

Hoover Asks Aides Adjust To Rulings

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FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover told his agents yesterday to forget about criticizing the Supreme Court and concentrate on upgrading the quality of law enforcement officers.

"There has been much wailing and gnashing of teeth in some law enforcement circles lately," Hoover noted. But "there is little to be gained from just shouting protests and criticisms," he said, and "much to be gained from throwing our full resources and energies into training a professional law enforcement corps to be effective within the framework of current rules of law and evidence."

Hoover's comment, his first since June 13 when the Supreme Court severely restricted police questioning of suspects in their custody, was made in his monthly message in the FBI Enforcement Bulletin.

The statement's moderate tone was startling in view of Hoover's past attacks on the courts for allegedly "coddling" criminals.

Hoover dismissed as "extremes" the views of some that recent court decisions are "handcuffing law enforcement" and that "unless we have tight, restrictive control of law enforcement, police lawlessness will result."

The Bulletin also contained long excerpts from the June 13 Supreme Court decision, noting that the opinion "describes the manner in which an accused must be warned of his right to silence and right to counsel."

Not included in the excerpts was a long passage in the opinion praising the FBI for "an exemplary record of effective law enforcement" while advising suspects of their rights. The Court said local police can readily copy the FBI model.

Hoover said the law enforcement profession must emulate businessmen and scientists in keeping abreast of technical developments.

He concluded, "Increased professional police training is no longer a desirable goal, no longer a matter of choice for United States law enforcement. It is an absolute necessity."