover's relentless persecution of Martin Luther King, with its invitation to suicide and similar episodes that have turned up while they were looking for something else.

The director seldom hesitated to use illegal means in going after those he disliked, or whom he considered to have wrong ideas or to be of the wrong color or religion. In trying in underhanded ways to kill the reputation of Dr. King, the director succeeded in killing his own.

President Ford last week characterized the FBI persecution of Dr. King as abhorrent, but he did not carry his displeasure to the appropriate conclusion. Since the President failed to do so, I suggest to the Congress that they decide on some other name for the new \$126-million FBI building in Washington. Mr. Hoover's tawdry record, now more embarrassing even to his admirers, forfeits his claim to any such honor. The new structure cer-



tainly should not bear the name of a man, who cared little about the Constitution and laws of the nation, and who never hesitated to bring his enormous power, legal and illegal, down on those he hated.

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