

Kelley Has Brought 'Truthful'

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Watching Clarence Kelley run the FBI is like watching a river cut through the soil: the change is imperceptible from moment to moment but remarkably obvious over the course of a year.

Kelley has introduced a ferment the agency had not known in 48 years under its only previous director, the late J. Edgar Hoover. He has moved slowly and deliberately, on the one hand urging critics to be patient and on the other, cajoling his troops to leave the past.

The hallmark of his leadership has been the move toward opening the agency to public scrutiny. Many doors still are closed, but some aren't. Many questions still are turned aside, but some are answered. Many FBI officials still prefer secrecy, but some are being turned around.

No single action channeled the FBI away from the course of secrecy, but the pattern of several Kelley decisions established the trend.

After 21 years as an FBI agent and 12 years as police chief of Kansas City, Mo., Kelley was sworn in as FBI director one year ago Tuesday. Soon afterward, he said, "We must convey to the American people the truth about what the FBI does, and by what authority the FBI does it. It is time to raise the shade so that the public may judge what motivates the men and women of the FBI, so that the public may appraise our work."

Unlike Hoover, Kelley often has testified before congressional committees examining FBI policies. He has carried out a heavy speaking schedule before audiences around the country. He has held several news conferences in other cities and one in Washington. He plans another Thursday, marking his first year in office.

Asked for an interview to discuss his first year, Kelley declined until after the news conference. Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe recently said of Kelley, "He realizes that the FBI must be responsible to the people of this country, that they are not an entity and operate outside the government, that they must open themselves up to public scrutiny, tell the people what they're doing."

Kelley, also has moved in

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some other ways to open the top ranks of the FBI to ideas from outside.

He encouraged a Brandeis University professor, John Elliff, to undertake a two-year analysis of the FBI's domestic intelligence operations, a subject of intense criticism during the past decade.

Kelley also has tried to mend frazzled relations with state and local police who often were angered and dismayed at Hoover's attempt to take the credit for work done by local police.

"Hoover was always schnoozing you with the sugary language but when it got down to the nitty-gritty, you knew he might steal the credit for cracking a bank robbery when your detectives did all the work," said Patrick V. Murphy, president of the Police Foundation and former New York City police commissioner.

Kelley also has taken steps to join the FBI to its parent agency, the Justice Department. Hoover resisted direction from the department and virtually all attorneys general.

Saxbe and Deputy Atty. Gen. Laurence Silberman attest to Kelley's cooperation with the department's long-range review of FBI policies. Saxbe has said federal prosecutors detect a new spirit of cooperation among FBI agents in the field.

In other areas, FBI observers say Kelley has demonstrated

sensitivity to individual rights and a willingness to explore ways of safeguarding them.

However slight and subtle, Kelley's changes have confounded numerous FBI officials set in J. Edgar Hoover's ways.

"Mr. Kelley has got problems himself, a lot of hardnosed people over there that worship at the shrine of Mr. Hoover and just can't realize that he's not there," Saxbe said in April.

Kelley has attempted to involve lower-echelon officials in

some policy decisions in a project called "participatory management" at the Washington headquarters and in field offices.

The practice is catching on, said Edward S. Miller, who retired last week as deputy asso-

ciate director in charge of investigative operations.

"He takes enough time to communicate his ideas to the rest of us. If anybody has anything to say against it, they feel comfortable with him and say it," Miller said.

Though he has carefully avoided upsetting the Hooverian hierarchy, there are signs that Kelley is searching for like-minded FBI men to place in positions of authority.

A bulky square-jawed man of 62, Kelley projects a demeanor

of down-home humility and courtesy. But Murphy sees no softness there.

"Don't be deceived by this nice fatherly type of man," he says. "There's steel in there. When he makes a decision, that's it."