

\*\*\*\*\* **BOOK REVIEW** \*\*\*\*\*

4-2-70

Hoover's F.B.I.: The Men and the Myth (364 pages - \$7.50) is a straight-forward look at the Federal Bureau of Investigation and J. Edgar Hoover, the man who wears badge number one. The author is William W. Turner, a veteran of more than ten years with the Bureau. Publishers' Weekly has called the book "compellingly controversial" and "a bombshell, a convincing picture."

Even while a Special Agent, Turner was an outspoken critic of the F.B.I. During a career of exemplary service, he became convinced that a vast disparity existed between the F.B.I.'s public image and its actual condition. It was Turner's letters to members of Congress calling for a congressional investigation of the Bureau, on grounds that it had ignored organized crime that led to his dismissal in 1961.

A documented critique, HOOVER'S F.B.I. is written in three parts. The first sets forth Turner's own record and experiences as an F.B.I. Agent. The second describes--a better word be exposes--"The Man," J. Edgar Hoover, as a master politician and a propaganda genius. The third carefully examines the function--and the occasionally humorous esprit de corps--of the Organization and its Agents.

Pointing out the need for change within the Bureau and of the directorship itself, Turner maintains that to allow national police powers to remain with the F.B.I. is indeed a serious and dangerous matter. He also contends that Hoover's marathon overexaggeration of a Communist menace has had the subliminal effect of frightening mass America into gradually accepting poli-

ice state tactics. Turner feels that Hoover's prestige and durability have set the stage for the police state at which the F. B.I. now stands at the vanguard. This will only be corrected, he says, when a independent, apoli-

tical federal agency is formed and an aged, 75-year-old J. Edgar Hoover retired.

William W. Turner is a professional journalist and lecturer. He and his family live in Mill Valley, California.