

N.Y. Left Out Of Meeting on Police Deaths

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By Carroll Kilpatrick
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Nixon met with police officials of the nation's leading cities yesterday on ways to prevent police killings, but New York City was left out.

The White House later left the clear impression that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover blackballed New York Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy and another police official, Quinn Tamm of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Hoover has feuded with both in the past and both have taken strong stands for tougher gun control laws, which the administration has opposed.

Following the meeting with the police officials, Attorney General John N. Mitchell announced that the administration would propose legislation to provide \$50,000 to survivors of police slain in the line of duty. It has opposed similar legislation in the past.

When Mitchell was asked why Murphy was not at the meeting, he replied:

"As far as I know, the Chief of Police of New York was busy today."

Asked if he had been invited, Mitchell replied: "I believe he was, but I was not the inviter, so I don't know."

Later, White House press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler explained that when the meeting was planned the FBI was asked to make up the list of those invited. He confirmed that Murphy had not been invited.

In New York, Murphy, who formerly was police chief here, called the White House explanations of his absence "incredible."

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"It was with disappointment and dismay that I learned that the appearance of police of the greatest city in the world—confronted by a major problem of violence by guns—was not wanted at the Washington conference," Murphy said.

"We cannot allow political considerations to hinder cooperative efforts to improve the safety of our police officers and the public."

Murphy said that federal assistance is needed to help obtain "stricter gun controls, greater access to the nationwide criminal intelligence network and funds to facilitate inter-city exchanges of intelligence and personnel. I hope there will be a sincere interest in our problems."

Tamm was quoted as saying he and Murphy were not invited because of Hoover's personal animosity. Tamm accused Hoover of "playing politics with policemen's lives."

The President, Mitchell and Hoover met for nearly two hours with elected officials of the IACP—Tamm is executive director—with the National Sheriffs Association, police chiefs from Washington, D.C., Chicago, Kansas City, Mo.,



PATRICK V. MURPHY
... excluded by Hoover

Boston, Los Angeles, the states of Texas and New York, and ranking members of the House and Senate Judiciary committees.

Of the 51 policemen killed this year in the line of duty, seven were from New York City.

An FBI spokesman said Murphy was not present "because he was in New York personally directing the investigation of the murders of his two men as Mr. Hoover would want to be if it had been FBI agents killed."

Two New York officers were

shot from behind May 21 after responding to a call for help in Harlem.

Mitchell said that it was agreed in the conference the administration would continue to oppose legislation making it a federal crime to kill a police officer. The reason, he said, is that "we do not want under any circumstances to have the FBI or any other federal law enforcement agency considered as a national police force."

Mitchell said the administration decided to support a \$50,000 grant to survivors of officers killed in the line of duty because "of the great variance of benefits that accrue under state and local laws."

Rep. Andrew Jacobs Jr. (D-Ind.) said after Mitchell's announcement that for 20 months the administration had opposed a bill he introduced designed to compensate survivors of police and firemen killed in the line of duty.

He quoted the Attorney General as saying such legislation would constitute "unreasonable intrusion into state and local government activities."

The rash of police killings, which Mitchell described as "inane and senseless... by demented people who undertake these acts without rhyme or reason," will be discussed again next week at a meeting

at the Justice Department. New York City, the White House said, will probably be represented there.



Associated Press

President Nixon, flanked by Attorney General Mitchell and FBI Director Hoover, talks with police officials.