

# Belli Says Hoover Has 'Ideology of Fascism'

Claims FBI Head Could Have Broken Crime  
Syndicate Long Ago if He Had Wanted To

CHICAGO (UPI) — Attorney Melvin Belli said Monday FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has "the ideology of fascism" and could have broken up the crime syndicate long ago had he wanted to.

Belli, the San Francisco attorney who defended Jack Ruby, in his trial for the slaying of Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald, also said hundreds of lawyers and laymen had written to congratulate him for calling Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.) "vicious, evil."

Belli was quoted in a question and answer interview in the current Playboy magazine.

Speaking of Hoover's record against the crime syndicate, Belli said "there's no reason in God's world why the FBI couldn't have broken up the syndicate long ago if Hoover really wanted to.

"The reason he hasn't is simply that syndicate bigwigs are so good at covering up their tracks that it's hellishly difficult to get a conviction," Belli said.

## 'Avoids Failure'

"He wants to keep his previous FBI's gleaming escutcheon unbesmirched by failure," Belli said of Hoover.

(In Washington, an FBI spokesman said Hoover would have no comment on Belli's remarks.)

Belli was asked what he believes Hoover's ideology is.

"The ideology of fascism,

of rightism," Belli said. "Look at how many ex-FBI men are members of the John Birch Society. I wonder where they picked it up.

"Hoover is an arch reactionary autocrat who deprecates the concept that 'we the people' are fit to govern themselves. He's a dangerous, dangerous man whom we should have gotten rid of a long time ago.

"Given full rein, he'd legalize not only wire tapping but search-without-warrant and no-knock-and-enter; in the name of law and order, he would completely abandon due process and the constitutional protections guaranteed to every citizen."

Belli said he had been quoted correctly in another magazine (FACT) as saying Kennedy was "the most vicious, evil ——— in American politics today."

"Kennedy as attorney general had absolutely no experience for the top job as top lawyer of the United States. Who is this man, who has never been in a courtroom to tell me how to act, or tell my colleague trial lawyers how to act?" Belli said.

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