

Nixon Leads Tributes To Hoover

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon today led last tributes to J. Edgar Hoover, calling him a giant, a legend and an American institution.

Nixon said the FBI, which Hoover spent 48 years building into a world-renowned law enforcement institution, will stand as a living memorial to Hoover.

"J. Edgar Hoover loved the law, his God," Nixon said. "He loved the law his country. And he richly earned peace through all eternity."

Nixon, his face somber, delivered an eulogy to the fallen FBI chief at the National Presbyterian Church, where Hoover had been a deacon.

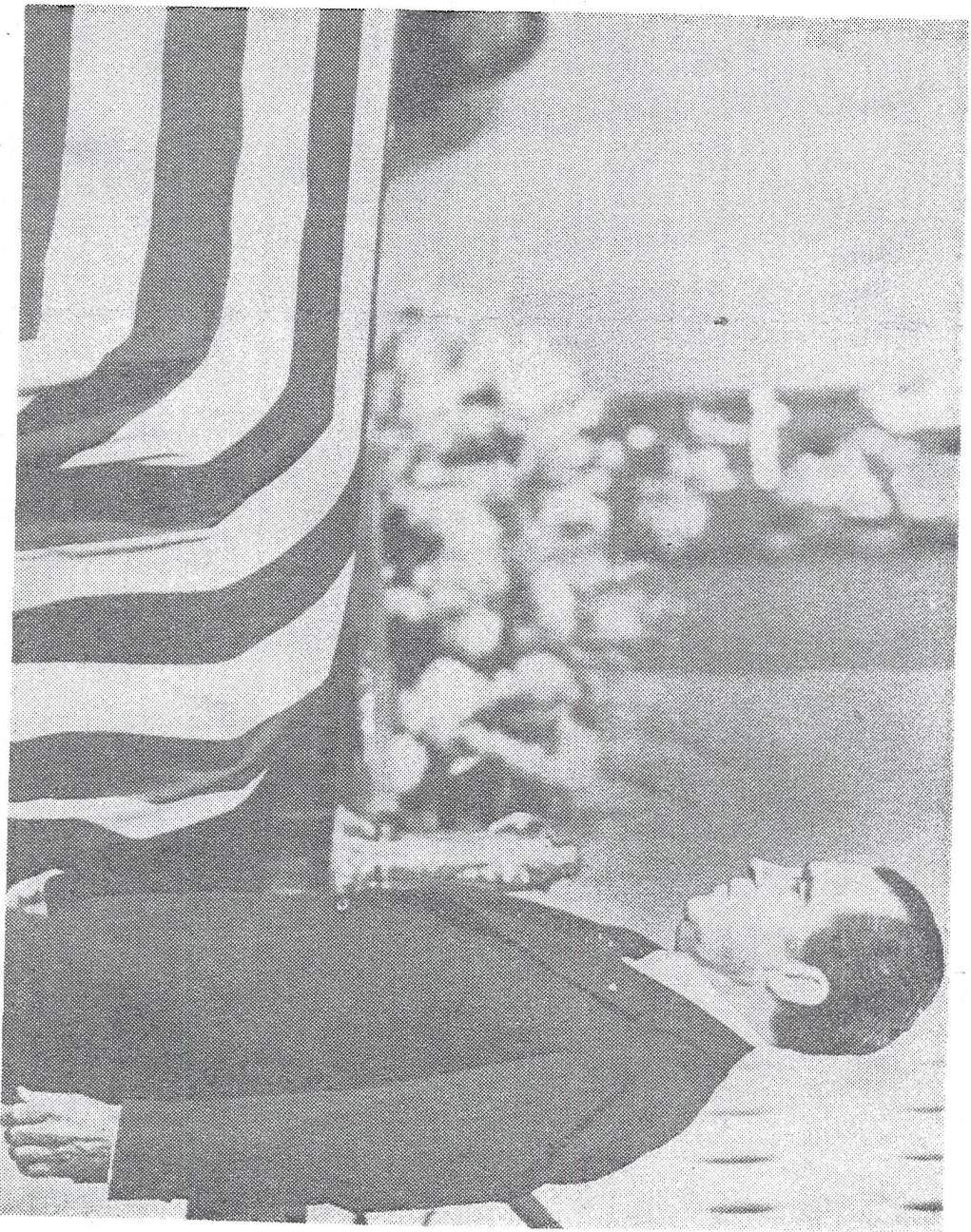
Hoover was found dead at his home Tuesday morning. The 1200-seat church was filled with presidential aides, Cabinet members, members of Congress, diplo-

rats, and public mourners. Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower sat near the President. Vice President Spiro Agnew attended.

Hoover's temporary successor, L. Patrick Gray III, an assistant attorney general, also attended with his wife. Nixon named Gray acting FBI director yesterday.

The President predicted in his eulogy that in years ahead Americans will pay Hoover greater honor than now "because the trend of permissiveness in this country, a trend which Edgar Hoover fought against all his life, a trend which was dangerously eroding our heritage as a law-abiding people, is now being reversed.

"The American people today are tired of disorder, disruption and disrespect for law. America wants to come back to the law as a way of



President Nixon pauses by flag-draped casket of J. Edgar Hoover after delivering eulogy

—AP Photo

life," he said. "And as we do come back to the law, the memory of this great man, who never

left the law as a way of life, will be accorded even greater honor than it is today." Nixon said the FBI itself

will be Hoover's monument. "One of the tragedies of life is that as a rule a man's true greatness is recognized

only in death," Nixon said. "J. Edgar Hoover was one of the rare exceptions to that rule.