

Rev. King Award

FBI Bucked It

By Clay Thompson

The FBI believed awards to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., such as the Davenport Catholic Interracial Council's (CIC) 1965 Pacem in Terris award, were "shocking indeed," according to a memo included in the recent Senate Intelligence Committee report on FBI activities.

The 1,000-word report also revealed the FBI considered — but took no action on — a plan to discourage the CIC from giving Dr. King the award.

According to the report, the FBI considered telling the late Cardinal Francis Spellman such awards to King could prove "embarrassing" to the Catholic Church.

DR. KING was the recipient in April 1965 of the CIC's Pacem in Terris Peace and Freedom Award. He was assassinated in April 1968.

The Rev. Marvin Mottet, CIC chaplain at the time, recalled Thursday that an FBI

Courses

The Rock Island Park and Recreation Department is offering a course entitled "Creative Cooking — The Grill Way," scheduled to begin June 30.

agent called him before the 1965 award presentation and expressed a "cynical attitude toward Dr. King."

The CIC incident was included in a section of the Senate report detailing "major efforts to discredit Dr. King: 1965-1968."

"On Feb. 1, 1965 the (FBI) domestic intelligence division learned that Dr. King was scheduled to speak at the Davenport, Iowa, Catholic Interracial Council's banquet and receive a Pacem in Terris award in memory of Pope John. Internal Security Section Chief Frederick Baumgardner observed, 'It is shocking indeed that King continues to be honored by a religious group,'" the Senate report stated.

BAUMGARDNER recommended the agency contact Cardinal Spellman and "suggest that 'in the end it might well be embarrassing to the Catholic Church for having given honors to King,'" the report stated.

"The director (the late J. Edgar Hoover) noted on (Baumgardner's) memorandum, 'I see no need to further approach Spellman.' He was apparently alluding to the unsuccessful attempt to sabotage Dr. King's audience with Pope Paul VI through Spellman's intervention. There is

no record of any further action," the Senate report stated.

Local FBI officials could not be reached for comment. A spokesman for the FBI's regional office in Omaha, Neb., declined comment.

FATHER Mottet, now head of the diocesan Social Action Department, said he recalls being contacted by an FBI agent about King's appearance.

"The thing that stuck in my mind over the years, and which surprised me, was the agent's cynical attitude toward Dr. King," Father Mottet said.

"The reference was made (by the agent) to 'that so-called Rev. Dr. King,'" he said.

"**I AM SURE** he was not urging me to cancel (the award) or anything like that. What came through was the attitude toward King," he said.

The CIC recently disbanded.

In announcing that the group was going out of existence, the Rev. John S. Smith, its president, said the council "had served its original purpose of racial integration and racial justice unusally well," but that the organization was no longer effective for the needs of the 1970s."