

Assassination Feud?

FBI Bypasses City For Academy Class

By JAMES EWELL

Not since the assassination of President Kennedy has the FBI admitted a Dallas policeman to train at its national academy in Washington, The Dallas News learned Saturday.

Is it mere coincidence or by design?

The popular belief in the police department is that it is by design—that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover himself ordered Dallas omitted.

THIS SUSPICION is based solely on events that took place following the assassination, including the sparring between Dallas police and the FBI.

The FBI initially reacted to the feud by pulling out its instructors from the Dallas Police Academy a year ago. They never have returned, although the welcome mat has been laid out to them on three occasions.

Police officials are reluctant to air their feelings publicly on the failure to regain acceptance to the FBI Academy. But the feeling exists that Dallas is being punished for its feud with the FBI.

OFFICIALS NOTE THAT PRIOR to the assassination Dallas police had missed having a man at the previous 25 classes only twice. This city has had a total of 30 graduates, more than any other Texas city and more than Atlanta, New York City, Chicago or Philadelphia.

The last class in which Dallas was represented was Class 71 in the spring of 1963. Class 76 is scheduled to open this fall.

Applications sent by Dallas police since Class 71 have yet to be acknowledged, it was learned. Police Chief Jesse E. Curry, himself an FBI graduate, says simply "They just haven't invited us to send a man up there."

ONE OFFICER SELECTED by Dallas police to attend the academy two years ago is still waiting to be admitted. The FBI denies that any discrimination is involved

in the fact that Dallas has been bypassed in the academy classes held since the assassination.

A spokesman told the Washington Bureau of The News that it is rather a case of spreading out the quota of each 3-month class (held twice a year) on a more regional basis. The spokesman noted that the academy has a long waiting list.

With present facilities at the academy, the FBI says it cannot accept more than 100 men for any one class. And about 20 of this number come from foreign police agencies.

The spokesman noted that the government is considering expanding the academy to accommodate about 1,200 men a year.

CURRY INSISTS THAT THE HIGHER LEVEL training desired for the department's future leaders will not be seriously affected by the lack of FBI training.

"The FBI training has always been desirable, but it won't cripple us without it," he told The News.

Dallas police, he emphasized, still con-

tinue to send men to the Southern Police Institute in Kentucky and to the Northwestern Traffic Institute in Illinois.

With the emergence of the new Southwestern Police Academy in Dallas' own homegrounds at Southern Methodist University, Curry predicted the department will begin leaning heavily on it for help in developing the department's future leaders.

TEN DALLAS POLICE LIEUTENANTS were sent to the opening session of this academy this spring, and plans are to have that number present at each future 3-month session if the school's quota permits, Curry said.

Of Southwestern Curry says: "We are anxious to see it reach its fullest potential." Where the FBI academy sticks strictly to technical training, Curry said Southwestern sticks to the administrative levels of training on the assumption that the police students already know the technical ends of their work.