

12/15/91

Dear Dave,

There is a page-one story in today's Post with more than two columns in the carry-over reporting fears within the FBI about Sessions' ability to provide leadership not only now but more in the near future, when more than 60 percent of the higher officials and about a fifth of the SAs are due to retire.

I am not copying this story for you because it will take too much out-and-paste time but I'll have it in my "control" file.

Whatever the legitimacy of the complaints may be, and they do not ^{appear} appear to me to be significant and rather are a departure of what the FBI bureaucrats have become used to, I think the underlying reason is that this can represent the first time the FBI ^{might} was not for practical purposes dominated by Hoover and his appointees.

— What it may mean is that for the first time in its history there is a chance that Hoover and his appointees may not dominate the FBI and its policies and practises.

Aside from the objections of these Hoover bureaucrats to any departures from his and thus their policies, they may fear that their own records may be looked at by those who do not share these beliefs and that they may be subject to criticism.

There is little doubt that viewed through other than Hoover glasses these men may have done wrong many times.

This may or may not be a real consideration but I believe that what really is and what may have led to this story is their fear that the FBI will undergo some real reform and in the course evolving less reactionary and authoritarian policies.

There are several indications in the story that these objectors' objections include controls over what FBI SAs can do without supervision in investigations, like having to get the approval of prosecutors before they would be able to issue administrative subpoenas. The story does not make any mention of the rights of those on whom subpoenas would be served.

If I am correct I believe that there may at long last be the possibility of some real reform and some real diminishing of the authoritarian beliefs that I think have dominated what the FBI has done and is doing.

LW