

Balt Eves Sun 5/11/73

Why J. Edgar Hoover Never Wed

Glendale, Ariz., (Reuter)—Former FBI Agent 289 has revealed that his close friend and employer, J. Edgar Hoover, the late FBI director, never married because of his mother.

Agent Lloyd E. Kingman, 78, of Glendale, said in an interview this week that Hoover's mother was confined to a wheelchair and lived into her 90's.

Kingman himself has been bedridden since 1970 because of an injury.

"He said he would not subject any woman to the burden of looking after his mother," related Kingman, who worked in Washington most of his 27-year service. He said Hoover looked after his mother himself.

"Perfectly Normal"

Kingman observed that "lots of people have accused him of being sweetheart with— (a male aide), but that's not true. Anything but. He was a perfectly



J. EDGAR HOOVER

normal human being in every respect."

The ex-agent said he never asked Hoover why he never married and Hoover responded that he would "never marry as long as his mother lived."

Hoover had girl friends, among them the mother of actress Ginger Rogers, Kingman said. "She was a particularly close friend of his, but

she made the mistake of claiming she was going to marry him and that stopped the romance in the bud."

Glad to get out

Kingman left the bureau in 1954.

"Frankly, I was glad to get out in '54," he said, "and get away from the pettiness that was creeping in, the damned overorganization, this everybody's-a-specialist idea. When you get into that, you ruin any organization."

"The FBI changed while Hoover was director. It changed from an efficient, hard-working, hard-hitting organization of dedicated, two-fisted men. It began to grow, it got too big. It deteriorated into a big bureaucracy, made up of a bunch of ambitious jackasses."

Kingman declared with emotion, "Damn it, but Mr. Hoover had good principles. Man that fella could be admired because he did have principles... though lots of times he'd be wrong. He'd take a course and then stick to it come hell or high water."

Had good principles

"But to tell you the honest to God facts, he was awful poor in the choice of his subordinates. A lot of them were only thinking of themselves, how they could boost themselves."

"I didn't give a damn whether he liked me or not, and he knew it. Therefore he had more respect for me than a lot of those other guys."

Good tennis player

Hoover was interested in horse racing, football, boxing, and was a good tennis player,

Kingman recalled.

"We had an FBI baseball team in the Federal Employees League.... He was never satisfied unless the team won the pennant. He was a good guy to be with, too, lots of fun. He got right in there and called the players nicknames and dirty names, and he didn't hesitate to say what he thought, out loud, for anybody to hear."

Among other post over the nation, Kingman was in charge of the technical section of the fingerprint bureau for a period.

One of his best stories is about following up a lead in the Lindbergh baby kidnaping. With a large force, the agents knocked on a door and an old lady answered it. The cries of a baby heard by an informant turned out to be a parrot.