

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI bid to hurt Dr. King told

By WALLACE TURNER  
New York Times Service

A former FBI agent says that in the 1960s the bureau used material gained in an electronic surveillance of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in an apparent effort to undermine the late civil rights leader's support among his white backers.

The former agent also said that many newspapermen were urged to write articles disclosing intimate details of Dr. King's personal life — details to be supplied by the bureau after they were picked up in telephone taps. These taps on Dr. King were said to have been much more widespread than had previously been reported.

THE former agent, Arthur Murtagh, a 51-year-old lawyer now practicing in Constable, N.Y., told the New York Times in an interview that important figures in the FBI even tried to persuade community leaders in Atlanta that they should not attend a banquet that was held to honor Dr. King after he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964.

The persuasion was said to have included a warning that the bureau had derogatory information about Dr. King that might eventually embarrass those who attended the banquet.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Murtagh retired from  
the bureau in September  
1971 after 21 years, includ-  
ing 11 years in the Atlanta  
office. His account to The  
Times has been confirmed  
in interviews with various  
independent sources.

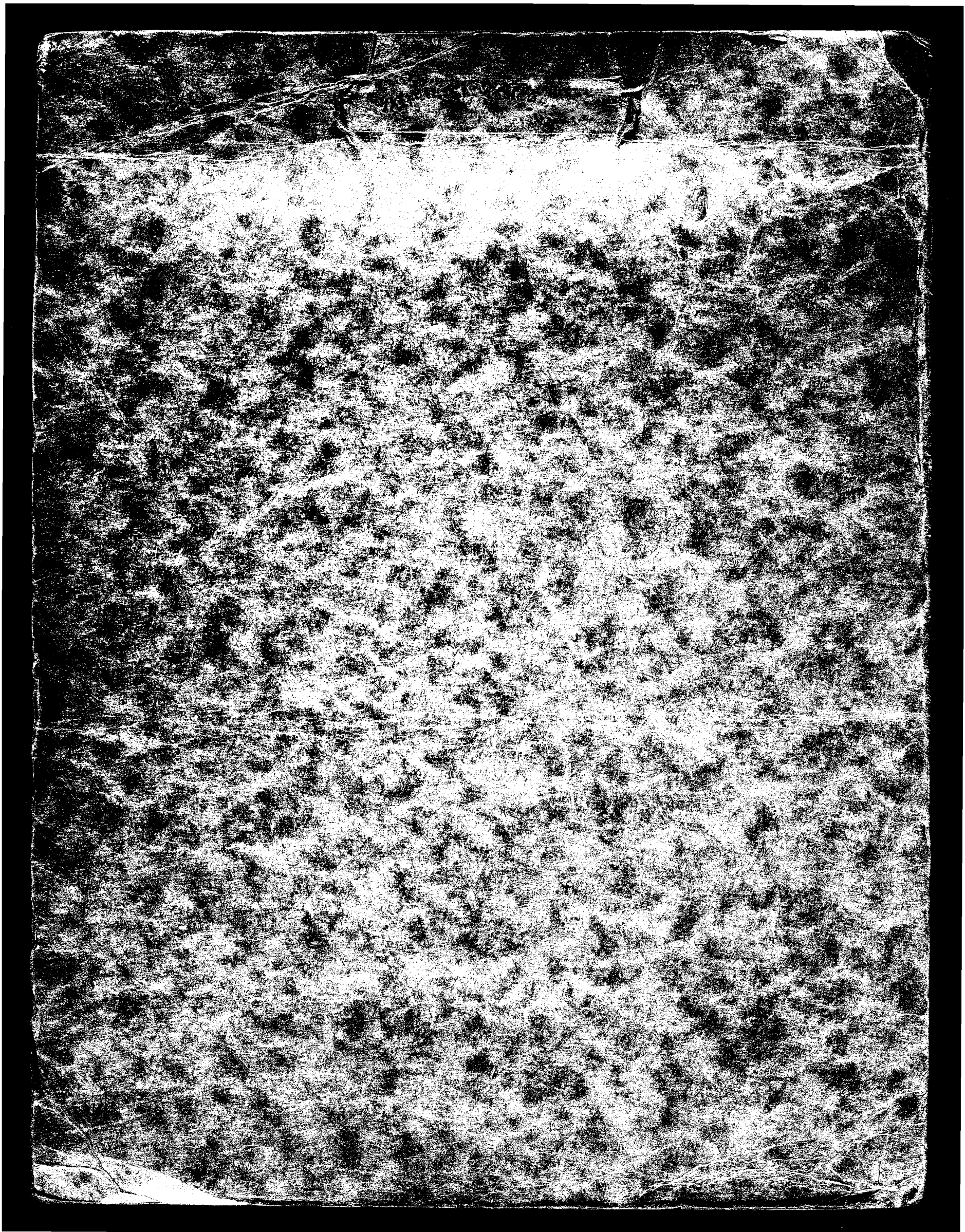
The fact that Dr. King's  
telephone was tapped has  
been well-established. It  
was disclosed in 1968  
while Sen. Robert F.  
Kennedy campaigned for  
the Democratic presiden-  
tial nomination.

After Kennedy's murder  
in June 1968 his former  
associates said that the  
tap was installed when  
Kennedy, as attorney  
general, acquiesced in  
1963 to J. Edgar Hoover's  
repeated demands for au-  
thority to tap. Hoover had  
argued that Dr. King had  
associations with subver-  
sive groups who sought to  
use the civil rights move-  
ment against the best  
interests of the United  
States.

IN 1969, the tap on Dr.  
King was further de-  
scribed briefly in court  
hearings involving the  
draft violation conviction  
of Muhammad Ali, then  
the world heavyweight  
boxing champion.

These brief glimpses  
made it clear that the tap  
was instituted in October  
1963, and was continued at  
least into 1965. There  
were suggestions that it  
lasted until 1968, when Dr.  
King was assassinated.  
The bureau has never  
given any information  
about the tap.

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