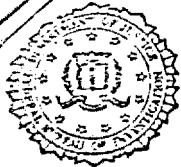


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File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

December 21, 1964

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:
HIS PERSONAL CONDUCT

Confidential sources who have furnished reliable information in the past have advised that Martin Luther King, Jr., has the reputation among many of the country's Negro leaders of being a heavy consumer of alcoholic beverages and is known to certain Negro leaders to be extremely loose in his moral behavior. As an example, these sources cited an incident which occurred several years ago in Memphis, Tennessee, when King attended a Negro Baptist Convention. With King's knowledge, some of the ministers arranged to rent, from some families, apartments at a housing project. The permanent tenants were advised that the apartments were needed for "meditation." Actually, they were used for sex and drinking parties. These sources heard from other individuals, whom they believed to be reliable, that during the Convention King became so intoxicated that he caused a scene in the housing project, being unable to find the apartment he desired. Some of his colleagues had to physically restrain King lest he be recognized by some of the tenants and thus jeopardize the image of the ministers as well as that of the desegregation movement.

Bayard Rustin, in discussing King's recent trip to Oslo, Norway, to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, advised two acquaintances on December 16, 1964, that he was called by the police at 4:30 a.m. one morning because the police had caught a prostitute coming out of the room of A. D. King, Martin's brother. A. D. King attempted to evade the police by running into Martin's room. The police accused the prostitute of stealing money; however, she claimed she had been paid by the occupant of A. D. King's room. Rustin claimed that he talked the police out of arresting the prostitute in order to avoid besmirching the reputation of

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Martin Luther King, Jr.:
His Personal Conduct

Martin Luther King, Jr. Rustin also stated that members of King's entourage had naked girls running up and down the corridors of the hotel where they stayed and that they were bringing white prostitutes into their rooms.

Bayard Rustin, one of King's key advisors, is a former member of the Young Communist League, which has been designated as subversive pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

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