

Mail Aide Figures in FBI Job Rumors



By
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Rumors within the postal establishment have it that a 50-year-old mailman is under serious consideration as a replacement for 76-year-old FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover.

The postal candidate is William J. Cotter, who now heads the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. His 1,400 man workforce investigates post office robberies, mail crimes and frauds and works closely with the FBI and Secret Service. Its conviction rate is one of the tops for any investigative agency.

Before joining the postal service two years ago, Cotter was with the Central Intelligence Agency. He also has served as a special agent for the FBI.

Cotter was out of town yesterday, but some aides said they had "heard things about him," which is as far out on a limb as most are willing to go

when talking about successors to J. Edgar Hoover.

Cotter knows many of the nation's top law enforcement officials, and even members of Congress who are down on the postal service have a high opinion of the Falls Church man. His CIA and FBI background would also be an asset, and his security clearances are apparently up to date.

Federal Employees for Peace: The group plans a rally Wednesday at noon on the east steps of the Capitol. It will urge congressional action to end the Vietnam war.

FEP spokesmen say that Sen. Mike Gravel (D-Alaska) and D.C. Delegate Walter Fauntroy have promised to attend and speak at the rally.

Federal Aviation Administration is delegating more authority to field managers as part of the President's program to decentralize federal activities and decision-making.

Administrator John H. Shaffer says the new plan does not relieve top men from responsibility for decisions, and he has urged them to ride herd on subordinate-inspired plans.

"This is expected to be done in a manner that will not make the decision-maker gunshy from making future decisions. Conversely, those offi-

cial to whom authority has been delegated are expected to exercise this authority knowing full well that they will be held accountable for their actions.

"A reluctance on the part of an official to exercise the authority delegated to him," Shaffer's memo adds, "is sufficient justification to consider a performance unsatisfactory in that particular instance."

Open Collars: While the Pentagon appears to be tolerating the no-tie look for its inside civilians, one officer warns that some sort of standard should be set, lest nudity sets in. Warns the Army man:

"Ft. Monroe (Va.) once tried a sport-shirt standard that was to be self-policing but wasn't. Shirts became collar-less, then arm-less and eventually just dirty T-shirts and the whistle was blown.

"Same thing might happen to the open-collar—it might open all the way to the navel if a standard isn't fixed early."

The same brave soul reports that he once pioneered bermuda shorts attire during the summer months, but ran into much flak from less-daring male colleagues. Things got so bad, he printed and carried the following cards:

"Have worn bermuda shorts

for many hot summers. My only discomfort: limp humor and cornball remarks. Through the years I must have heard them all, but only four stay with me:

"Hey! Your Scouts went that way!"

"Still buying discount slacks, eh?"

"Reminds me to pick up a dog-bone tonight."

"Those legs Sheraton or Duncan Fyfe?"

"Actually," his card said, "they are socks with falsies. So please try to be original—or at least helpful. Are my seams straight?"

Socialist Asks Rules On Violence Orders

WORCESTER, Mass., June 4 (UPI)—Michael Harrington, national chairman of the Socialist Party, today called for establishment of rules under which political leaders could be held responsible for violence they ordered even if they are not directly involved.

Harrington made the proposal in his address to 521 graduates at Holy Cross College's 125th commencement.