

Aged Hoover Aide Skirts Retirement

By Jack Anderson

The FBI is run by two fading old crimefighters, J. Edgar Hoover and Clyde Tolson, both bachelors, both in their 70s. Both deserve to retire to a place where the pace and weather are kinder on the bodies of old men whose work is completed.

Tolson is so feeble, in fact, that Hoover had to use a loophole in the law to keep him on the job without taking a physical.

When Tolson reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 last May, Hoover performed some bureaucratic sleight of hand to keep his friend by his side.

A presidential waiver to stay on the job, such as Hoover has received, was out of the question. This would have required Tolson to take a vigorous physical examination to make sure age hadn't sapped his vitality. He never could have passed.

So Hoover, with the concurrence of Attorney General John Mitchell, simply allowed Tolson to "retire," then to return as a "re-employable annuitant." This is a technical term used to describe a retired specialist whose services

are so urgently needed that he is brought back to complete a vital mission.

As a "re-employable annuitant," Tolson is technically retired and, therefore, needn't submit to a physical. He draws his government pension, and the FBI pays him an additional amount to make up the difference between his pension and full FBI salary.

From FBI agents, both active and retired, we found that Hoover is still widely revered. But the enfeeblement of Tolson has caused a morale problem inside the FBI. Agents question whether he is competent to handle his heavy responsibilities.

Washington Expose

Agnew Notified—Liberals are chortling over reports of an estrangement between President Nixon and Vice President Agnew. As evidence, the word has spread that the President didn't even bother to tell Agnew about John Connally's appointment as Treasury Secretary. There have been hints that Connally, a former Texas governor and political protege of ex-President Lyndon Johnson, might get Agnew's job in 1972. The liberal rejoicing is premature. Mr. Nixon personally ordered

White House aides to notify Agnew of Connally's appointment several hours before the story broke. Agnew took the call on Air Force Two as it dropped down at LaGuardia airport during an Agnew stopover in New York City. In fact, the White House called back a second time to make sure the Vice President got the word.

Drug Story—The politically potent pharmaceutical industry has brought pressure on the White House to bar a vital imported drug that is selling for one-half the price of its U.S. equivalent. The drug is "ampicillin," a penicillin substitute used for urinary tract ailments and other diseases, many of them occurring in the elderly. Italian-made ampicillin is selling in this country for \$10 per hundred. The American producers, who charge about \$20 per hundred, are trying to bar the cheaper Italian product. A British firm called Beecham, which holds the patent and has licensed five U.S. drug giants to manufacture ampicillin, has asked the U.S. Tariff Commission to find that the Italian product poses an "immediate and substantial" threat. Two of the four commissioners have bought the argument. The

White House has also shown more interest in protecting the drug companies' profits than in providing cheaper drugs for the sick.

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Agnew Urges New Approach In Child Care

NEW YORK, Jan. 10 (AP)—Vice President Agnew, writing in Sunday's Daily News, said new approaches to care for pre-adolescent inner city youth were the key to significant welfare reform.

He suggested "liberalization and equalization" of adoption laws to make adoption easier for couples "who are willing and able to give children the home they need."

He also said it was "ridiculous" to expect a mother working for subsistence wages to provide a "decent home environment" and added: "This is one angle of the problem that must have our best and most serious thinking." The problems of the nation's children are "far greatest in the urban ghettos and it is here that we must begin," the Vice President said.