

FBI Chief Calls Martin Luther King 'The Most Notorious Liar in Country'

By United Press International
WASHINGTON.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said yesterday that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King jr. was "the most notorious liar in the country" for claiming FBI agents in Albany, Ga., would take no action on civil rights complaints because they are Southerners.

Caryl Rivers, Washington correspondent of the San Juan, Puerto Rico, newspaper El Mundo, reported that Mr. Hoover made the statement in a group interview with 20 women reporters who arranged periodic meetings with Washington officials.

UPI confirmed independently that the FBI director was quoted accurately. One source said Mr. 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."

Miss Rivers said Mr. Hoover took strong issue with Dr. King on the ground that the Nobel Prize winner and Negro civil rights leader distorted the facts about FBI activities in the South.

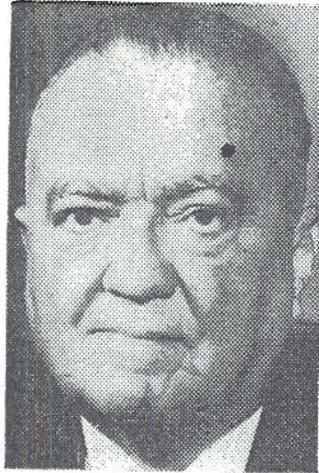
The FBI chief said Dr. King had told members of his organization not to report acts of violence to the FBI office in Albany because the agents there were all Southerners and would do nothing about the complaints.

"The truth is," Mr. Hoover said, "that 70 per cent 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."

The four Northern agents at Albany, the FBI said, were born at Kingston, N. Y.; Auburn, Ind.; Arlington, Mass., and St. Peter, Minn.

Mr. Hoover said he had attempted to confer with Dr. King to "clear up" the matter, but the Negro leader had not responded.

The FBI director also told the women reporters that agents sometimes find in their



J. Edgar Hoover



Dr. Martin Luther King

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."

Mr. Hoover observed that the FBI and the Mississippi State Highway Patrol co-operated well in the investigation of the still-unsolved murder of three young civil rights workers near Philadelphia, Miss., this summer.

But he also charged that in some areas sheriffs and deputy sheriffs themselves participated in racial violence.

He also discussed a recent case in McComb, Miss., in which nine white men pleaded guilty to bombing Negro homes and churches but were given suspended sentences.

"They ranged in age from 30 to 44, and the judge gave them suspended sentences because of their youth," he commented. "I don't know when youth ends. That was a scandalous thing to do."

He attributed most of the racial violence in the South to the Ku Klux Klan.

He said his agents had infiltrated the Klan but that his agency could not insure complete protection of civil rights workers in the South. He put it this way: "We're a fact-finding agency. We can't protect anybody, black or white. We can't wet nurse

everybody who goes down South."

Mr. Hoover renewed his objections to the portion of the Warren Commission report that dealt critically with both the FBI and the Secret Service in connection with the assassination of 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 said the Secret Service was "hopelessly undermanned and ill-equipped to do the job it is supposed to do."