

Hoover Describes Clark *Fishes* as 'a Jellyfish, a Softie'



—AP WIREPHOTO.
J. EDGAR HOOVER
Blasts former attorney
general.

Former Attorney General
'Worse' Than RFK

WASHINGTON (AP) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover describes former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark as a "jellyfish" and says he did not speak to the late Robert F. Kennedy during his last six months as attorney general, the Washington Post reported.

Hoover, 76, and chief of the elite federal force for the past 45 years, said in an interview with the Post published in Tuesday editions that Clark was the worst attorney general he had ever served under.

Clark was, Hoover is quoted as saying, "like a jellyfish . . . a softie." Hoover said Clark's father, former attorney general and Supreme Court justice, was by contrast a "good strong man."

The article said Hoover described Clark as even worse than the late Sen. Kennedy as attorney general. In the last six months of Kennedy's tenure, Hoover said, he did not speak to Kennedy.

SAYS STANCE UNSURE

But, Hoover added, "If there was a worse attorney general, it was Ramsey Clark. You never knew which way he was going to flop on an issue.

"He was worse than Bobby (Kennedy)," Hoover said. "At least Kennedy stuck by his guns, even when he was wrong."

Clark, who was attorney general between 1967 and 1969, was equally uncomplimentary to Hoover in a book to be released this week.

In the book, "Crime in America," Clark scored what he termed Hoover's "self-centered concern for his own reputation," and charged that the FBI "has so coveted personal credit that



RAMSEY CLARK
Says FBI is self-centered.

it will sacrifice even effective crime control before it will share the glory of its exploits."

As for his present boss, Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell, Hoover said, "There has never been an attorney general for whom I've had higher regard."

Mitchell, said Hoover, is an "honest, sincere and very human man."

CRIME APPROACHES

Hoover indicated his greatest disagreement with Clark was over approaches to crime. With Kennedy, he said, the trouble was over standards of the FBI.

"The trouble was that Kennedy wanted to loosen up our standards and qualifications, to discard the requirement that agents hold degrees in law or accounting. He even wanted to discard the bachelor's degree as a requirement," Hoover said.

"In short, he wanted more Negro agents. I told him, 'Now Bobby, I have no prejudices. The FBI has Negro agents, Indian agents, Chinese agents and all kinds of other agents. Anyone who can meet the qualifications can have a job and I'll have it no other way.'"