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—Schlegel

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DID FBI PLAY ROLE IN DEATH OF MARTIN L. KING?

by Sherwood Ross

QUESTION
MUST NOW BE
ASKED—

The disclosure that the FBI sent a letter to The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. urging him to commit suicide is another fresh proof of how the Federal government is becoming the greatest menace to the life and liberties of the American people.

From the FBI to the IRS, and from the CIA to the Pentagon, agency after agency of the Federal government is committing acts of illegality and wrong-doing that are worthy of a totalitarian society.

In the case of Dr. King, since it now appears incontrovertible that the FBI urged him to kill himself, the question must now be asked whether the FBI played any role in his murder in Memphis in 1968. Far-fetched, you say? If Dr. King had taken his life at the instigation of the vicious letter mailed to him by the FBI, the FBI, at the least, would have been an accomplice in the killing. And the Bureau certainly tried. As Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) said, "That was certainly no Christmas card."

Moreover, the FBI's letter was not an isolated incident. It committed 25 separate acts of harassment, all of them illegal, in its systematic campaign to bring Dr. King down. When these acts failed, Dr. King was mysteriously murdered. Moreover, the FBI considered planting stories that Dr. King was patronizing a white-owned hotel in Memphis. Such stories, conceivably, might have influenced Dr. King to stop at the popular black-owned Lorraine Hotel, where he was in fact murdered by a sniper's bullet for the high crime of stepping out on his balcony.

Not only did the late J. Edgar Hoover hate the popular civil rights leader, but under Hoover the FBI waged a war of disruption and incitement to violence against a number of black protest groups, including Chicago's Blackstone Rangers and Jersey City's Black Panthers. The FBI also—despite advance warnings that James Meredith was going to be shot on June 6, 1966, in Mississippi—failed to guard him to prevent the shooting even though its agents were just five minutes

from the scene.

The FBI crusade against Dr. King, using tactics of deceit and treachery that would have done justice to the Russian secret police, brings to mind other examples of FBI wrong-doing. (Exhibit No. 1) was the FBI's failure to notify the Warren Commission that alleged assassin Lee Harvey Oswald had been, at the least, contacted by an FBI agent shortly before President Kennedy's murder, and was perhaps a paid FBI informant. (Exhibit No. 2) was the FBI's efforts to make Blackstone Ranger chief Jeff Fort think members of his own party were attempting to kill him. The FBI apparently hoped that Fort might stroke first.

It's time for the American people to ask some hard questions:

What role did the FBI play in the murder of Dr. King? Why wasn't he protected by the government, instead of harassed?

What is the true role of the FBI in the murder of President Kennedy?

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KING

Holshouser Gets Petitions Urging End To Death Row In N. C.

LILLINGTON — During a People's Tour, Governor James Holshouser received the hundreds of petitions urging commutation of the Death Sentences of all persons now on Death Row in Raleigh from members of the Task Force on Criminal Justice, Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Durham. The petition has been circulated throughout the state through religious, civil rights and campus grounds and has been signed by about 13,000 persons.

Governor Holshouser in receiving the petitions spoke to the group of his past record of opposition to the Death Penalty when he was a member of the N. C. State legislature. He noted again that he feels compelled by the pending U. S. Supreme Court action regarding the

Capital Punishment Case of Fowler to not act as Governor in this area, at this time.

Persons speaking for the Task Force pointed out that the major religious denominations of the state such as the Baptist State Convention, the Methodists and the Episcopalians have publicly stated their opposition to Capital Punishment. They also noted that Death Row inmates, by and large, represent the poorest and least powerful members of society.

Holshouser indicated that while he wished to listen to the group, he also was hearing from the many proponents of the Death Penalty. Task Force members replied that sometimes a public official had to act from conscience rather than public

One Task Force member expressed concern over the power which the governor has over the life of another person. She said, "This is a terrible burden on anyone, to have the life of another person in one's hands." The governor agreed, stating that he will have to live with his decision for the rest of his life, no matter what that decision was. But, he concluded, he hoped that he would not have to be put in the position in the months to come where he would have to respond to this issue.

The members of the Task Force indicated, at the end of the interview, THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE WORKING in opposition to the Death Penalty in the months to come.

Contact Durham - 488-9817 for further information.



FIRST DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL ISSUES CONVENTION — LOUISVILLE, KY. (L-R): Sen. Philip Hart, Congresswoman Barbara Jordan; Keith Holler, convention director; Leonard Woodcock, president of United Auto Workers; and Joseph Duffey, planning chairman sit on panel answering reporters questions as the first Democratic National Issues Convention got underway. (UPI)

JOINT CENTER—

Calls November Election Disastrous For Black Candidates

WASHINGTON — The showing by black candidates in this fall's municipal office elections, especially the November 4 races, can be summed up in one word, "disastrous," according to a statement released here today by the Joint Center for Political Studies.

Joint Center President Eddie N. Williams said: "While our preliminary analysis of the November election results shows that there were some minor gains registered by blacks in various state legislatures, these limited successes in no way balanced the losses sustained in municipal, primarily mayoral, elections. We have been pleased to note and report progress made by blacks in previous elections. We must not hesitate to also note and report setbacks. These setbacks saw the ranks of black mayors dwindle from 143 at the start of the Fall elections to 130 when all results were in. There has not yet been time for an in-depth analysis of each election result where black candidates were involved, but it is clear that the mayoral results were disastrous, in the short run, to attempts by blacks to play an active, constructive leadership role in making our cities more

livable and more responsive to the needs of all citizens. We will be examining some of the underlying reasons for the results during the Third National Institute for Black Elected Public Officials to be held December 11-13 in Washington's Sheraton Park Hotel."

The Joint Center statement noted that 20 incumbent black mayors vacated their seats as a result of defeats in primary or general elections or by not running for reelections. Seven of these mayors were replaced by other blacks and 13 were succeeded by whites. Nine of the 20 mayors did not seek reelection; 11 campaigned for reelection and lost. Eight of the 11 lost to white candidates, the remainder to black candidates. Black challengers contested white incumbents in ten mayoral elections in eight states (Alabama, California, Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania). All lost. Nine incumbent black mayors, including three in the South, won reelection.

On the plus side, a survey of five states (Mississippi, New Jersey, Kentucky, Louisiana and Virginia) showed a net gain of two black state legislators. Most

significant in the state legislative category were the three new seats won in Mississippi which now has four black state representatives—the largest number since Reconstruction. In the five states, 20 black incumbent state senators and representatives sought reelection. Seventeen won; two were replaced by other blacks and one yielded to a white challenger.

The upcoming Institute for black elected officials will look at such issues as voter motivation, registration and turnout rates, mass media relations to black politicians, coalition politics and assessments of whether or not black elected officials make a real difference in promoting the economic and social progress of their constituents. Some 1500 black elected officials and invited observers are expected to attend the three-day Institute sessions.

Institute sponsors are the Joint Center for Political Studies, which is also acting as Coordinator; the Congressional Black Caucus; the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association; the National Association of Black County

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TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE

DURHAM CITY SCHOOLS' FIRST ELECTED BOARD SWORN IN

The five members of Durham City Schools' first elected Board of Education were sworn in Monday morning in ceremonies held in the board room of the Fuller School Building.

Alton Knight, clerk of Durham County Superior Court, administered the oath of office to Dr. Theodore R. Speigner, incumbent chairman of the formerly appointed board, Dr. Thomas D. Bass, who has previously served on the board, Mrs. Josephine D. Clement, an incumbent from the appointed board, John D. Leunon, serving his first term, and Harry E. Rodenhizer, an incumbent from the appointed board.

In the past, the Board of Education was appointed by the Durham City Council, but by act of the 1975 General Assembly, the posts became elective.

Under specifications of the act passed by the General Assembly, the five members were elected in a non-partisan election for terms of four years each. All candidates were required by the law to reside within the Durham City Schools District at the time of filing and to remain residents of the district continuously during the term of office.

Members of the board are to receive compensation of \$25 per meeting, not to exceed three meetings per month, and \$0.15 per mile traveling to and from the place of meeting. Dr. Speigner, retired professor and chairman of the

Department of Geography at North Carolina Central University, was appointed to the school board in 1964 and has served continuously since.

In 1970, Dr. Speigner was appointed to the North Carolina Good Neighbor Council by the governor, and also to the North Carolina State Advisory Committee on Public Education by President Richard M. Nixon. He has served on the Governor's Commission on Agriculture Migrants, and the Mayor's Good Neighbor Council.

Dr. Bass, a Doctor of Dental Surgery, is past president of the National Howard University Dental Alumni Association, the Howard Club of Durham, the Durham Academy of Medicine, the City-wide P. T. A. Council and the Old North State Dental Society.

He has been affiliated with the U. S. Army, the U. S. Air Force, the American Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the Old North State Dental Association, the Howard University Alumni Federation Council, and Doric Lodge No. 28-Durham Consistory No. 128. Also, the National School Boards Association, the Education Committee on the Affairs of Black People, the Board of Directors of John Avery Boys Club, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, the policy-making board of Operation Head Start, the Durham City Board of Education, the Mayor's

LAST RITES HELD HERE TUESDAY FOR

Final rites were held Tuesday, December 2, for Theodore Roosevelt "Ted" Stroud, at the White Rock Baptist Church. Rev. Lorenzo A. Lynch, pastor, officiated.

Born in Cary, the son of the late Atkins and Mary Blackwood Stroud, the family moved to Chapel Hill. He was educated in the public schools of Chapel Hill and attended what was then the National Religious Training School. He finished the high school department and later was among the first graduates of North Carolina College for Negroes.

Ted was appointed in 1932 to the position of bookkeeper at the Mechanics and Farmers Bank by the late R. L. McDougald and held that post until his retirement in 1970.

He was a member of White Rock Baptist Church where he was a trustee, the Moore-Kennedy Bible Class, and was treasurer of the church's Miles Mark Fisher District. For many years he was active in local and national programs of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Surviving

are his wife, one sister, Mrs. Lucy Craig, Chapel Hill; one brother, Samuel, Frederick, Maryland; one nephew, Charles Craig, Chapel Hill and one niece, Mrs. Doris Hargraves, of Durham.

Courtesy of Scarborough and Hargett Memorial Chapel and Gardens.



STROUD

CLEAVER CALLS KING "TRAGIC MAN" NOT "HERO"

The late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was described as a "tragic man" but not a "hero" by Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver, who surrendered to U. S. authorities after seven years abroad.

In an interview to be published in the January issue of Oui magazine, Cleaver also said he no longer believed that the U. S. is a "Babylon" that ought to be "destroyed." Cleaver said it was his intention upon returning to the U. S. to come back only as an "armchair revolutionary."

Cleaver said he preferred the late Malcolm X's stand on "self-defense" to Dr. King's position on "non-violence." He

added: "I don't regard Malcolm as a tragic figure; I regard Malcolm as a hero and a triumphant figure—whereas Martin Luther King I regard as a tragic man. A good man. A man who made a gigantic contribution—a gigantic moral contribution. He also made a gigantic political contribution but not of a kind that's still valuable as an example."

Cleaver continued: "The collapse of segregation in the South and in the North is due to the work of Martin Luther King. There is no doubt about it. His contribution was unique and second to none. But as for his philosophical contribution; here,

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PHILADELPHIA — A \$25,000 grant has been awarded to the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) by the Gulf Oil Foundation. In making the award to Rev. Leon Sullivan, right, OIC president, Dr. Alexander Lewis, left, Gulf Foundation president, applauded the programs of the vocational development organization. "We feel this grant has particular significance because it will provide the national organization with seed money to develop and test pilot programs which will have a multiplier effect if introduced to the more than 100 local OIC's throughout the country," Dr. Lewis said.



TOP N. C. TEACHER — Chosen as North Carolina's "Teacher of the Year", Mrs. Ruby Murchison (second from left) is flanked and congratulated by some of the hundreds of Fayetteville citizens who honored the Junior High School instructor of language and arts. Giving Mrs. Murchison a smiling congratulation are (L-R) W. T. Brown, Assistant Superintendent, Fayetteville City Schools; Dr. C. R. Edwards, Chairman, Board of Education, Fayetteville City Schools; and Joseph Pillow, President, local NAACP Chapter.