

*Q. I was recently told by a former FBI agent that under Clarence Kelley the morale of the FBI has now plummeted to zero. Is this correct?—L.K., Alexandria, Va.*

*A. Morale in the FBI is admittedly low. But director Clarence Kelley is not to blame. The true culprit was the late J. Edgar Hoover, who in some cases hired pliant, uncreative men and in many instances had them break the law they swore to uphold. Also responsible for the deterioration of morale within the bureau were the Congresses who over 48 years permitted J. Edgar Hoover to run the FBI without any valid Congressional oversight. Like the CIA, with whom it frequently feuded, the FBI not only consistently broke the law but lied about its transgressions. Like his predecessor, L. Patrick Gray, FBI director Clarence Kelley may still not know what is really going on in his organization. The FBI remains heavily staffed in the upper echelons by J. Edgar Hoover appointees, and unless Attorney General Edward Levi—who runs the Justice Department—sweeps the FBI with a new broom, the bureau's morale will continue to languish as will the public's faith in its integrity.*

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