THE ADMINISTRATION

The Chief Speaks

FBI Director John Edgar Hoover has been a Washington institution nearly as long as the Lincoln Memorial (41 years v. 43) and, particularly over the past year, has weathered plenty of criticism. But the old crime fighter and Communist hunter sticks by his tommy guns, as he displayed in testimony released last week, before a House appropriations subcommittee.

An Oblique Rap. Hoover placed much of the blame for rising crime rates on the courts: "I have often said there is too much concern on the part of our federal, state and local courts for the rights of the individual charged with a crime. I think he is entitled to his civil rights, but I think the citizens of this country ought to be able to walk all of the streets of our cities without being mugged, raped or robbed. The rights of the law-abiding citizens are not being given sufficient consideration. In my opinion the courts in some instances have been entirely too lenient in the sentences imposed."

Along the way, Hoover obliquely

rapped Senator Robert Kennedy, who, as Attorney General, had successfully pressed for publicizing the secret testimony of ex-Mafia Hood Joseph Valachi. Hoover noted that "no indictments were returned" as a result of Valachi's testimony and, without mentioning Bobby's name, continued: "I was not in favor of the release of Valachi's testimony because I felt if there was any merit to what he had to say it ought to be run down and tried in court. My feeling in approaching the criminal problem has been not to do any talking of what you will do or what you have until you can make an arrest."

Exploitation by the Few. Turning to the Communist Party in the U.S., Hoover said that it numbers only about 10,000 members, with estimates of sympathizers running as high as 90,000. He was worried by the possibility that Soviet intelligence will get a lift because "our Government is about to allow [the Russians] to establish consulates in many parts of the country, which of course will make our work more difficult." Similarly, cultural-exchange schemes invite Soviet spying. "We have found in practically every cultural exchange group or student group that has come to this country, there is always a member of the KGB, the intelligence service of the Russian government. They are called students, but some are 36, 37 or 38 years old."

As an example of how the Communists make hay on U.S. campuses, Hoover cited the Berkeley riots at the University of California in November, said that "individuals with subversive backgrounds who participated in the demonstrations included five faculty members and 38 individuals who were students or connected with the University of California in some capacity. This is another example of a demonstration which, while not Communist-originated or controlled, has been exploited by a few Communists for their own end."



FBI'S HOOVER
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