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THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1972

FREDERICK, MARYLAND

J. Edgar Hoover

J. Edgar Hoover died just as he would have wished.

The man who took over a badly graft-ridden FBI in 1924 only after being solemnly promised by President Calvin Coolidge's fellow graduate from Amherst College, Attorney General Harlan F. Stone, that:

"I can promise you that if you accept this job, the President guarantees that you will be completely free of political control or outside interference."

Hoover died at 77 years in his bachelor apartment after 48 years of completely dedicated service which made both himself and the law enforcement bureau which he ruled with an iron hand international institutions.

He would have wanted it that way.

In the lexicography of J. Edgar Hoover the lone word "DUTY" dictated his every action for almost a half century.

A succession of Presidents have moved in and out of the White House in the past almost half century, but not a single one has ever even hinted at his replacement.

Possibly two score men — most of whom have disappeared into the footnotes of history — have served as his "theoretical superior" in the capacity of Attorney General of the United States.

And it was not until he had left the Cabinet position under Ex-President Lyndon B. Johnson that the one sole critic, former Attorney General Ramsey Clark in writing the biography of his brief service sniped at the FBI chief in accusing him of "a self-centered concern for his own reputation."

Glancing back at a career of almost a

half century crowded with distinctions, in which he had created in his own image an absolutely "graft-free" and "politically untouchable," FBI, Hoover with commendable restraint to the attack of the leftist son of a former member of the Supreme Court, contented himself with calling his former superior: "A jellyfish."

It is very fitting that as the nation halts in the midst of a new and unpredictable "permissive society" in which a large section of our law enforcement bodies, including black-robed judges of high distinction, enunciate the new theory of justice that: "There are no criminals. There are only sick men and women;" that like the captain of a sinking liner at sea, J. Edgar Hoover, died at the helm of duty.

He had no sympathy for such a philosophy of jurisprudence and he made no bones about denouncing it.

To the iron-jawed director of the FBI: "A criminal is an enemy of society and he belongs in jail."

He added in elaboration: "In all history, organized Society has never supinely surrendered the right to protect itself from murder, rapine, riots, and rape."

And tersely, he concluded:
"There is only one alternative to vigorous law enforcement and punishment of hardened criminals.

"And that is not democracy.
"It is sheer Anarchy!"

Few recall that the first official act of our last assassinated President, John F. Kennedy, after being assured of his razor-thin victory over Republican Richard Nixon in 1960 was to tell the weary press outside his Hyannis summer home that: "I intend to re-appoint J. Edgar Hoover as director of the FBI."

And under JFK's similarly assassinated brother Robert's term as Attorney General, Hoover personally attested that, "he never gave me one single order."

It is fitting that the body of this crusading apostle of law and order in all of our history is lying in state in the rotunda of the Capitol until 9:30 this morning when it will be reverently moved to the National Presbyterian Church in Washington for funeral services today at 11 a.m.

President Richard Nixon — for the first time in his nearly four years in the White House — has voluntarily announced that he will personally deliver the eulogy. Burial will be in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington.

Historians will have to go far back into the nearly 200-year-old history of the United States to find a precedent in which the President of the United States at his own volition in a tribute both to the philosophy of fair but rigid enforcement of law and order which he simultaneously shares with its greatest living exponent, and its fallen chief, pronounced the eulogy at the last rites of a mere bureau chief of the Department of Justice which includes scores of similar administrative posts.

We note with approval that Maryland's junior Senator J. Glenn Beall (R), Frostburg, has announced that he will co-sponsor a bill in the Senate to name the now under construction multi-million dollar FBI Building in Washington the "The J. Edgar Hoover Federal Office Building."

But - in simple truth - the real living monument to this 48-year career head of the FBI will not be fabricated of steel, concrete and glass.

It is a living, breathing, and virile thing!

So long as there are American people holding high the lofty ideals of respect for law and order, as President Nixon so unspokenly aligns himself in today's eulogy to a man whose entire credo was predicated upon protecting society by fearless and impartial law enforcement, so will the twin links between J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI best be memorialized by all decent citizens in a twin niche in their hearts.