

Pat and Bea Gray at Stonington, Conn., home with in-laws, four sons, two grandchildren. On porch, l. to r., father-in-law Addison

Kirk, son Patrick, Mrs. Kirk, Jane and Edward Gray, she holding Douglas, he Caroline, Betsy and Alan Kirk Gray, Stephen D. Gray.

Louis Patrick Gray III: Can a Nice Guy Be Head of the FBI?

by Lloyd Shearer



Attorney General Richard Kleindienst (r.) with Gray at news briefing. When named as FBI acting director by President Nixon, Gray says he was "just flabbergasted."

last ten years, Pat Gray is a little better known to the public but not much.

His full background will be publicized later this year, when and if Richard Nixon is reelected, and sends to the U.S. Senate for confirmation the name of Louis Patrick Gray III as the new director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Dedicated lawyer

Until then, here is a preview of the man:

At 56, Pat Gray is a big, balding, crew-cut, forceful, dynamic, energetic, compassionate, political, high-minded, and dedicated lawyer, capable of a prodigious amount of work. People who know him best—his family, his colleagues, his law partners, his Navy mates—most frequently use the word "fair" to describe him.

Although he has always been a Republican conservative ("I'm the only Republican in my family"), he is not, no matter what his detractors may say, a reactionary ideologue such as Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist, a former Justice Department colleague. Nor does he generate the hostility associated with some of the top Justice Department officials in the reign of John Mitchell.

He is a family man, a Roman Catholic who loves and in turn rejoices in the

This past May when President Nixon appointed Louis Patrick Gray III as acting interim head of the FBI, the general reaction throughout the country was mirrored in the pronoun, "who?"

Except in select circles of the U.S. Justice Department where he was in charge of the civil division, and the U.S. Navy from which he had retired as a captain in 1960, Pat Gray was relatively unknown.

Today, some four months later, after crisscrossing the country, visiting various FBI field offices, getting media exposure, and giving more speeches in two months than Edgar Hoover in the

love of his wife, his four sons, and two grandchildren. He is open to and welcomes reasonable dissent. He believes in the illimitable goodness of God and man and his country. There is nothing dark, bigoted and involuted in his nature. When he enters a room it is like the turning up of a lamp. He sheds light and warmth. He is articulate, humorous, and down to earth.

He does not equate long hair, beards, unshined shoes, and bluejeans with revolution.

He believes strongly that "some windows should be raised on the FBI," that the special agents in charge of local bureaus should become active, visible members of the community in which they live, that they should enjoy contacts with the local press, that the FBI should evoke in the people whose taxes support it, more friendship than fear.

Women are in

He has already opened the bureau to women agents. "I'm surprised," he said, after a former nun, Joanne Pierce of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Susan Roley, an ex-Marine Corps officer of Long Beach, Calif., were accepted as special agents, "that many more women haven't applied. I think we've had less than 30 female applicants."

Gray is also determined to increase the number of minority-group agents in the Bureau. "I want to convince these people that the Federal Bureau of Investigation belongs to all the people of the United States."

Despite some grumbling from the FBI rank and file who are still faithful to the Hoover type of iron discipline and the Hooverian grooming code, Gray hopes to and already has done things differently.

"This is not to demean and denigrate the memory of Edgar Hoover," he explained to employees of the FBI in New York, "but Pat Gray is not Edgar Hoover. I'm married, and I have four sons. I have two grandchildren. I was brought up in the Navy, and I'm just different . . . I am not one who has led or has commanded with the club, the ax, or with an attitude of 'throw the book at the beggar, he's all wrong.'

"That's not the way I operate," he emphasized. "I believe that each American, man or woman, when properly, adequately, fairly led, will respond far more than his leaders could hope for."

Sideburns okay

And then, referring to his new grooming code, he described his young executive assistant, David Kinley, 30, as one of acceptable appearance.

"Now, Dave's got sideburns that come down to his ear, but they're neat. Dave's got hair that comes down almost to his collar, but it's neat." Gray then went on to explain that the contempo-

rary style of dress, wide ties, colored shirts, brown shoes—most of the sartorial heresies of the Hoover period—were okay with him. "Because," he declared, "I don't think that affects your performance." Whereupon the audience responded with loudly enthusiastic applause.

Since May 3 when he took over the FBI chores, Pat Gray has visited more than 30 of the FBI's 59 field offices, always with his wife, Bea, a slim, youthful-looking, forthright woman of 49, shaking hands, introducing himself, explaining his philosophy, and genuinely listening.

Gray believes in firsthand inspections, an old Navy tradition, and these exploratory trips constitute his method of seeing and being seen, of hearing criticisms long pent up but never spoken. According to his wife, "Criticism doesn't bother Pat, because he believes people should ask questions and speak their minds. But he also believes that questioning is a two-way street. He learns by questioning and listening.

"To look at Pat," she says, "with his rugged build and his somewhat pugnacious jaw, you may not think he's a kind man. But he truly loves people and has their welfare at heart. For example, he's never late, because he has a great concern for other people's time. And he's always scrupulously fair, especially in matters of discipline.

"When our boys were small and they were being punished, Pat would never

let them go to bed until he was sure they understood why they were being punished.

"If they questioned his punishment, he would always listen to their excuses or pleas. He is a stickler on communication. He believes communication between generations is essential, between the FBI and the public, between the government and the public. And he thinks a large segment of the public is paranoid about electronic surveillance because there hasn't been enough communication on how little wiretapping the government actually does."

Wed 26 years

The Pat Grays, who have been married 26 years, have four sons. Alan, 28, a Princeton graduate who served as a Marine in South Vietnam, is married and works for the Chemical Bank in New York; Edward, 27, a Dartmouth graduate, married, father of two, who works for a computer firm; Patrick, 24, an ex-Marine who attends Washington College in Chestertown, Md., and Stephen, 19, a sophomore at Dartmouth.

The two oldest sons are issue of Bea Gray's marriage to Ed De Garmo, her first husband. De Garmo was a classmate of Pat Gray in the same platoon at Annapolis, Class of 1940. He was a Navy pilot killed in action in 1945 over Okinawa.

"Ed was trying to rescue some people," Gray explains, "when his plane was hit and crashed in flames. I met

Bea about seven months after Ed was killed and we were married in Coronado [Calif.] some six months later. Alan was born in January of 1944 and Ed in March, 1945. They never knew their father. The only father they've ever known is me.

"After Bea [she was Beatrice Castle Kirk, daughter of an ex-Navy officer who later became president of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Company] and I got married, I was lucky enough to be sent to law school [George Washington] by the Navy. I adopted the boys pretty quickly, and when they were old enough I told each one of them that they had the right to change their name to De Garmo, and they said, 'We've known no other father and we want to keep your name.' Then when Pat and Steve came along, I explained it all to them so that they would know the setup."

The four Gray boys are one of two reasons why Pat Gray decided to retire from the Navy in 1960, despite the fact that he was regarded as one of the most outstanding officers in the service and was widely touted as a future Chief of Naval Operations.

Likes politics

"I left," he explains, "because I had four boys to send to college, and even though I moonlighted while I was on active duty, I realized that I simply couldn't do it on a captain's pay. I also left because I wanted to go into politics, and help influence national policy.

"I'd had four years as a midshipman at the Naval Academy. For 20 years I'd served at sea in battleships and submarines and ashore in various legal assignments. My last position in the Navy had been as military assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and special assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

"I'd been darn lucky," Gray continues, "attending National Security and Cabinet meetings in Washington and seeing the policy process at work. I wanted to get in, not on the electoral side, I didn't want to run for office, I wanted to get in on the managerial and administrative side of policy-making.

Wants to work for GOP

"I remember when I first discussed the problem with General Twining who was Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and Admiral Arleigh Burke. They both asked me to reconsider and urged me not to retire. I also talked to Secretary of Defense Thomas Gates. Finally, when Gates realized that I was determined to transfer to the retired Navy list, that I wanted to work for the Republican Party and help get Richard Nixon elected President, he picked up the phone and called Nixon. After a few minutes he turned to me and said, 'The Vice President wants to see you in his office.'"

continued



Family swimming pool is a busy spot during the summer months. Gray uses it frequently to keep in shape, and it pays off in physical well-being.

Louis Patrick Gray III

CONTINUED

On June 30, 1960, Pat Gray retired from the U.S. Navy and joined the personal staff of Richard Nixon. There he worked with Bob Cushman, Dop Hughes, Bob Finch, and other Nixon supporters.

"My first job," he recalls, "was to systematize all the mail that was flooding in to campaign headquarters. I also put together a paper on the Republican Party campaign organization which I took out to Chicago where everybody reviewed it but did nothing about it."

After John F. Kennedy defeated Nixon in the 1960 Presidential contest, Gray joined what he calls the "Abie's Irish Rose Law Firm" (Jewish and Irish partners) of Suisman, Shapiro, and Wool in New London, Conn. The firm is now called Suisman, Shapiro, Wool and Brennan. Gray became a managing partner in 1967, averaged \$70,000 a year, specializing in corporations, wills, trusts, taxes, real estate, and estate administration. He bought a lovely home with swimming pool in Stonington, Conn., sent some of his sons off to Ivy League colleges.

Gray had come to know the law firm when he was on active duty in the 1950's as a legal officer protecting sailors from the local police when he thought they were getting an "unlawful rap." In one such case he talked to the then Judge Louis Wool. Subsequently Gray got to know other members of the Wool law firm, who, liking him, suggested that he take the Connecticut bar examination.

"Hell," said Gray. "I'm never going to practice law in Connecticut." One of the senior partners said, "You never know, take it, Pat." So Gray drove down to New Haven, took a 30-day cram course at the Yale Law School, and passed the Connecticut bar exam in 1958. Two years later, Suisman, Shapiro, and Wool invited him to join the firm.

Helps many

One of his partners, Jim Brennan, says pridefully, "I know of no finer man than Pat Gray. He's a credit to the human race. He's defended all kinds of people, blacks, whites, yellows, you name them, for little or no money. In 1963 when the USS Thresher went down with all hands, I believe 129 submariners, I can't tell you how many people around here in New London were left widows and orphans. They came to Pat Gray for help.

"He handled their probates. He set up a scholarship fund for the surviving sons. I think they call it the Dolphin Scholarship. He became a surrogate father for dozens of Navy people. Being ex-Navy and ex-submarine himself, his heart went out to those unfortunate people.

"Pat is totally dedicated to Richard Nixon," Brennan concedes, "but he is scrupulously fair. He prides himself on that fact. If he becomes permanent



There's time for family fun during a relaxed mid-afternoon get-together in kitchen. Son Patrick E. watches his father tease Mrs. Gray who holds onto grandson Douglas.

director of the FBI, I think he will develop an esprit de corps among the men he works with which will be second to none. There's something about the guy that communicates loyalty. He is firm but fair.

"Some people don't agree with my assessment of his political philosophy," Brennan offers, "but I would call him a moderate Republican, a moderate conservative."

Dedication pays

Gray's dedication to Richard Nixon paid off in 1969 when Robert Finch, to whom Nixon had offered the Vice Presidency and which office Finch had declined, became Nixon's Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare. Finch invited Pat Gray, his old friend, to come to Washington as his executive assistant. After a year in HEW, Gray returned to his law practice in Connecticut, also serving as a special consultant to President Nixon on the school busing issue.

Late in 1970 Richard Nixon nominated Gray at \$38,000 a year as Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Justice Department's Civil Division. Gray took office in December, and word soon spread through Washington circles that Pat Gray was moving up, that eventually John F. Mitchell would leave the Justice Department to manage Nixon's 1972 campaign, and that Gray would then become the President's "eyes and ears in Justice."

Early this year that scenario was pretty much executed. When John Mitchell resigned, Nixon nominated Deputy Attorney General Richard Kleindienst to succeed Mitchell, and Gray to succeed Kleindienst.

The Kleindienst nomination became deeply enmeshed, however, in the International Telephone and Telegraph scandal. Gray sat beside Kleindienst during the confirmation hearings, advised and protected him, simultaneously arousing the suspicion of such Senators as Bayh and Kennedy as to his highly-vaunted fairness by rebuffing their requests for the Justice Department files on the ITT anti-trust litigation.

Newsman also overheard Gray describe Senator Kennedy in language which might be termed Navy-esque and unendearing.

Previously a major criticism concerning Gray's performance in the Justice Department had surfaced in April, 1971. At that time Gray asked the U.S. District Court in Washington to prevent members of the Vietnam Veterans Against the War from camping overnight on the mall in front of the Capitol. Judge George L. Hart issued the restraining order which was upheld by the circuit court.

The veterans, however, defied the court injunction and bivouacked on the mall anyway. Gray refused to enforce the court order to rout or have them arrested, especially while they slept and were peaceable. He is too kind and adept for that. But by refusing to enforce the injunction after he had requested and won it, he brought down upon his head the wrath of Judge Hart.

Lecture from judge

"If you did not wish to enforce that deadline," Hart excoriated Gray, "you should have come to this court and had that injunction dissolved and removed. You have put the veterans of this country in the situation of openly defying the law of the country, of openly defying the courts of this country, and that is a position that this country cannot tolerate and live with.

"We cannot be in a position where any man in this country is in a position to say what laws he will obey and which laws he will not obey; nor may the Justice Department determine what laws a man may obey and what laws he may not obey.

"And I think," Hart added, "that the judiciary has been degraded by the whole affair and the manner in which it has been handled. I don't think it could have been handled worse."

It is a measure of Pat Gray's integrity and honesty that he has included Judge Hart's excoriation in his personal dossier, without revealing that it was U.S. Attorney General John Mitchell who ordered him to do what he did.

When J. Edgar Hoover died on May 2, 1972, half a dozen men ranging from Cartha DeLoach, formerly of the FBI, to Ramsey Clark to Peter Pitchess, Sheriff of Los Angeles County, were suggested as possible successors. The only man who guessed correctly that Nixon might appoint Louis Patrick Gray III to head

the FBI was Adm. Joe Williams, in charge of the 11th Naval District, whose executive officer Gray had once been.

"I had no inside information," says Williams. "I just figured that Pat was the best man for the job and that the President probably knew it."

According to Gray, he initially thought his appointment as acting FBI director was a gag. As he describes it, Richard Kleindienst, Acting Attorney General, phoned him at 11:50 a.m. on May 3, 1972.

Kleindienst said to him, "Pat, I want you to be in my office this afternoon, around 2:15 or 2:20."

"That afternoon," Gray narrates, "I went up and rapped on Dick's door as I always do and walked right in. He was standing behind his desk, and I'll never forget it. He said, 'Pat, I'm going to name you acting director of the FBI.'"

"I was just," says Gray, "just flabbergasted. I stopped. And since I know Dick Kleindienst—his compassion, he's a highly intelligent guy, a great guy, but he's also given to a lot of kidding. I thought to myself, 'Surely he's got to be kidding, he can't mean this.'"

"And then I saw Ralph Ericson [Deputy Attorney General] sitting over there to the left of his desk, and Ralph had some Xerox copies of the U.S. statutes and some red-covered legal books, West Publishing Company books, and I said, 'Ralph, what have you got there?' He answered, 'I've got some copies of the appointment statutes.' And I said, still thinking it was one of Dick Kleindienst's gags, 'What's all this kidding about?' and Ralph said, 'He's not kidding. He's serious.'"

"Then Dick said, 'Come on, Pat, let's go. We've got to be at the White House!' And that's the way it happened. As to why the President picked me, all I can say is that he must have determined in his own mind that I was an individual he could put in there who would do the job and who would keep the FBI free from political influence."

It wasn't until after the President had appointed him that Pat Gray had a chance to telephone his wife and tell her what happened.

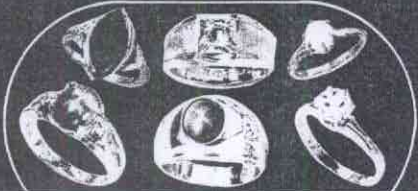
News travels fast

"On the way back from the White House," he remembers, "Marty Kleindienst [Kleindienst's wife] phoned our car to congratulate me saying she had just heard the news. And I said, 'Do you know where Bea is?' and she said, 'Yes, she happens to be at the beauty parlor.' So I called the beauty parlor and the lady who answered said, 'Oh, Mr. Gray, isn't it wonderful news, we've all heard it.' And I said, 'Yes, it is wonderful, but may I talk to my wife?' And she said, 'Well, she's heard it, too.' And I said, 'Well, I'd still like to talk to her.' And then I talked to Bea and I said, 'Honey, do you know what happened?' And she said, 'I've heard it. We've all heard it.'"

continued

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LOUIS PATRICK GRAY III CONTINUED

"That evening," Gray continues, "I called the boys. My son Patrick was so funny. He said, 'What are the guys here [in Washington College] going to say when I tell them that my dad's become the head fuzz?'"

On the day of J. Edgar Hoover's funeral when Pat Gray and his wife were standing outside President Nixon's oval office waiting for a car to take them to the Justice Department, the President motioned for both of them to come in.

"We went in," Gray remembers, "and we sat down on either side of his desk, and he began to talk to me...in terms of his association with the FBI, his respect for the men and women of the FBI, and their contribution to our society and of his close personal friendship with Mr. Hoover."

Relationships noted

"Then he pointed out to me the difference between the friendship he had with Mr. Hoover and the association that we have, and he made it very clear to me that ours was a professional relationship."

"He said, 'The only commitment that I make to you, Pat, and will make to you, is that your name will be considered when the time comes to submit the name of a permanent nominee to the Senate.'"

"And that was the occasion on which Bea said, 'Mr. President, Pat has told me I must never ask the President a question, but I want to know if I could still continue to work as a volunteer in the Committee to Reelect the President.' And he said, 'Absolutely not, you must resign immediately.'" She did.

Pat Gray was born in St. Louis, Mo., on July 18, 1916, the first of four children—three sons and a daughter—of Earle F. Gray and the former Mary Stella Hartmann. The family is of Irish descent.

Pat was christened Louis Patrick Gray III after his grandfather and uncle on the urging of an aunt. His mother, 82, says, "Pat's name is really much too fancy for us."

Gray's father started out in life as a

pattern-maker, later went to work in St. Louis for the Missouri Pacific Railroad which in 1927 transferred him to Houston, Tex., to open an engineering test office.

The family was in less than moderate circumstances, and for nine years young Pat worked as a newspaper delivery boy for the *Houston Post* and *Houston Press*.

In 1928 he was graduated from St. Thomas College High School where he'd done well enough academically to be admitted into Rice Institute (now Rice University), a tuition-free school which in those days accepted only honor graduates. "I always wanted to enter the Naval Academy," he says, "but in the 1930's it really was difficult to obtain an appointment. Eventually prominent men in Houston to whom I had delivered my newspapers and who had come to know me as a delivery boy, went to bat for me. After four years at Rice majoring in engineering and business administration, I was appointed by Congressman Joe Eagle, a Democrat."

"All the others in my family except me are Democrats—my sister Daphrene who's married to a doctor in Dallas; my brother Joe who's a geologist-physicist in Houston; my other brother, Earle, who died in 1969, the same year my dad died."

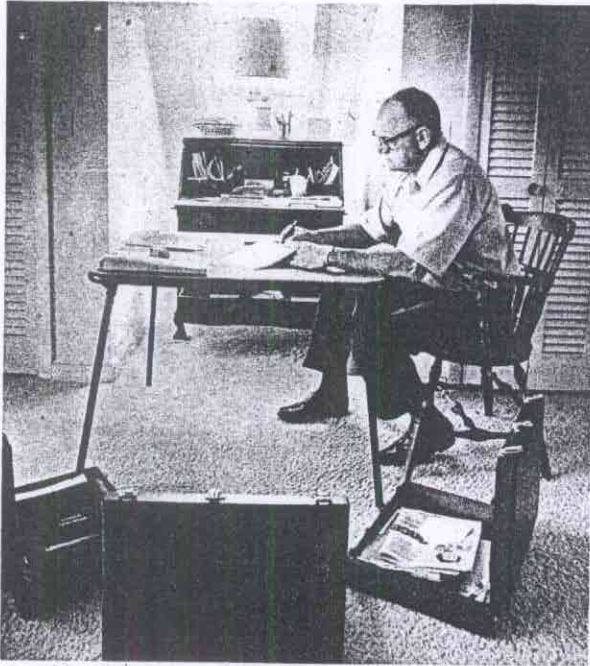
At Annapolis, Gray was an outstanding and versatile athlete, starring in football, lacrosse, and boxing. He was a middling student, however, graduating 172 in a class of 476, largely because he spent more time on girls and sports than he did on academics.

Fine Naval career

Once he was commissioned and sent off to submarine school, Gray diligently applied himself and did exceedingly well. After seven months on the USS Idaho operating out of Iceland and five war patrols on the USS Steelhead in the Pacific during World War II, he was brought back to the States and of more than 600 applicants was one of 18 chosen to go to law school as a Navy postgraduate student.



Pat Gray takes advice from his 3-year-old granddaughter on how to transplant a tree.



Capable of a prodigious amount of work, Pat Gray makes use of his upstairs bedroom at Stonington as his weekend office.

He was graduated from the George Washington University Law School, Washington, D.C., on June 1, 1949, awarded a Juris Doctor Degree with honors. He was also a member of the Law Review and considered one of the most brilliant law students the university has ever developed.

From 1950 to 1960 he served the Navy in a variety of legal offices—in Honolulu, Newport, and Washington, always noted for his seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy and his apparently endless appetite for work.

He is of course a different breed of cat than J. Edgar Hoover who in his later years developed into a benevolent despot.

"I think my kids have helped me a great deal," Gray says, "in not suffering from an age gap. In our family we have an open communications line. My oldest son, Alan, is very, very liberal in outlook. We have a lot of give-and-take arguments. They've enabled me to become a really better American citizen."

Gray, according to one of his sons, "is not a Renaissance man or a cultured man in the New York City sense of culture. He suffers from large gaps in art and music, but he reads widely in history, government, and political philosophy. Once in a while he reads a Western for amusement. He used to smoke and take an occasional drink, but now he's given up both. He swims and exercises almost every day and is in top physical condition.

'A political animal'

"I would say, and I want to be very careful about this, that he is not the kind of conservative I think John Mitchell is. You can ask my father if he agrees down the line with what

Mitchell did while he was U.S. Attorney General, and he will say yes, but that's because dad has a strong, almost fierce sense of loyalty to the team. I would call my father an open-minded conservative. He's not so doctrinaire or rigid that he can't alter his position. He's a political animal. And I'm prejudiced, of course, but I think he will remove all political considerations when it comes to the FBI. I think he will make one helluva great FBI director, because he's honest, fair, open, and absolutely untouchable."

Technically Pat Gray is still an Assistant Attorney General temporarily in charge of the FBI and drawing an assistant's salary and not the \$42,500 J. Edgar Hoover drew.

Come Nov. 8th, Gray will submit his resignation as acting FBI director to the winner of the 1972 Presidential race. If the winner is Nixon, Gray's name most probably will be sent to the Senate for confirmation. If McGovern wins, he could do a whole lot worse than nominating L. Patrick Gray III.