

Limit Term Of FBI Chief, Levi Suggests

New York Times News Service

Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi says he would favor passage of a law to limit the tenure of the FBI director.

Speaking on the CBS television program, "Face the Nation," Levi yesterday suggested a term of about 10 years, but he said the precise length was not important.

"I think that probably some limitation would be appropriate, in view of history," Levi said. Presumably, he was alluding to disclosures of apparent abuses by the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover's direction. When he died in 1972, he had been director 48 years.

GUIDELINES proposed by the Justice Department could be the basis for needed legislation to prevent abuses by the FBI, Levi said, adding this could produce "the kind of regulations the Bureau thinks it can live with."

In response to questions, Levi also said the Justice Department might consider the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate again the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. He said the civil rights division of the department was reviewing all of the files on the King assassination, to see if there were flaws in past investigations.

ON ANOTHER issue, the attorney general said passage of a constitutional amendment to forbid massive busing for school integration would not be a "desirable path," but he suggested a "rethinking" about court-ordered busing.

"I don't think the school



ATTY. GEN. EDWARD LEVI
Busing needs 'rethinking'

system should be run by the courts," he said. "Busing is one remedy, an equitable remedy, to try to make up for a violation of law in state-enforced discrimination" and "in many places it is not a good remedy," he said. "This is an area where we've got to rethink what we're doing."

The courts do consider other remedies, and busing is the "last remedy," but it is one that is sometimes necessary, he said.

HE ALSO MADE these comments:

- The death penalty would be considered constitutional "if one conceded it's going to be equitably used and that there are proper standards."

- Consideration is being given to the possibility that the government will pay for lawyers for former President Richard M. Nixon in civil suits brought against him.

- Government wiretaps on foreign embassies are justifiable if the information is important to the national security of the United States.

- The Equal Rights Amendment "isn't needed," but has become a "symbolic point," and "symbolism is important."