



Washington Merry-Go-Round by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Late last year, we decided to turn the tables on J. Edgar Hoover, who for 47 years has been running investigations of others. We, therefore, began an FBI-style investigation of the FBI chief.

This attracted considerable attention in the nation's newspapers and magazines. The ABC network showed a film of my reporter, Charles Elliott, rummaging through Hoover's trash. Our discovery of rich dinner menus and empty Gelusil cartons, leading us to conclude that the great crime fighter suffers from gas pains, was widely publicized.

But our investigation has uncovered facts far more newsworthy than Hoover's indigestion.

We found that the durable old G-man and his faithful companion Clyde Tolson, both bachelors, both now in their 70's,

vacationed together each summer at LaJolla, Calif., where Hoover liked to attend the races.

They stayed in \$100-a-day suites at the Hotel Del Charro near the Del Mar track. The FBI pair never paid their bills which were picked up by Texas Oil millionaire Clint Murchison, the hotel owner.

The former hotel manager, Alan Witwer, told us, while he was there Hoover ran up a total tab of over \$15,000 picked up by Murchison. A typical thank-you letter, signed "Edgar," said:

"It is always hard to leave one's friends after such an enjoyable stay as Clyde and I have had these past few weeks.

We appreciated the superb accommodations and your many contributions toward our comfort and enjoyment of this trip."

HOOVER'S LIMOUSINES — Our investigations also produced the startling fact that the

taxpayers provide Hoover with five bulletproof limousines, three more than are available to the President.

Two of Hoover's limousines are kept in Washington, the other three in Los Angeles, Miami and New York City. Annual costs: more than \$50,000 a year. A check of the mileage run up by the five cars will show they have been held largely for Hoover's exclusive use.

We found, too, that Hoover had circumvented the law to keep his ailing sidekick in the FBI. Tolson, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70, needed a presidential waiver to remain on active duty. But he had suffered a series of minor strokes and had undergone delicate aortal surgery. He could never have passed the physical, which is required for a presidential waiver.

Hoover got around the law by retiring his old friend, then bringing him back. The FBI chief used a legal provision which allows the employment of retired personnel temporarily to complete a project they were working on at the time of their mandatory retirement.

But most serious of all, Hoover used FBI personnel to research and write three books, which have brought him over \$250,000 in royalties. The books were produced, in other words, at the taxpayers' expense. But royalty checks were made out to Hoover personally.

J. Edgar Hoover has built the FBI into a law enforcement agency with a reputation unmatched anywhere in the world. It is also a tribute to Hoover and the FBI that they are denounced with equal ferocity by the extremists of the left and the right.

But our investigation has uncovered conduct that is curious, indeed, for the man who has become symbolic of the fight against evil doers. It is past time for the indomitable old man to retire. The FBI will survive quite well, since he has given it a firm foundation.