

E(450)

AMS BUDGET

NIGHT LEAD CIVIL RIGHTS

BY JOSEPH E. MOHBAT

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)—MONTHS OF STUBBORN INVESTIGATION HAS CONVINCED THE FBI IT CAN NAME THE KILLERS IN TWO OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS CRIMES SPAWNED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, AN FBI SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY.

BUT KNOWING WHO THE CULPRITS ARE AND PROSECUTING THEM IN COURT ARE DIFFERENT MATTERS.

THUS THE FBI STILL IS TRYING TO AMASS ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO PROSECUTE--BEFORE A JURY OF THEIR NEIGHBORS--THE MEN SUSPECTED OF KILLING THREE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS IN MISSISSIPPI LAST JUNE. AND IT IS CONTINUING "THE MOST INTENSIVE TYPE OF INVESTIGATION" INTO THE SEPTEMBER 1962 BOMBING OF A BIRMINGHAM, ALA., CHURCH, IN WHICH FOUR LITTLE NEGRO GIRLS PERISHED, AND 23 PERSONS WERE INJURED.

THE OFFICIAL DISCLOSURES FROM FBI HEADQUARTERS THAT AGENTS HAVE IDENTIFIED THEIR MEN WERE MADE AS THE SPOKESMEN DENIED CHARGES BY THE REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., THAT THE FBI WAS LAX IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE SOUTH.

IN RESPONSE TO INQUIRIES THE SPOKESMAN DETAILED FBI ACTIVITY IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS FIELD. REFERRING TO THE JUNE 21 MURDER OF ANDREW GOODMAN, JAMES CHANEY, AND MICHAEL SCHWERNER NEAR PHILADELPHIA, MISS., HE SAID:

EA72WX

"THE FBI LAUNCHED A MASSIVE INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE THREE CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS, LOCATED THEIR BODIES IN AN EARTHEN DAM AND HAVE DEVELOPED INFORMATION IDENTIFYING THOSE RESPONSIBLE. INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING TO DEVELOP THE CASE FOR PROSECUTION AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE."

THE SPOKESMAN SAID FBI PROGRESS ON THE BIRMINGHAM BOMBING CASE WAS PREJUDICED BY PREMATURE ARRESTS BY THE ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL.

IN A RARE NEWS CONFERENCE LAST WEEK, FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, 69, CALLED NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER KING "THE MOST NOTORIOUS LIAR IN THE COUNTRY." HE SAID THE NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER HAD CHARGED THAT FBI AGENTS WERE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC IN CIVIL RIGHTS CASES AROUND ALBANY, GA., BECAUSE THE AGENTS THEMSELVES WERE SOUTHERN WHITE MEN. IN FACT, HOOVER SAID, FOUR OF THE FIVE AGENTS IN ALBANY AT THE TIME WERE FROM THE NORTH.

KING PROTESTED THE NEWS CONFERENCE OUTBURST IN A TELEGRAM TO HOOVER LAST THURSDAY. HE SAID THE FBI HAD FAILED TO MAKE A SINGLE ARREST IN ALBANY DESPITE BRUTALITIES AGAINST DEMONSTRATING NEGROES IN THE SUMMER OF 1962.

THE FBI SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY AGENTS INVESTIGATED "NUMEROUS ALLEGATIONS OF CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS," BUT ITS PARENT AGENCY, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, "DID NOT SEE FIT TO PROSECUTE ANY OF THE INCIDENTS ARISING OUT OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS."

EA73WK

THE SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED THAT THE FBI'S ROLE IS STRICTLY INVESTIGATIVE. IT CANNOT, HE SAID, OFFER PROTECTION OR INITIATE PROSECUTIONS.

IN DEFENDING THE AGENCY'S CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD, THE SPOKESMAN POINTED TO SEVERAL ARRESTS IN MISSISSIPPI AND GEORGIA IN CONNECTION WITH CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS.

WE455PESZ