

FBI Limitations Proposed

By Laurence Stern
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A limit on the tenure of the FBI director and sharp restrictions on the use of informers were among the changes proposed to the Senate intelligence committee yesterday to prevent abuses in the future.

The recommendations were submitted by two former high-ranking officials of the Nixon administration Justice Department and a New York law professor as the committee turned from the investigative phase of its

inquiry to the prevention of excesses.

William D. Ruckelshaus, former deputy attorney general, suggested limiting the director's term to eight or nine years to insure that no one be permitted to accumulate the power J. Edgar Hoover did during his 48 years.

Nonetheless, Ruckelshaus cautioned against placing all blame for abuse of the FBI on Hoover. This, he said, fails "to face the fact that both the Congress and the executive branch ignored a fundamental

concern of the founding fathers of this country and permitted too much unchecked power to accumulate in one man's hands."

Ruckelshaus, who served at one stage as acting director of the FBI, said that considering Hoover's opportunities for exercising his power "we must marvel at his moderation." The power Hoover amassed, he told the committee, "must never be permitted to again be possessed by one man in our society."

He said that statutory

guidelines should be formulated for the FBI which would be subject to congressional and public review and comment.

He also recommended the creation of a congressional oversight committee to review all past activities of the FBI and all policies which will determine future action by the bureau.

Former Assistant Attorney General Henry Petersen, who was in charge of the Criminal Division, noted that the FBI was not susceptible to budgetary control by Congress, unlike virtually all other agencies of government. Petersen also said he favored the establishment of an independent inspector generalship to monitor FBI operations.

Petersen, who came under strong criticism during the Watergate scandal for relaying information from Watergate prosecutors to President Nixon, also called for stronger limitations on the use of informers by the FBI.

Norman Dorsen, NYU professor of law, said informers played a "vacuum cleaner" function in FBI investigations — placing under scrutiny groups and individuals who were not original targets.

Infiltration, he said, should be conducted by the bureau only with the approval of the Attorney General, even in national security cases.