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FBI Chief Installs Kitchen, Steward

By Isabelle Hall

United Press International
Acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III has installed a kitchen and hired a \$10,000-a-year steward to prepare lunches for himself and his staff as part of a \$6,788 renovation of the office suite used by the late J. Edgar Hoover.

Asked about the kitchen, an FBI spokesman said Hoover did not have an "executive kitchen" and neither does Gray because federal regulations "prohibit kitchens except for those in the position of cabinet officers and above."

The spokesman described Gray's kitchen as a 75 square-foot "closet area" which houses auxiliary air conditioning equipment and storage cabinets that "can hardly be

considered an adequate area for an executive-type kitchen, but is more aptly described as a pullman-type kitchenette."

During Hoover's tenure, the closet area contained a refrigerator and a hot plate which were used during emergencies when Hoover or his staff were unable to leave the office. It gave them "the bare necessities to prepare limited types of food," the bureau said. "No full course luncheons or other meals were served."

Since the kitchen area was redone, Gray's steward used it on one occasion for "a working luncheon" with some members of the FBI hierarchy, each of whom had contributed \$25 toward the cost of food.

A UPI reporter was given a tour of Gray's suite and those of other top FBI officials. Gray's suite includes his private office, where he is using the same furniture Hoover had, his kitchen, a spotless white bathroom, two large reception rooms, five offices for his three assistants and five secretaries, and a soundproofed telephone room.

The kitchen has acquired a new \$110 "apartment-size stove," a \$69 table top oven or rotisserie, a \$369 ice-making machine, a \$250 garbage disposal unit and \$756 worth of other appliances and utensils. His refrigerator was full of food, tonic water, lemon soda and bottles of ice water which he sips while working.

In a separate store room opposite the kitchen is a new \$245 freezer. The FBI, which supplied the cost figures, said GSA charged \$993 for labor, for a total kitchen cost of \$2,793.

The director's suite was repainted at a cost of \$3,994. The FBI said this was necessitated by the removal of dozens of awards, plaques and paintings belonging to Hoover.

Gray's steward receives \$10,013 a year for the "planning, purchasing, preparation and serving of meals for Mr. Gray and members of the executives conference when he has occasion to hold working luncheons," the FBI said.