

SF Exam Nov. 20 1964

Appeaser of South, King Calls Hoover

Cites Warren Report

By The Associated Press and
United Press International

BIMINI (Bahamas) —

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said yesterday that the FBI, under the direction of J. Edgar Hoover, is "following the path of appeasement, in the South."

The Negro integration leader, smarting under criticism by Hoover, also said the FBI chief seemed to be "faltering under the heavy burden and the criticisms of his office."

Six prominent Negro spokesmen, at a meeting with President Johnson, sided with King.

King's comments came in reply to Hoover's statement Wednesday that King "is the most notorious liar in the country."

The FBI, King said, "is following the path of appeasement of political powers in the South. If this continues, the reign of terror in Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia will increase rather than subside."

King, who came to this tiny Bahamian island to write his speech accepting the Nobel Peace prize, said he was certain Hoover "would not have made such a vicious accusation without being under extreme pressure." King added:

"This pressure has come on the racial front and from the Warren report raising serious questions about the effectiveness of the FBI."

King also fired off a telegram to the FBI chief yesterday, charging him with making an irresponsible accusation and "maligning my integrity."

Six other Negro leaders told the President yesterday they share King's views that the FBI has not provided protection for Negroes in the South.

Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the Negro leaders expressed themselves incidentally about King and the FBI during an hour-long meeting with Johnson in Washington. He said Johnson "simply listened and gave no comment and no opinion."

Accompanying Wilkins were Jack Greenberg, NAACP lawyer; Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Whitney Young of the Urban League; Dorothy Haight, president of the Nation's Council of Negro Women, and James Farmer, head of the Congress of Racial Equality.

King directs the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Hoover, in a news conference Wednesday said King had advised Negroes not to report civil rights violations to the FBI office in Albany, Ga., because the staff members were Southerners.

The FBI chief said King also refused to make an appointment with him to receive proof that four of the five Albany agents were born in the North.

'NOTHING DONE'

King said yesterday he had searched his mail and telephone records in vain for any

such request to meet with Hoover.

"I never advised Negroes in Albany not to report to the FBI," King said. "On the contrary, we reported every incident. But we were dismayed by the fact that nothing was ever done."

"The fact that no arrests have been made in the brutalities at Albany, the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi and the bombing of a church in Birmingham, Ala., has left us all discouraged."

"This has encouraged individuals on the lunatic fringe to feel that they are aided and abetted by Federal agents."

"You can't explain to a Negro why a plane can be bombed and its pieces scattered for miles and the crime can be solved, but they can't find out who bombed a church (in Birmingham)."

'PYGMY'

Young said yesterday that Hoover's remarks were "extremely unfortunate," adding that "it is obvious an effective job is not being done to insure the full citizenship rights of Negro citizens" in Mississippi.

Hoover, however, says it is not the job of the FBI to provide protection.

Bayard Rustin, leader of last year's march on Washington, called Hoover a "pygmy, both intellectually and morally, compared with Dr. King."

"Some of our people feel if you tell the FBI today, the sheriff will know tomorrow," said James Bond of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. "If I were in southwest Mississippi with a list of Negro voters and the FBI asked to see it, I would refuse."

"FBI agents inevitably work with local law enforcement officers," King said. "This makes it difficult for them to function effectively in cases where the rights and safety of Negro citizens are being threatened by these same enforcement officers."