

Successor to J. Edgar Hoover Will Be a Stranger to the FBI

By EDWIN A. LAHEY

Washington, April 4 (CDN)—
The man who succeeds J. Edgar Hoover as director of the FBI will be an "outsider," he will have no roots or personal loyalties in the Bureau or in the Justice Dept.

And the appointment of the next FBI director by the President will probably be made subject to confirmation by the Senate.

There is no indication that Hoover plans to retire as director although he will be 73 next Jan. 1. President Johnson waived the retirement rules for U. S. employes in asking Hoover to remain as director. But Johnson and his new Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, both operate on the certainty that age eventually will overcome the FBI director.

Several possible nominees for Hoover's job have been under consideration, but their names are prudently kept under cover. Anyone exposed to too much publicity in this connection would be shot down, either by

the President or by Hoover in one way or another.

Johnson detests news leaks and speculation about his probable appointments. And Hoover, who built the FBI from nothing in 1924 to its eminence today, always has been impatient with any scene stealers in the FBI.

The President and the Attorney General have come to believe that an "outsider" should succeed Hoover. A man from within the organization, it is felt, would be trapped by his own experience and loyalties.

Unswerving loyalty, not only to the FBI, but to its chief, has always been an imperative requirement for employes of this agency. In the course of developing loyalty to their director, a number of FBI functionaries have, like other bureaucrats, felt the blossoming of their own personal ambitions. Some of the second level executives in the FBI, faceless as they must be officially, would be less than human if they did not dream of becoming successor to the boss.

The fact that the President and the Attorney General will look outside the agency for the next FBI director is bound to smash some heroic dreams of faithful men.

The big question, for which there is now no obvious answer, is whether President Johnson and Clark will share with Hoover, at some date in the future, the responsibility of selecting his successor.