

Hoover accused of accept

Post 1/11/78
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department Tuesday accused the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover of accepting special favors and services from FBI employees.

It also said in a 40-page report that the long-time director took part with other former FBI officials in a pattern of longstanding and widespread abuses of FBI services.

Hoover, who died in 1972 at the age of 77, was said to have accepted favors that ranged from additions to his home to servicing of his lawnmower and snow blower.

"Clocks were reset, metal polished, wallpaper retouched, firewood provided and furniture rearranged," the report said. "Employees were on call night and day for this work."

Hoover also got free tax advice from a bureau accountant and members of the FBI's Exhibits Section were called upon to build gifts each year for Hoover on Christmas, his service anniversary with the agency and other special occasions, the report alleged.

Similar and related charges also were alleged against a number of other former top FBI officials.

But the department said no civil court action was contemplated against any of these persons since the statute of limitations may have run out and since "the actual amounts involved are small compared to the expense of litigation."

Most of the allegations in the report had been previously reported by the news media. However, this was the first time that the Justice Department has

published its version of the events. The department spent more than two years looking into the allegations.

The report said that the gifts for Hoover included tables, display cases, cabinets, a bar and valets. It said assistant directors chipped in to pay for materials but the workers who built the presents were never compensated.

"FBI employees called upon to perform these services did not think them proper but felt compelled to follow orders for fear of losing their jobs, or of arbitrary transfers or promotion delays," the report said.

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell said in a statement accompanying the report that "This report will confirm that very few individuals engaged in improper conduct." But he issued a warning to all FBI officials that he would not "tolerate the kind of misuse of office or abuse of authority described in this report."

The report mentions the previously disclosed incidents involving current FBI director Clarence M. Kelley, who accepted two sets of window valances made and installed by FBI employees. Kelley has reimbursed the agency for the cost of the valances and has returned two television sets that were purchased by the FBI's radio engineering section for his Washington apartment.

The report notes that Kelley, who is retiring next month, was not involved in any of the other matters detailed in the

ing favors

report.

While the report described extensive abuses, it noted that there was no evidence of bribery as has been hinted in some quarters.