
OBITUARIES

John Mohr, Key FBI Official, Dies at 86

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John Philip Mohr, 86, who worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 33 years before retiring in 1972 as an assistant bureau director, died of renal failure Jan. 25 at Arlington Hospital. He lived in Arlington.

He began his FBI career in 1939 as a special agent. He served in field offices in Los Angeles and San Francisco before transferring to FBI headquarters in Washington as a supervisor in the early 1940s. He was named a personnel officer in 1944, and three years later, he joined the office of Associate Director Clyde Tolson, with the rank of inspector.

In 1954, Mr. Mohr became assistant FBI director for administration. In 1959, he added the post of assistant to Director J. Edgar Hoover. He retired from the FBI shortly after the death of Hoover and the retirement of Tolson.

As assistant director, he supervised several FBI divisions, including those dealing with identification (fingerprints), training, administration and files, and communications.

In his final posts, Mr. Mohr was always identified by the media as the FBI's "number three" official, behind Hoover and Tolson. A 1976 New York Times story referred to Mr. Mohr as "one of the FBI's most powerful, if little known, executives."

A 1976 Washington Post story said he was "a favorite of the late director, J. Edgar Hoover, and Hoover's principal deputy, Clyde Tolson, and some FBI sources say that during Hoover's final years, Mr. Mohr virtually ran the bureau."

After Hoover's death, Mr. Mohr's name cropped up in investigations that examined procurement practices and the use of FBI personnel for work at officials' homes. He also was featured in stories about searches for Hoover's "personal files," which proved to be immensely illusive. Mr. Mohr was never personally

accused of wrongdoing.

Mr. Mohr, who lived in Arlington, was born in New Jersey and raised in Kingston, N.Y. He was a graduate of American University and what is now Catholic University law school.

He had served on the administrative board of Arlington United Methodist Church. He was a member of the International Country Club and the Society of Former Agents of the FBI.

Survivors include his wife, the former Stella Morris, of Arlington; a son, Dr. Richard J. Mohr of Herndon; a daughter, Jeanne M. Scott of Clifton; three brothers, Philip A., of Cincinnati, Paul J., of Bellevue, Wash., and Chester D., of Ocala, Fla.; and four grandchildren.