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4 THE MORNING UNION, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1979



Associated Press Laserphoto

Coretta Scott King talks with Sen. Howard Metzenbaum before her testimony in Washington Wednesday.

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

Date: 10/25/79
 Edition: Springfield Union
 Morning Edition
 Title: Martin Luther King J.

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Boston

Springfield RA

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 26 1979	
FBI - BOSTON	

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FBI/DOJ

King's widow seeks reparations for FBI acts

WASHINGTON (AP) — The widow of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. disclosed Wednesday that the family of the slain civil rights leader is seeking reparations from the government for FBI attempts to discredit King.

Coretta Scott King told the Senate Judiciary Committee that "through a private attorney, we have explored the possibility of reparations to our family."

Mrs. King said, however, she has chosen not to "press charges or file suit" against the government because she felt such a court case would not be "part of the theory of non-violence and reconciliation."

Later, Mrs. King told reporters that any money that would be obtained as reparations for FBI harassment of King would be used as endowments to the Martin Luther King Jr. Foundation for Social Change in Atlanta.

However, she declined to divulge how much money was being sought or discuss other details of the negotiations, saying the talks were still under way.

Asked how Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti could arrange such a payment of government funds in the absence of a court suit, Mrs. King responded, "If he's creative, I think he could do that."

Such a payment apparently would require an act of Congress.

Justice Department spokesman Robert Havel said late Wednesday that about two years ago, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark informally discussed reparations for the King family with then Attorney General Griffin Bell.

But he said nothing came of the talks and he is unaware of anything going on now.

According to released government files and statements by former FBI officials, the bureau conducted a secret campaign intended to discredit King during the 1960s.

Beginning in January 1964, the FBI bugged hotel rooms where King was staying. Tapes implicating King in apparent extramarital sexual activity were made available to reporters, members of Congress and then President Lyndon B. Johnson. A package of the tapes was also sent anonymously to Mrs. King.

King, a Nobel Peace Prize winner, was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Mrs. King told the Judiciary Committee that a proposed FBI charter setting guidelines on the bureau's activities should include "strong civil remedies" to citizens harmed by FBI abuses.

"The FBI has, in the past, grossly misused its

power," Mrs. King said. "Martin Luther King Jr. was the target of the most intense effort to suppress political beliefs and free expression that was ever directed against any American."

Mrs. King said the FBI subjected King and other black leaders to "long hard years of hardship and suffering ... simply because they were courageous enough to stand up for equality and justice. ...

"You should remember that even the most fundamental rules of human decency can be violated. This has been clearly demonstrated by the FBI."

Referring to the FBI's campaign against King, she added: "There have been damages particularly where my children are concerned. ... This is a very difficult thing for my children."

She also defended her late husband as a "moral leader, a very decent man, and a very excellent father and husband." She added: "I think history will vindicate Martin Luther King Jr."

Mrs. King was accompanied to the Senate hearing by her 22-year-old son, Martin Luther King III.

The Judiciary Committee is considering a proposed FBI charter that its sponsors claim would define and limit the authority of the FBI so as to enable it to investigate crime while preserving individual rights.

CUTLER DESIGNS

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M E S S A G E

R E P L Y

TO James J Dunn jr S A C
F B I
900 JFK Bldg
Boston MA
32203

DATE

DATE 1/10/80

Sir :

my third submission of data pertinent to the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr King was hand-delivered to a lady-agent in the office on X/12/79

having a letter of assurance from you that my first two submissions were forwarded properly I anticipated a similar "receipt" during last October... on checking my files I discover no such letter exists ... because this is a very important part (to me) of my ID of Novel I would appreciate knowing, that that data was forwarded also

thank you . sincerely

SIGNED

SIGNED

157-644-359

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BOX 1465, MANCHESTER, MASS. 01944



John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Government Center
Boston, Massachusetts 02203

January 18, 1980

Mr. Robert B. Cutler *175-112-71*
Cutler Designs
Post Office Box 1465
Manchester, MA. 01944

Dear Mr. Cutler:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated January 10, 1980, whereby you requested to be advised whether or not data pertaining to the assassinations of President Kennedy and Doctor King were forwarded to Federal Bureau of Investigation Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

This is to acknowledge that the data that you hand-delivered to the FBI, Boston Division, on October 12, 1979 was forwarded to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C. on October 24, 1979.

Very truly yours,

JAMES J. DUNN, JR.
Special Agent in Charge

By:

FSK/gjk
FRANK S. KERR
Supervisory Special Agent

1-Address

1- 175-112

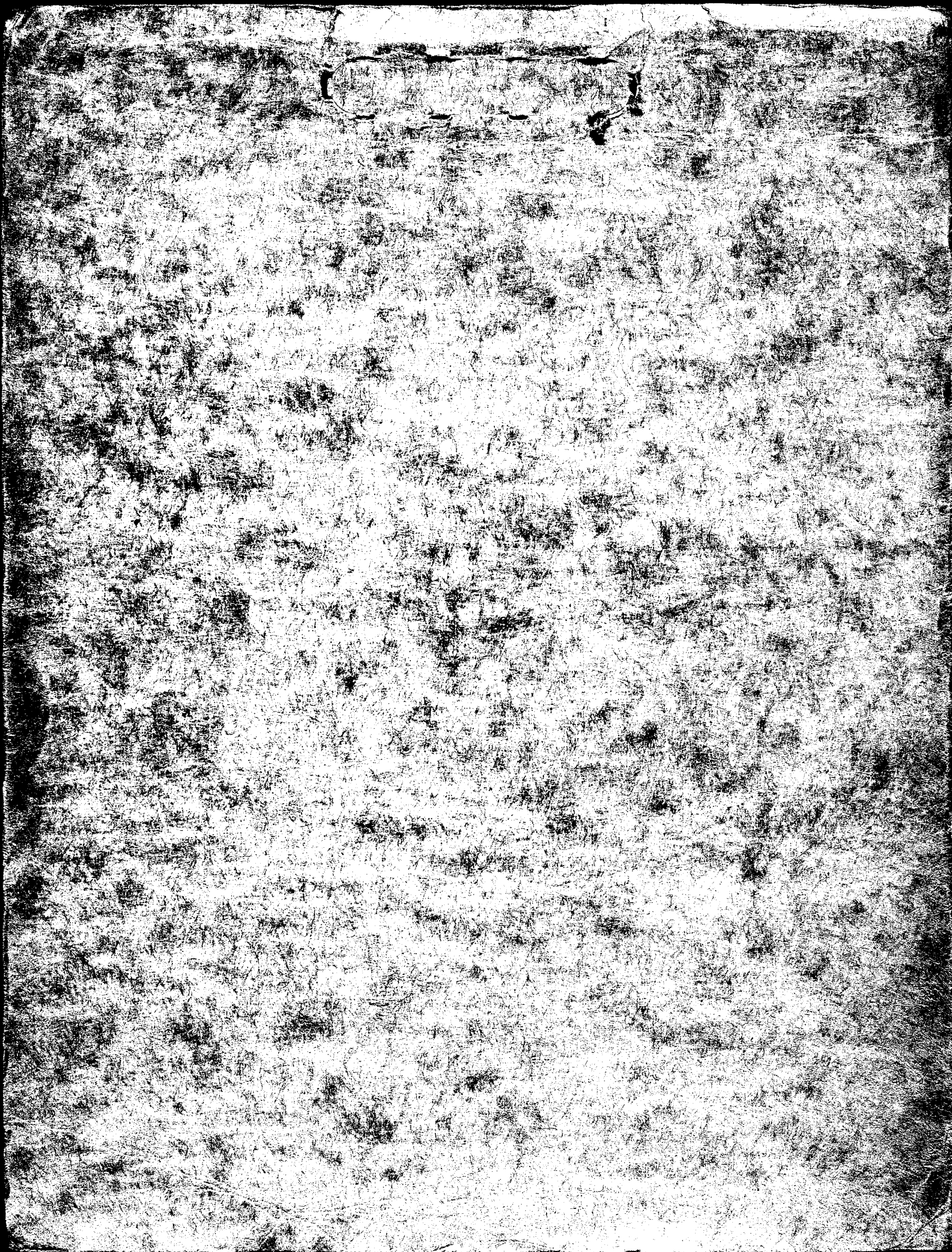
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