

The FBI Story

"There was some slowdown in the pace of organized crime work for about six months beginning last September," said Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach to a reporter last week. Katzenbach was ruminating on a bureaucratic lull that began when he took over the Justice Department. "It was a period of transition," he explained.

Elaborating, Katzenbach said the anti-crime effort had been further hampered by "organizational jealousy" among the 26 U.S. agencies involved. Then he went out of his way to say that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover's commitment in combating the underworld is "beyond question."

But, for Hoover, even the hint of criticism was too much. The FBI chief all but called the Attorney General—nominally his boss—a liar. "There's not a scintilla of truth to that as it pertains to the FBI," he snapped.

But, of course, the FBI chief later added, he had intended only to "clear up the record." And Katzenbach? "The Attorney General," he replied through a spokesman, "has the highest regard for the FBI and its efforts in organized crime."

(30:3) Newsweek, August 2, 1965

When Thieves Fall Out