
**F.B.I. CHIEF BACKS
USE OF INFORMERS**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26 (AP) —Informers aided in the arrest of thousands of persons and the recovery of more than \$30-million in money and merchandise in the year ended last June 30, Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said today.

What the bureau terms "confidential informants" have "proved invaluable to the F.B.I., as well as to other law enforcement agencies," Mr. Hoover said in a report on the fiscal year to Attorney General John N. Mitchell.

Mr. Hoover said that informers not only helped the bureau solve crimes but also helped prevent planned crimes and helped establish the innocence of persons who were falsely accused.

The bureau's use of informers, especially against dissident groups, has come under fire from some organizations in the last year with allegations that the informers sometimes also act as provocateurs among the groups they infiltrate.

In the last fiscal year, informers have provided information leading to the arrest of 6,565 persons by the bureau and the arrest of nearly 8,000 others by Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, Mr. Hoover said.