

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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INTRODUCTION

Martin Luther King, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), is recognized by the American people generally as one of the foremost spokesmen for this country's 22,000,000 Negroes. Consequently, he enjoys a wide public image as a moral leader of great stature and conviction. In 1965, for instance, the year after he received the Nobel Peace Prize, he was the sixth living man "most admired" by Americans, according to the Gallup Poll.
(Facts on File, 1966, p. 40)

Clergymen of all faiths share this admiration of King, as shown by the following quotations:

"... (He) has been the conscience of our people."

--The Reverend Francis B. Sayre, Jr.,
Dean of Washington Cathedral,
March 31, 1968
(Evening Star, 4/1/68)

"... He is one of the great men of our times... I salute my brother in Christ."

--The Right Reverend Arthur Lichtenberger,
Presiding Bishop of the Protestant
Episcopal Church, October, 1964
(Washington Post, 10/15/64, p. A 17,
(100-106670-A)

"...May the God of justice and love watch over him, guide him according to the divine will, and bring his work to a successful conclusion."

--Richard Cardinal Cushing,
October, 1964

(Boston Traveler, 10/14/64, p. 36,
(100-106670-A)

"...he is, first of all, a Christian, he is a worthy spokesman for all of us who want the principles of our Constitution and our citizenship honored in every citizen, regardless of creed or color."

--The Most Reverend Paul J. Hallinan
Archbishop of Atlanta, November, 1962
(The New Crusader, 11/17/62, p. 6,
(100-106670-A)

"...a man of God...."

--Rabbi Israel Margolies,
Beth Am, The People's Temple,
New York City, April 22, 1967
(New York Times, 4/23/67, p. 15,
(100-106670-A)

"...the Jewish community expresses its tribute to a man who exemplifies qualities of personal courage, responsible leadership, and dedication to prophetic ideals..."

--Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen,
President, Synagogue Council
of America, December 5, 1965
(New York Herald Tribune, 12/4/65,
p. 14, 100-106670-A*)

Notwithstanding the esteem in which King is held as

a "man of God" and a Christian, ~~his personal conduct and activities~~
~~records of government~~ ^{this} ~~over the years~~ ^{there is in the official} conclusive evidence
concerning this man's conduct or actions which

Information available concerning King shows conclusively that
is very disturbing and worrisome. He
he is an immoral, unprincipled, opportunistic, sanctimonious
has for many years very successfully led a
individual who has long been under strong communist influence.
ii dual life

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~~IMMORAL CONDUCT~~

Confirmed Adulterer

~~King is preoccupied with sex. He not only regularly indulges in adulterous acts from one end of the country to the other, but he engages in group sexual orgies with definite abnormal manifestations. During the period from November, 1963, to September, 1967, for instance, King is known to have had extra-marital sexual relations on over 100 occasions with more than 40 different women in cities all over the country--Atlanta, Philadelphia, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Detroit, and Washington, D. C.~~

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R
Relationship
~~as a sex partner~~, has been King's most frequent sex partner for some years. They constantly exchange mutual endearments and apparently are thoroughly content with each other's sexual prowess.

Ident
Reynolds
Two more Atlanta-based c... of King are

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Sister Since 1962, another favorite of King's has been

Los Angeles. They usually have ~~had~~ sexual relations.

when King is in Los Angeles, but she has slept with him in other

cities and has visited him in Atlanta.

(100-3-146-670-1365, 1939)

King is

has been having sex relations with King.
has said that King was the only man who could satisfy her sexually.

King expressed his regret that he could not spend any time

with her at a SCLC retreat held at [redacted]

Virginia, on [redacted]

In addition to his regular girl friends, King has had

[redacted]
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of the late W. E. B. DuBois, prominent crusader for civil rights
who joined the CPUSA at the age of 93.

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King did appear as the guest speaker at the anniversary celebration, which was held on February 23, 1968, at Carnegie Hall, New York City. Jack O'Dell, the name frequently used by Hunter Pitts O'Dell, was listed as one of the speakers for this affair. O'Dell is currently an associate editor of the communist-controlled "Freedomways."

Hunter Pitts O'Dell

Hunter Pitts O'Dell is another important communist ^{a Negro} who was attracted to the SCLC. O'Dell, who has been active in the communist movement for a number of years, was a district ^{once} organizer for the CPUSA in Louisiana. At the 17th National ^{Meeting} Convention of the CPUSA, held in December, 1959, O'Dell was elected to the Party's National Committee under a pseudonym.

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In 1960, at which time he was working as the assistant to James Jackson, then the Party's National Secretary for the South, O'Dell also began to work actively in support of King's movement. Jackson stated in May, 1960, that O'Dell was then working full time on a mass meeting in support of King to be held in New York City on May 17, 1960. Jackson said that Stanley Levison and Roy Bennett were closely associated with O'Dell in this project. Jackson added that the CPUSA considered this meeting to be of utmost importance and felt that it was definitely to the Party's advantage to assign outstanding Party members to work with King's group.

O'Dell's gravitation to King's movement was not an accidental development. In early 1960, inward and outwards the Party was making an attempt to place O'Dell in a special type of activity. About the same time, a Party official stated that the Party was in a position to place people in the SCLC. Subsequently, in 1961, O'Dell was made administrator of the SCLC.

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CPUSA

office in New York City. Two CPUSA members, Hazel Gray and Loretta Pauker, worked in this office under O'Dell at one time or another.

O'Dell's Exposure

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O'Dell went to

Atlanta to work for the SCLC and started to use the name J. H. O'Dell. However, O'Dell's connections with the SCLC and his communist affiliations were exposed in several newspaper articles which appeared in October, 1962.

King's Reaction

King reacted by trying to minimize O'Dell's role with the SCLC, ^{saying} that most of O'Dell's work had been in the

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North and simply involved mailing procedures. He also tried to imply ignorance of any communist affiliations on the part of O'Dell and stated that O'Dell had temporarily resigned pending an inquiry by SCLC into the matter.

O'Dell's "temporary resignation" meant only that he returned to New York City, where he continued to operate out of the SCLC office. He remained there until July, 1963, when

[Redacted]
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"Wonderful Suggestion"

In February, 1964,

[Redacted]
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This letter

would pertain to King's appointment as chairman of an ad hoc

committee to defend a group of integrat^{gts} who were under indictment by the Justice Department for having perjured themselves

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before a Federal Grand Jury. O'Dell furnished King with a draft of the proposed letter, which was then prepared in the Spring of 1964 for mass distribution on SCLC stationery over King's signature.

Bayard Rustin

Bayard Rustin is a former advisor to King and a one-time assistant secretary of the SCLC. ^{Rustin is a Negro} ~~Rustin is a Negro~~ has publicly admitted affiliation with the communist movement in the late 1930's. He publicly supported various communist causes and was one of a select group of observers permitted to attend the 16th National Convention of the CPUSA in 1957. For a number of years, Rustin maintained contact with the Party's National Secretary, Benjamin J. Davis, who died on August 22, 1964. During 1933, Rustin frequently conferred with Davis and took the position that he did not care who knew it.

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King seemed to be more concerned

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~~NON-VIOLENT ADVOCACY OF VIOLENCE~~

A Hanging Night Be Good

Despite his repeated avowals that he believes in and advocates nonviolence, King has indicated on a number of occasions, both privately and publicly, that he harbors contrary sentiments.

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During a "Meet the Press" television interview on March 27, 1965, King differentiated between two types of law: (1) The just law which a person has a moral obligation to obey, and (2) the unjust law which a person has the moral obligation to defy. (100-106670-1106)

King reiterated ~~his~~ views in a press conference on June 12, 1967, relative to a Supreme Court decision that he must go to jail in Alabama for violating a court order. King observed, "In all good conscience, we cannot obey unjust laws; neither can we obey unjust use of the courts." (100-106670-3047)

Violence as a weapon

King has boasted, in connection with the Washington, D. C., to begin late in April Spring Project in Washington, D. C., scheduled ~~for~~ ~~beginning~~ in April 1968, that he will fill up the jails of Washington and surrounding towns. King is aware of the possibility of violence because one of his cities proclaimed recently to the press, "Jail will be the safest place in Washington this Spring." Despite this potentially explosive situation, King continues his plans! He uses the possi-

bility for violence as a lever to attempt to pressure Congress into action by warning that this spring's event may be the last chance in this country for peaceful change with respect to civil rights needs.

King's Role in Memphis Riot

During March, 1968, the sanitation workers -- most of whom are Negroes -- in Memphis, Tennessee, were striking for more benefits. This situation became ~~tense~~ ^{tense}. King spoke at a rally in Memphis supporting the sanitation workers' position and suggested a march which he would lead through the downtown area of Memphis. This march was to take place on March 22,

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1968, but it was cancelled because of a heavy snowstorm that date.

The march was rescheduled for March 28, 1968, at which time the sanitation workers and their supporters, led by King, would peacefully march through Memphis as a way of expressing their grievances.

On March 28, 1968, a crowd of approximately 6,000 persons gathered ~~concentrated~~ in the heart of the Negro district, together with King, to start the march. Shortly after the march started, the crowd began breaking windows and looting. Violence erupted, as a result of which one looter was killed, ~~and~~ 62 police and

Marchers were injured, ~~and~~ arrests were made, and an estimated \$400,000 in damage was sustained.

King and his aides made no effort to control the mob. Instead, (TIME, 4/15/68, p8)

King fled down a side street to the safety of his plush suite in the Holiday Inn.

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violence. (NY teletype, 3/29/68 and 3/30/68, re Martin Luther King; Memphis teletype 3/29/68, re Sanitation Workers Strike, Memphis, Tenn.)

Nevertheless, the meaning of the Memphis riot to Washington ominously is ~~not~~ clear. There is no assurance that if he brings his Poor People's Army of 3,000 or more to the Nation's Capital, he will be able to control those involved.

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