

Hoover's Ironclad Caddies

WASHINGTON (LAT) — A bulletproof 1971 limousine for FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is expected to cost about \$30,000, pushing the total cost of such cars for Hoover to more than \$150,000 in seven years.

The government leases a bullet-proof limousine for the President at an annual cost of about \$5000. It buys one annually for Hoover.

A General Services Administration spokesman confirmed that GSA now is negotiating for a 1971 model for Hoover and expects to pay perhaps \$30,000 or a little more for it. The federal budget provides for purchasing an armor-plated car for only one official — Hoover.

Every year GSA purchases a new Cadillac chassis which is shipped to Hess and Eisenhardt in Cincinnati where armor plate, bullet-proof windows and specially built tires are installed.

Breakdown of Costs

The cost of Hoover's car has increased steadily over the years. In 1970 it was 27,655. It was \$23,241 in 1969; \$21,114 in 1968; \$19,377 in 1967; \$18,533 in 1966 and \$17,336 in 1965.

When Hoover gets his new car in Washington, he assigns the year-old model to another FBI office, thus building up a fleet around the nation.

The latest models are maintained for use in the areas he most frequently visits, such as Miami and Southern California vacation spots where he enjoys horseracing. He has just ended a 26-day visit in Miami, which he visits every winter. He spends August at La Jolla, Cal.

A spokesman for Hess and Eisenhardt, the nation's only bulletproof car builder, said that when the FBI decides