

J. Edgar Hoover Stays On

by Rowland Evans and Robert Novak

Washington - A decision made early last autumn at the highest levels of the Nixon Administration to try to ease out J. Edgar Hoover as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation was sidetracked when President Nixon himself changed his mind.

The scenario worked out called for a dramatic summit meeting at the White House between President and the FBI chief in which Mr. Nixon would praise Hoover and then ask for his resignation. The meeting took place, but the President never spoke his lines, never asked Hoover to quit.

Now, in a presidential election year, administration officials believe it is too late to dispose of Hoover until after the election.

The leading advocate of Hoover's dismissal inside the administration is one of the Justice Department's most militant anti-Communists and law-and-order advocates: Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Mardian, a Goldwater Republican not hitherto accused of liberalism.

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