

Hoover Defends FBI, Hits Pressure Groups

Says He Will Not Allow Agency to Become
Tool for Attainment of 'Selfish Aims'

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CHICAGO (AP) — J. Edgar Hoover declared Tuesday night he will not allow the FBI to become the tool of pressure groups seeking "to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole."

The FBI director did not name the groups he had in mind in a speech at an award dinner at which the Loyola University medical school paid tribute to him. But Hoover may have been alluding to continuing pressures from civil rights groups seeking FBI protection in the South.

It was his first public pronouncement since his startling Washington news conference of last week when he excoriated the judiciary, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Warren Commission and a few other targets.

"As long as I am director of the FBI, it will continue to maintain its high and impartial standards of investigation despite the hostile opinions of its detractors," Hoover said. He added:

"Furthermore, the FBI will continue to be objective in its investigations and will stay within the bounds of its authorized jurisdiction regardless of pressure groups which seek to use the FBI to attain their own selfish aims to the detriment of our people as a whole."

Hoover said the government cannot favor one group or special interest over its duty to protect the rights of all citizens. He asserted:

"We cannot, and will not, permit the FBI to be used to superimpose the aims of

those who would sacrifice the very foundations on which our government rests.

"It is a great misfortune, that the zealots or pressure groups always think with their emotions, seldom with reason," the FBI chief said. "They have no compunction in carping, lying and exaggerating with the fiercest passion. They cry liberty when they really mean license."

"Hoover took critical note, as he frequently does, of the rising crime rate and the threat of communism.

He again decried what he called "the bleeding hearts, particularly among the judiciary," who he said "are so concerned for young criminals that they become indifferent to the rights of law abiding citizens . . . We must have judges with courage and a high sense of their duty to protect the public and to adequately penalize criminals if we are to stop the spread of serious and dangerous crimes against society." *END*