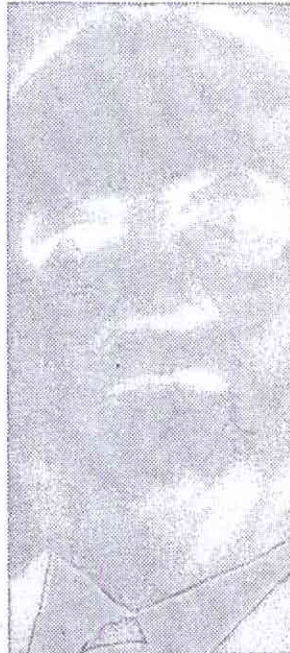


NYT - 11/22/70



Ramsey Clark



J. Edgar Hoover

Hoover vs. Clark

WASHINGTON—The Federal Bureau of Investigation is one of a dozen divisions and bureaus that make up the Justice Department. J. Edgar Hoover, director of the F.B.I. since 1924, is technically a subordinate of the Attorney General. Just how subordinate he is, however, is a matter of some dispute. And a series of public spats over the years has bolstered suspicions that relations between the strong-willed F.B.I. chief and his "superiors" have not always been easy.

Last week, the publication of a book by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark brought such exchanges to a new level of vitriol. "The F.B.I.," wrote Mr. Clark, "has so coveted personal credit that it will sacrifice even effective crime control before it will share the glory of its exploits. This has been a petty and costly characteristic caused by the excessive domination of a single person, J. Edgar Hoover. . . ."

Mr. Hoover responded: "If ever there was a worse Attorney General [than Robert Kennedy], it was Ramsey Clark. You never knew which way he was going to flop on an issue . . . like a jellyfish . . . a softie."

One Attorney General with whom Mr. Hoover has a happier relationship is the current Attorney General, John N. Mitchell.

Mr. Mitchell: "I see Mr. Hoover frequently, and I have a very high regard for him."

Mr. Hoover: Mr. Mitchell is an "honest, sincere and very human man. There has never been an Attorney General for whom I've had higher regard."