

# 'Martin Luther King

## a Liar'

# FBI CHIEF'S BLAST

## King Lies, Says FBI's Hoover

### Defends Agents In Georgia

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said yesterday that Martin Luther King Jr. was "the most notorious liar in the country" for claiming that FBI agents in Albany, Ga., would take no action on civil rights complaints because they were southerners.

Caryl Rivers, Washington correspondent of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, newspaper *El Mundo*, reported

that Hoover made the statement in a group interview with some 20 women reporters who meet periodically with Washington officials.

United Press International confirmed independently that the FBI director was quoted accurately. One source said Hoover "had had these things on his chest for a long time and felt this was as good a time as any to say something."

#### STRONG ISSUE

Miss Rivers said Hoover took strong issue with King, who recently won the Nobel Peace Prize, on grounds that the Negro civil rights leader distorted the facts about FBI activities in the South.

The FBI chief said King had told civil rights workers not to report acts of violence to the FBI office in Albany because the agents there were all southerners and would do nothing about the complaints.

"The truth is," Hoover said, "that 70 percent of the agents in the South were born in the North and four out of

the five agents in the Albany, Ga., office are northerners," born in Kingston, N.Y.; Auburn, Ind.; Arlington, Mass.; and St. Peter, Minn.

Hoover said he had attempted to confer with King to "clear up" the matter but King had not responded.

#### ALL THE SAME

The FBI director also told the women reporters that agents sometimes find, in their investigations of civil rights cases in the swamp country of Mississippi, that the area is filled with "nothing but water moccasins, rattlesnakes and red-necked sheriffs, and they are all in the same category as far as I am concerned."

Hoover said the FBI and the Mississippi State Highway patrol co-operated well in the investigation of last June's murder of three young civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss., although the case is still unsolved. But Hoover charged that in some areas sheriffs and deputies themselves in racial violence.

Hoover also discussed a recent case in McComb, Miss., in which nine white men pleaded guilty of bombing Negro home and churches but were given suspended sentences because of their youth. "I don't know when that was a scandalous thing to do."

The veteran law officer attributed most of the racial violence in the south to the Ku Klux Klan. He said his agents had infiltrated the Klan but that the FBI could not insure complete protection of civil rights workers in the south because "We're a fact-finding agency. We can't protect anybody, black or white. We can't wet nurse everybody who goes down south."

#### WARREN REPORT

Hoover also renewed his objections to the portion of the Warren Commission report which dealt critically with both the FBI and the Secret Service in connection with the assassination of the late President Kennedy.

He said the report was "not fair as far as the FBI is concerned" and was "a classic example of Monday morning quarterbacking." He also called the Secret Service "hopelessly undermanned and ill equipped to do the job it is supposed to do."

On another aspect of the assassination, Dover commented:

"I think strong laws should be passed restricting the sale of guns. But when you try, you run head on into collision with the National Rifle Association."

Hoover also touched on the high crime rate and juvenile delinquency in the Nation. He said:

"Some of our bleeding heart judges ought to have more guts when it comes to handing out sentences. I'm in violent disagreement with the bleeding hearts who want to move the age for juvenile delinquency up to 21. I think it should be moved back to 16."