

# Byrd Wants FBI To Be Autonomous

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With President Nixon evidently undecided about his next nominee for director of the FBI, leading Senate Democrats called yesterday for legislation that would insulate the agency from political pressures and influence.

Urging thorough congressional hearings before the opportunity is lost, Senate Majority Whip Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) introduced a bill to take the FBI out of the Justice Department and give its director a fixed seven-year term.

Byrd, who led the Senate opposition to acting director L. Patrick Gray's nomination, called the measure "a first step toward a truly non-political Federal Bureau of Investigation." He said, however, that he did not intend it as a delay to appointment of a successor to Gray.

One high-ranking administration official emphasized that "it may be weeks" before another choice is submitted for Senate confirmation. Another said, "I don't think anyone has an inside track."

White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler shored up that impression, telling newsmen in San Clemente that the President was still "in the process of finding a man. I don't know when he'll make that decision."

Mr. Nixon withdrew Gray's nomination Thursday evening, at Gray's request, after a hurriedly called meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee,



SEN. ROBERT C. BYRD  
... introduces bill

showed that he had no chance of confirmation. The session, several sources said, was called to demonstrate that point and give Gray a chance to bow out on his own.

A casualty of the Watergate controversy, Gray has agreed to stay as acting FBI director until a successor is confirmed. Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) reacted to the withdrawal with what he said was "deep anger."

A member of the Senate's Watergate investigating committee, Weicker said, "The wrong man has been cast adrift. It's a sad commentary on the times when a man of Pat Gray's caliber goes and men of lesser caliber stay on in high places."

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# Hill Democrats Seek to End Political Pressure on FBI

DIRECTOR, From A1

The FBI's acting director since J. Edgar Hoover died last May, Gray stirred the resentment of some oldline FBI hands in shaking up the agency, but he seemed likely to survive until Senate hearings last month when he acknowledged turning raw FBI files in the Watergate case over to White House counsel John W. Dean III, whose own impartiality has been questioned.

Speculation about a replacement for Gray has centered on Assistant Attorney General Henry E. Petersen, head of the Justice Department's Criminal Division, and John E. Ingersoll, director of the department's Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, but some congressional sources are convinced that Mr. Nixon will pick a dark horse that no one has heard about.

Reached in Boston yesterday, Ingersoll said he did not expect to be nominated. He said that "no one [from the administration] has talked to me about it."

Petersen, who has been in overall charge of the Justice Department's Watergate inves-

tigation, could not be reached for comment, but according to several sources, he has indicated that he would rather not be named to the FBI post.

Justice Department sources said John Bartels, a former New York prosecutor and now a Justice Department deputy in drug abuse law enforcement, was being considered. Bartels had also been mentioned in unconfirmed reports as a candidate to head the proposed new Justice Department agency that would take over all federal narcotics enforcement efforts.

Others mentioned as possible nominees include former Illinois Republican Gov. Richard Ogilvie; former Assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan; Assistant Attorney General Myles J. Ambrose, and, more remotely, U. S. District Court Judge W. Matthew Byrne of Los Angeles, and Washington, D.C., Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson.

Sen. Byrd, who has said he hopes the next nominee will be someone "who has had no association whatsoever with the Watergate investigation," reiterated that view yesterday, telling a reporter that such a step would inevitably produce

another impasse over the executive privilege doctrine that Mr. Nixon invoked when Dean's testimony was sought at the Gray hearings.

Emphasizing the need for a careful look at the FBI's role after 48 years under Hoover, Byrd warned that the directorship was now in danger of becoming a revolving door of "political patronage." The FBI chief serves at the pleasure of the President under present law. Unless Mr. Nixon's next nominee does "a really outstanding job," Byrd said, the FBI is likely to undergo yet another changing of the guard whenever a Democratic administration takes over, unless the law is changed.

Byrd's bill for revamping the agency, which he stressed that he was offering primarily to get congressional study and oversight under way, was co-sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) and Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen (D-Tex.). A similar measure was proposed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.) who suggested a 15-year term for the FBI director and mandatory qualifications including at least 10 years in the agency.