

Kelley Criticized for 'Brutality' Role

By Jack Anderson

Justice Department field reports from Missouri, intended for official eyes only, severely criticize Kansas City Police Chief Clarence M. Kelley for his handling of police brutality cases. Kelley is President Nixon's latest choice as permanent director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"There have been several incidents in the last two years of perceived severe police brutality against minority citizens," stated one report filed from Kansas City last year. "No meaningful efforts have been made . . . to show the public that the (Police Department) will not tolerate excessive use of force by its officers."

The report called on the Justice Department in Washington "for assistance in dealing with these situations." The field office urged Washington to make its concern known "to effect positive changes in police-community relations." However, there is no evidence that the Justice Department ever followed up in the recommendation.

Meanwhile, another report from Kansas City also criticizes Kelley's dealings with minorities. In April 1968, in the wake of Martin Luther King's assassination, riots broke out in Kansas City and six blacks were killed. A civil disorder report was called for

and completed, but five years later many of its recommendations have gone unmet.

"The necessary steps, for example, have not been taken to regain local control of the police department," noted one report. "Human relations training should be intensified," it added. The report also recommended that Kelley's department review citizens' complaints more closely and hire more blacks. Even now, however, only seven per cent of Kelley's 1,300-man force is black.

The police department has earned praise for "a number of efforts" that have improved the department's relationship with the community. Kelley, for example, has experimented with storefront offices in the ghetto and has increased the size of his Community Relations unit.

But one report has noted: "To the extent that change has occurred, federal funding has been the impetus. To the extent that change has not occurred, racism has been the primary impediment." Without federal programs, claims this report, "very little change since the civil disorder would be in evidence."

Footnote: To Kelley's credit, he has made extensive use of computers and helicopters to cut Kansas City's crime rate. He is also sensitive to complaints about the misuse of electronic surveillance. Under

Kelley, police use of wiretapping in Kansas City has been tightly controlled and reduced.

McGovern's Security Briefings—The White House gave George McGovern's security adviser, Paul Warnke, three security briefings during the 1972 campaign. The purpose was to assure continuity in case McGovern won the election.

Now President Nixon has divulged that in 1970 he authorized surveillance methods (1) which a security adviser warned were "clearly illegal" and (2) which the late FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover refused to implement. Thereafter, the President went ahead without Hoover to form his own private, para-police outfit, known as "the plumbers," inside the White House.

As justification, the President claimed radicals and revolutionaries were such a threat to the national security that extra-legal steps were necessary.

Yet not a word of this was ever mentioned to Warnke who, as an Assistant Defense Secretary under the late Lyndon Johnson, held the highest security clearance.

The White House briefings were conducted by Gen. Alexander Haig, then Henry Kissinger's No. 2 man. Warnke described them as no more than "textbook" summaries of

foreign policy problems. "Domestic threats to national security were never even brought up," he told us.

"Much of the briefings were routine," he recalled.

One tantalizing tidbit that Warnke pried out of Haig involved India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Warnke asked why the U.S. had delayed naming a successor to Kenneth Keating as Ambassador to India. Haig confided that Madame Gandhi and Ambassador Keating had engaged in a spat shortly before Keating's departure. Haig described the lady's language as "vitriolic."

The White House, therefore, had decided to delay appointing a new Ambassador until Madame Gandhi cooled off.

Of more substance, Warnke disclose that the White House was optimistic about a Vietnam settlement days before the election. After his last briefing on Oct. 20, 1972, Warnke reported that Haig had been "circumspect" on the subject of Vietnam. "The net impression," wrote Warnke, "is that Henry Kissinger is working feverishly for a settlement." Six days later, Kissinger issued his famous "peace is at hand" statement.

But the domestic threat to national security, which President Nixon now cites as justification for the bizarre plumbers' operation, was never mentioned.