

Gray Shuffles More FBI Men

By John P. MacKenzie
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Acting director L. Patrick Gray III has shaken up the FBI again, transferring several veteran Washington officials to new posts elsewhere.

The action, which came in the form of brief transfer orders delivered last week, was taken by some senior agents saw a "purge" of persons asso-

ciated with the late director J. Edgar Hoover.

But Gray, back at his desk after recuperating from surgery, denied any intent to eliminate Hoover men. He said all the new assignments were promotions that will enhance the agents' careers while streamlining the bureau's Washington operation.

Although Gray has taken previous innovative measures such as opening special agent ranks to women, his latest move appeared to fortify the now widely accepted impression that he will be nominated as the bureau's permanent director—permanent insofar as he would serve at the President's direction.

The eight newest reassignments will shrink still further the FBI's Crime Research Division, once the core of the bureau's press, public and congressional relations activity. Gray, already in command of press and congressional relations, said the division now could be considered overstaffed.

"The better agents all aspire" to line jobs out in the field "where the FBI makes its record," Gray said. Only those who don't want to leave "feathered nests" in Washington will look on the transfers as a purge, he added.

Reaction within the bureau ranged from that of one agent who Gray said thanked him for the promotion to that of Inspector James Bland, a 30-year veteran who retired after being assigned to head the Albany, N.Y., offices.

In between, there were agents who began to weigh re-

tirement but who were uneasy about complaints of a "purge."

"I deeply resent the purge idea," said one veteran who asked not to be identified. "I definitely do not feel like a purgee."

Gray, responding to complaints of some veterans about the youth and power of his small personal staff, emphasized that he issued the transfer orders personally after studying, during his convalescence from an intestinal operation, a management study designed to promote a more orderly "career planning pattern" for agents. He said he gave the orders directly to Mark Felt, longtime bureau special assistant.

As for fears of a sweep of Hoover loyalists, Gray said, "I'd be foolish to try that." If nominated by President Nixon and confirmed by the Senate, "I expect always to be surrounded by Hoover men," he said.

The transfer of veteran investigator Henry Schultz to the Inspection Division, Gray said, puts Schultz one step away from heading the FBI's critical Field Division.

He said similar career enhancement was indicated for Harold Leinbaugh, former press relations specialist now slated for the No. 2 spot in the Detroit office; George Quinn, adviser for the FBI television program, transferred to the Inspection Division; Bernard R. Sutler, named to an assistant post in the FBI's library at Quantico, and the other transferees.

The others included agents Donald Hanning, assigned as

second in command at the Philadelphia office; George Gunn, No. 2 at San Francisco; William Stapleton, a similar post at Chicago, and Gordon Malmfeldt, to the Inspection Division.

Gray said he still has no word from the White House about his hoped-for nomination, but said the uncertainty of his status was no reason to delay his reorganization plans.

Assassination Try Seen in La. Attack on Police

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 2 (AP) — Police Supt. Clarence B. Giarrusso says a "well-planned" assassination attempt was responsible for New Year's eve gunfire which killed one policeman and wounded two others.

Police Cadet Alfred Harrell, 19, was shot to death near the Central Lockup while talking with Lt. Horace Perez, who was wounded in the ankle.

A few minutes later, patrolman Edwin C. Hosli Sr. was seriously wounded in the back while investigating a nearby burglary.

Giarrusso said Monday, "There are overtones of a militant group" in the attack on Harrell and Perez, but added that the evidence "could also lead to something else."