

HOOVER AND THE LATE DR. KING

by Royce Brier

..... As quoted by Associated Press, "Hoover, Time [Magazine] learned, explained to King just what damaging private detail he had on the tapes, and lectured him that his morals should be those befitting a Nobel Prize winner. He also suggested that King should tone down his criticism of the FBI. King took the advice," resulting in a "decline of black esteem" (for King).

If this meeting occurred, and if it followed the course indicated, then Mr. Hoover should fill us in. Neither he, nor any citizen, can define the "morals" of a Nobel Prize winner, which hardly fit into the FBI code of community behavior, nor justify pious exhortation in any circumstance.

But still more must Mr. Hoover explain the charge that he used official information obtained in an FBI investigation to coerce Dr. King to moderate his criticism of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No court in the land would permit use of such irrelevant evidence against anyone accused of a federal offense.

This is one of the most disturbing news stories of our time. Neither Mr. Hoover nor the people who employ him can afford to let it stand unresolved, as it now stands.

(Original filed King.)