

Director J. Edgar Hoover disclosed yesterday that FBI agents now will investigate murders of policemen when asked to do so by local law enforcement agencies.

However, and FBI spokesman reported there have been no such requests since the new policy was adopted last month in the wake of White House meetings on police killings.

"Nobody has asked us," the spokesman said, adding 96.4 per cent of police murders are solved by local authorities within 30 days.

For that reason, and because of Hoover's insistence the FBI not be made a federal police force, the agency has consistently opposed legislation making killing a policeman a federal crime.

In his report for the fiscal year ended June 30, Hoover disclosed the FBI will do on an invitation basis what it opposes doing on a mandatory basis.

"In addition to the previously available services of the FBI laboratory, identification division and National Crime Information Center, upon request of the head of a local police agency the FBI will now actively participate in the investigation of a police killing," Hoover said.

The switch in policy apparently came after President Nixon called Hoover, Attorney General John N. Mitchell and a score of state and local police officials to the White House to express concern over a rising number of police deaths.

Last year's toll is expected to be 100, compared with 88 officers killed in the line of duty in 1969. More than 50 policemen were slain in the first six months of this year.

The White House meeting was followed by a two-day conference with 100 state and local police officials at FBI headquarters. At that time, the officials were told the FBI would conduct full investigations of police deaths if requested, the spokesman said.

Reviewing the fiscal year, Hoover said investigations into organized crime and extremist violence occupied much of the bureau's time. More than 700 persons were arrested under provisions of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 since it became law last October, Hoover said.

Arrests in securities theft cases totaled more than 60, with the total value of stolen

stocks and bonds recovered topping \$20 million, he added.

Hoover said membership in the Black Panther Party is now estimated at 800, a drop from the 1,000 he said belonged to the organization when he testified before a House appropriations subcommittee last March.

Hoover said the Ku Klux Klan had experienced an increase in membership during the past fiscal year, from about 4,300 to about 4,500.

## FBI to Probe Slayings Of Policemen, If Asked

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