

Nixon Reported Ready to Name Kansas City Police

By WARREN WEAVER
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WASHINGTON, June 5 — President Nixon was reported today to be ready to nominate Police Chief Clarence M. Kelley of Kansas City, Mo., a 61-year-old career law-enforcement officer, as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Administration officials said that Mr. Kelly had become the leading candidate among a dozen contenders for the post long held by the late J. Edgar Hoover and predicted that his designation would be announced by the White House within a few days.

Mr. Kelley, who served as an F.B.I. agent for more than

20 years before becoming Kansas City Police Chief in 1961, left Washington this afternoon after two days of conferences at the F.B.I. and the White House. Officials said he did not meet with the President.

If nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Kelley will become the second permanent director of the agency. Following Mr. Hoover's death a year ago, L. Patrick Gray 3d was nominated by President Nixon, but Mr. Gray withdrew his name under severe political pressure during his confirmation hearings.

William D. Ruckelshaus, administrator of the Environ-

mental Protection Agency, agreed to accept the position temporarily upon urging by President Nixon on the day of the Gray resignation, April 27, but asked to be relieved as soon as possible.

During his dozen years as head of the Kansas City police, Mr. Kelley has compiled a record regarded as outstanding by his many enthusiastic supporters and all but a handful of his occasional critics.

His only serious problem resulted from the riots following the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., in 1968. Six blacks were killed in

the ensuing disorders, some under circumstances that led to charges of police brutality. Chief Kelley conceded subsequently that some mistakes had been made.

"I'm not sure he had any real sensitivity to the black point of view," one observer said, "but he's been very successful in a city that is essentially conservative and racist. I think he's tried seriously to get more blacks on the force, but he hasn't made much headway."

Among the innovations Chief Kelley introduced in Kansas City were day and night helicopter patrols, use of comput-



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Clarence M. Kelley

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ers to speed police response, a new procedure for cordoning crime sites and creation of a metro squad covering a six-county area in both Missouri and Kansas.

Mr. Kelley, the son of an electrical worker, was graduated from the University of Kansas in 1936 and the University of Kansas City Law School in 1940. The speaker at the second ceremony was the local F.B.I. agent, and the new lawyer immediately enlisted with the agency, subsequently serving in cities all over the country and rising from agent to inspector.

He retired from the bureau

in 1961 to take the Kansas City police post after a shake-up in which the previous chief and other officers were indicted, seriously splitting the department. One of his sponsors for the job was then Attorney General, Robert F. Kennedy.

Mr. Kelley campaigned for a tax increase that enabled him to increase the size of his force from 900 to 1,300. The Kansas City crime rate dropped 24 per cent from 1969 through 1972, while comparable figures rose in other communities.

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