

Throngs View Hoover Bier

President to Deliver Eulogy at Funeral Today

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Louis B. Nichols joined the FBI in July, 1934. Over the years he rose through the ranks to become J. Edgar Hoover's top assistant. He named a son John Edgar. And yesterday, he stood with that son near J. Edgar Hoover's casket in the Capitol Rotunda and cried.

He was not the only one.

Hundreds of other Americans, FBI agents, top government officials and tourists jammed the Rotunda yesterday, as Hoover's body was brought there to lie in state.

Many were tearful; many just curious. Many had worked alongside The Director in his 48 years at the FBI; many had just heard of him. But some-

berly, and at the rate of about 1,000 an hour, they came for his last public appearance.

There was, for example, 9-year-old Valerie Allen, a member of Girl Scout Troop 187 from Elkins Park, Pa., which was waiting to view the closed casket.

Valerie Allen knew lots about J. Edgar Hoover — the only FBI director, served under eight Presidents, died Monday. And she knew something else, she said: "He was a very great man."

Sheila K. Harris, meanwhile, had walked to the Capitol in a pouring rain from FBI headquarters, where she is a fingerprint technician. So had hundreds of her colleagues. She said she had not

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been able to work very well where everybody's mind is yesterday morning. "Here is today, anyway," she said.

Earlier, waiting for the casket to arrive, the Rev. Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, Senate chaplain and also Hoover's pastor at the National Presbyterian Church reflected on his life. Hoover sang in the church choir as a boy and his funeral will be held from the church today.

Mr. Elson had been a close friend of Hoover. He had paid him a personal call each New Year's Day, which was Hoover's birthday.

"I wrote the Eisenhower funeral three years in advance," Mr. Elson said yesterday. "This one was a little more sudden."

The ceremonies began yesterday at 11:23 a.m., when Hoover's casket arrived in a downpour at the foot of the East steps.

A nine-man military honor guard, heads bowed, lifted the casket from a hearse. An American flag, wrapped in plastic against the rain, covered it.

Inside, Hoover's top 15 FBI assistants stood in the front row of dignitaries as honorary pallbearers.

The 15 congressmen who were formerly FBI special agents were nearby.

Standing among the Cabinet and Supreme Court was Lewis B. Hershey—like Hoover

a former Selective Service Director government official often under fire, unlike Hoover a man who retired.

In his eulogy, Chief Justice Warren Burger praised Hoover as a "man of high principles" who had "beliefs based on Christian faith."

Hoover "would not sacrifice principle to popular clamor," Burger said. Rather, Burger said he had built an organization that was "ready and able to deal with crisis after crisis."

"He was a great American who served his country so well, and earned the lasting admiration of all who believe in ordered liberty," the Chief Justice said.

In his prayer, Mr. Elson praised Hoover "... for his elevated patriotism ... his commitment to justice and peace in this nation

"We ask that we may be as strong as he was strong; brave as he was brave; and loyal as he was loyal," Mr. Elson said.

J. Edgar Hoover was to lie in state at the Capitol all night. His body will be taken to Mr. Elson's church early today. The president will deliver the eulogy at the funeral, scheduled for 11 a.m.

And then Hoover will be buried in Congressional Cemetery, here in the town where he was born, in the cemetery where his parents have lain since World War I.