

'A Clear Difference'

Not a Caretaker, FBI Head Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — Acting Director L. Patrick Gray III says he will run the FBI with "a clear difference in manner and style" from that used by J. Edgar Hoover.

"I don't consider myself as an interim or caretaker director," Gray said in an interview Thursday, two days after his surprise appointment by President Nixon to succeed Hoover.

In addition to making the agency more receptive to changes and fresh

ideas from within, Gray said, he plans to open the FBI to greater public scrutiny than it was subject to under Hoover, who died Tuesday.

ON THE question of whether he will be Hoover's permanent successor, Gray said Nixon told him in the White House Thursday that when the time comes he "will be considered."

Gray said he will proceed as if the

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job were his for good.

Democrats in the Senate, which must confirm a permanent appointment, say they are anxious to prevent the emergence of a personality as powerful as Hoover became in 48 years as director. The interim appointment is not subject to confirmation.

Gray, 55, said he had no quarrel with the way Hoover ran the FBI, "but I know I'm a different sort of guy."

Asked about Hoover's reputation for running the bureau to conform to the director's ideas of what most threatened America, Gray said if that was true, "then I will be more responsive to innovative ideas than Mr. Hoover might have been."

Within hours of his appointment Wednesday, Gray said he called top FBI officials and told them, "I intend to run the place with patience, understanding and compassion."

Gray said one of his first questions to Hoover's former aides concerned recurring charges that Hoover kept se-

cret files with no direct bearing on law enforcement. Just a day before Hoover's death, columnist Jack Anderson said Hoover provided former President Lyndon B. Johnson with reports about the sex lives of various public officials.

GRAY QUOTED FBI officials as saying of such personal files: "They are non-existent." Gray said he intends to make sure for himself after he moves into the cavernous offices occupied by Hoover on the fifth floor of the Justice Department for 48 years.

On wiretapping, Gray said, "I have to be on the plus side."

"There have been too many arrests, indictments, and convictions originating with telephone wiretaps not to use them," he said. He acknowledged the possibility that wiretaps may have been misused.

Is there a nationwide conspiracy among antiwar groups which poses a real threat to American democracy?

Gray answered: "There may be pockets, groups endeavoring to organize. But networks, centrally controlled, I don't see that yet."