

Nixon Sees End of Permissiveness Era

Cites Law Enforcement Gain in Ceremony at F.B.I. Academy

By ROBERT M. SMITH
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 30 —

President Nixon asked a group of policemen who graduated today from the National Academy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to take back to their communities this message: "The era of permissiveness with regard to law enforcement is at an end."

Present at the graduation ceremony, in one of his infrequent public appearances, was J. Edgar Hoover, the 76-year-old director of the bureau who has recently become the subject of controversy. Mr. Hoover, natty in a sharply pressed gray suit, looked and acted quite fit and received with a bow and smile the praise of the President.

The President said of Mr. Hoover, "anybody who is strong, anybody who fights for what he believes in, anybody who stands up when it is tough is bound to be controversial. The great majority of Americans back Mr. Hoover."

Mr. Hoover said of the President, "No man has been more responsible for the fate of America or the destiny of the free world."

Mr. Hoover said of Attorney General John N. Mitchell, "You have given us renewed confidence in the administration of law enforcement in the United States—a confidence we didn't have before your administration."

A Gift for Nixon

Mr. Hoover gave Mr. Nixon—who was once turned down for a job in the F.B.I.—a pair of cufflinks with the seal of the F.B.I. academy. He gave Mr. Mitchell a gold badge, saying, "From this time on, we will view you as a special agent of the F.B.I."

Both the President and the Attorney General cited crime statistics released by the F.B.I. today. The statistics said that the rate of increase of serious crime for the first three months of this year was 6 per cent, the lowest increase in five years.

According to the uniform crime report, 61 major cities with populations of 100,000 or



United Press International

President Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, at the graduation ceremony in Washington yesterday.

more showed a decrease in the total number of crimes for January, February and March. However, during that period, violent crimes increased 13 per cent, against an increase of 12 per cent in the like period last year.

Students of crime statistics have noted that the F.B.I.'s figures are subject to important qualifications. For example, the figures are compiled from local police reports and are dependent on the accuracy of the local police. In addition, experts argue that certain crimes—particularly those committed in the slums—tend to be less well-reported than others.

Mr. Nixon cited the statistics "to tell you today is a good day for law enforcement."

'Front-Line Soldiers'

"This progress couldn't be made," the President told the policemen, "unless it was for the front-line soldiers, the law enforcement officials."

"Don't get discouraged" by some of the talk, he told them. "The majority of the American people do provide backing for those who risk their lives to save the lives of others," he said.

Mr. Mitchell said that he was "encouraged by what we hope is a nationwide trend toward

an actual decrease in the crime rate," although "lawlessness will continue as a major problem."

He said that at a time when "peace officers have to deal with a new menace—the violence of extremists," the "re-interpretation" of the Constitution "is proceeding at such a headlong pace that we often don't know where we stand."

"What may be a lawful arrest today may be unlawful by the time the case comes to trial," he said. He went on:

"What is even more confusing is the growing attitude that is being given the sworn enemies of the peace officer. Justice seems to be a hunting license for the enemies of society."

"A wave of legalisms has descended on our criminal justice system. Every conceivable twisting and turning is used to weight the side of the defendant—in many cases far beyond the intent and often even the language of the framers of the Constitution."

Mr. Mitchell said, however, that he thought "the scales of justice will be brought back into balance" by a "strong movement" under way for reform of the system of criminal justice.