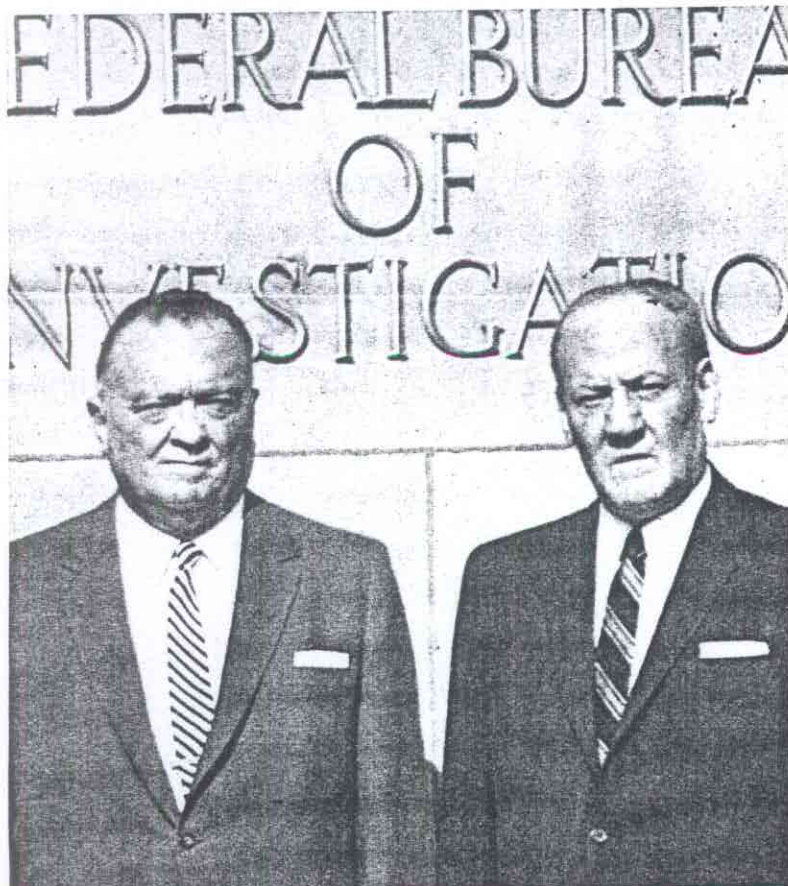


# J. Edgar Hoover and His Alumni

by Jack Anderson



J. Edgar Hoover and right-hand man Clyde Tolson outside Washington headquarters. Tolson, an old buddy of FBI chief, retired last year at mandatory age of 70, was rehired as outside specialist, thus bypassing a physical checkup.

WASHINGTON, D.C. **J.** Edgar Hoover, now under pressure to step down as director of the FBI, has outlasted 10,000 of his former agents. Most of them moved on to successful careers in professions ranging from law to ranching. Yet they seem to share one common trait: an almost umbilical attachment to the bureau and the 76-year-old man who has been its chief for 47 years.

Hoover's agents may grumble about the director's dictatorial powers, but they also benefit from basking in his image. The greenest agent in the field is accepted by his community as fearless and incorruptible.

This reputation has accompanied the 10,000 agents who have quit the FBI. In their new pursuits, they continue to benefit from the Hoover mystique. But they also find it difficult to shake free from the FBI discipline and conformity.

Rare is the agent who is willing to risk Hoover's wrath either inside or outside the bureau. Inside, it can mean a one-way ticket to some remote FBI outpost; outside, Hoover can revoke the FBI seal of approval, a vital credential for an agent seeking new employment.

This was discovered by special agent John Shaw, who made the mistake of criticizing Hoover in a private letter to a college professor. A discarded copy was fished out of the wastebasket by office colleagues who forwarded it to Washington.

## Resignation

Shaw was immediately transferred to Butte, Mont., long considered the bureau graveyard. Because his wife was gravely ill, Shaw refused the transfer and resigned. Hoover accepted the resignation "with prejudice" although Shaw's record had been spotless until the controversial letter. Shaw, now a widower, has been unable to find other work in law enforcement.

Far more typical was the experience of Charles M. Noone, a prosperous Washington lawyer and a strong Hoover admirer. "There are business advantages to being an ex-FBI man," he told PARADE. "From my work in the FBI, I know someone in just about every government agency. And if I need the services of a lawyer in another city, I can usually find one who used to be in the FBI."

Although Noone has been out of the bureau for 20 years, he says many of his FBI habits remain. "In the bureau, we used to have to call into the office every two hours to let them know where we were and to find out if there were any new developments. Now I don't have to do that anymore, but I find myself calling home instead. And I ask the younger associates in our law office to call in just so we can keep in touch when they're out on a case."

Hoover has ways to retain the loyalty of agents who have passed beyond his discipline. Rep. Don Edwards (D., Calif.), an ex-agent who has criticized Hoover, found this out several years ago when his opponent made charges against him which could only have come from his confidential FBI employment file.

Also, the intensive indoctrination given agents and the extraordinary camaraderie that develops among them promotes a uniformity of viewpoint. Under Hoover, a man learns to be a strong anti-Communist and is likely to retain such views when he leaves the bureau.

As Edwards puts it: "There's a process one goes through in the bureau that weds you to the Hoover view—the traitors-in-our-midst attitude."

#### Hoover men

The total effect of all this is to make ex-agents Hoover men for life. Rep. Edwards, for instance, finds himself the lone critic of Hoover among 13 Congressmen who are former FBI men. The rest take every opportunity to defend or praise the director.

Most are members of a group called the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI, which started as a social organization but has evolved into a sort of alumni cheering section for the "Old Man." The society's membership list is studded with prominent names. A few of them: Gov. William Cahill of New Jersey; Jack Tuthill, tournament director of the Professional Golfers Association; William Flynn, athletic director at Boston College, and Cartha "Deke" DeLoach, a vice president of Pepsi-Cola.

There are also a few, like the late Sen. Tom Dodd, who have become an embarrassment to the FBI. Under Hoover's reign, agents have been fired for drunkenness, for insubordination, even a few for homosexuality. Yet not a single FBI man has tried to fix a case, defraud the taxpayers or sell out his country.

#### Can be frustrating

But at its upper levels, the FBI's suffocating discipline, the obeisance to the director can make it a frustrating place to work.

An excellent example is Quinn Tamm, once the bureau's No. 2 man, now president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Although Tamm will not publicly criticize Hoover, it is no secret that he left the bureau because he found Hoover impossible to work for.

An indication of how difficult Hoover can be is the story Tamm's friends tell of his last days with the FBI. After making a speech in Milwaukee the night before a fishing vacation, Tamm drove



These five FBI alumni, shown on today's cover, have found their work with the bureau has helped in outside endeavors. They are, from left: Rep. H. Allen Smith (R.,

Calif.), Rev. Oliver Collier, Robert Tonis, Harvard campus police chief, "Deke" DeLoach, business executive, and William Flynn, Boston College athletic director.

all night to a lake deep in the wilderness. Far out on the water, as he was finally prepared to cast his line and relax, a motorboat came roaring out of nowhere with a man standing in the stern waving an urgent message.

#### Called back

Tamm's speech, which had been cleared with Hoover and distributed to the press, had been misquoted, and he was ordered back to Washington to explain. He resigned soon afterward.

Although few ex-agents publicly criticize Hoover, there are a number besides Tamm who departed the bureau's upper echelons quietly in dismay at Hoover's egocentric behavior and his determination to hang on to the top job forever.



Quinn Tamm, former No. 2 man, found Hoover impossible to work for, quit.



Rep. Don Edwards (D., Calif.): alone of 13 ex-C-men in Congress, he's critical.

continued

## J. EDGAR HOOVER

CONTINUED

These men include Edward P. Morgan, the noted Washington trial lawyer, and Louis Nichols, Hoover's ex-assistant who left to become a vice president of Schenley Industries.

Deke DeLoach, an exceptionally able man who was a favorite of President Johnson, says he left the bureau for purely financial reasons. "FBI pay and retirement benefits are good, but not good enough to put seven children through college, especially these days," DeLoach says.

Yet, despite the controversy that may have surrounded some departures of top FBI men, most ex-agents have made good on the outside.

Take Rev. Oliver Collier, for example. He looks on the FBI as a useful practical education.

### 'My seminary'

"The bureau was my seminary," says the Bethesda, Md., minister. "It was a period of self-development because when I was a youngster I was sheltered, my knowledge was limited, and so was my ability to meet people. Through my FBI experience I was forced to meet many different kinds of people and learn how the other half lives.

"But ever since I can remember I felt God was calling me, and I had entered the FBI mostly for economic reasons. While in the bureau I began to work in the churches where I lived. After a time my two careers began to conflict. I wanted to preach sometimes when the FBI needed me in the field. Finally I resigned and went into the ministry full time.



Lawyer Charles Noone says there are business advantages being ex-FBI man.

"There were no hard feelings. My FBI colleagues even gave me an inscribed Bible when I left, and I still have—and use—it today."

And just as far removed from tracking down kidnapers and bank robbers has been the career of Richard Nilsen, M.D., a general practitioner in Las Vegas, Nev., who attended medical school after he'd been out of the FBI for several years and had held several other jobs in private industry. As he says, "I just never would have made it through medical school starting as late as I did, with a family and all, without the self-discipline I learned in the FBI."

Nilsen adds that sometimes it helps to be an ex-detective in sleuthing out patients' symptoms and diseases. "My extensive interviewing experience in the FBI helps me most in taking health histories from patients for purposes of making diagnoses," he says. "From the FBI I learned how to pay attention and really listen to people."

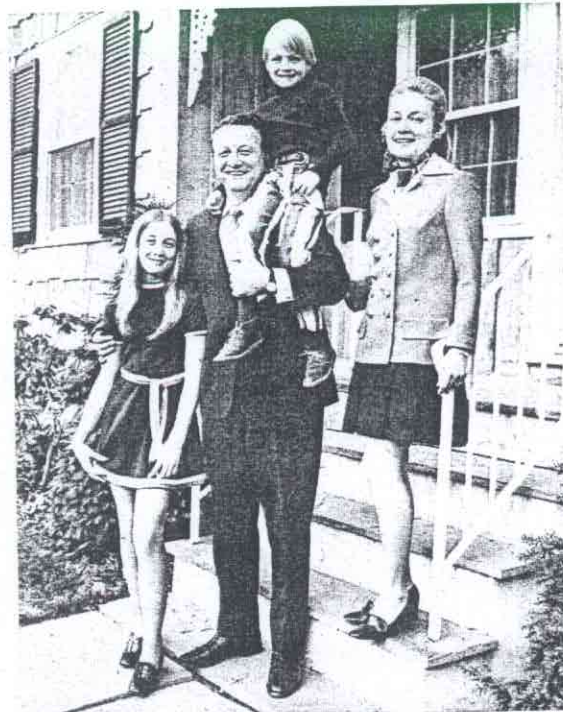
### Glorious excitement

But in spite of all the diverse opportunities open to former FBI men, there seem to be many who just cannot tear themselves away from the glory, excitement, and activity of FBI work. Director Hoover himself, of course, is the prime example, but according to Thomas E. Bishop, assistant director of the FBI, his office frequently receives requests from ex-agents who want to get back on active duty. Says Bishop: "They get outside and learn pretty quick that this job is a lot more exciting than selling vacuum cleaners for the rest of your life."

Clyde Tolson, Hoover's 70-year-old right-hand man, is one of the few ex-agents to beat the system and stay on at the FBI even after he had reached the mandatory retirement age.

When Tolson became 70 last year, he retired from FBI service so that the 76-year-old Hoover (who has a special Presidential waiver allowing him to stay on the job) could rehire him as an indispensable outside specialist. Now Tolson continues at his old job as the FBI's No. 2 man, and also as Hoover's closest personal friend and daily luncheon companion. Since, officially, Tolson was retired, he did not have to pass the rigorous physical checkup required of other active FBI men.

As assistant director Bishop, who himself has been with the bureau for 30 years, says: "The overall FBI turnover rate among special agents is maybe 3 percent a month. And for every one



"Deke" DeLoach, a vice president of Pepsi-Cola, with his wife and two of their seven children. An exceptionally able man, he says he left the bureau for financial reasons.

who retires we have 15 or 20 applicants who would like to take his place."

And when Hoover finally leaves the bureau, there will be no dearth of well-trained and eligible successors. Perhaps some day an agent will retire from his field service only to step up to the di-

rector's chair.

It may not be quite as remunerative as a corporation vice presidency, or as placid as real retirement, but J. Edgar Hoover, who took office in 1924, has proven one thing about it: it sure is steady work.



Liquor executive Louis Nichols left disenchanted with the FBI director.



John Shaw's criticism of Hoover led to a quick transfer and his resignation.