

FBI's Kelley -- Tough and Bold

Washington

As director of the FBI Clarence M. Kelley will face a situation similar to the one he encountered when he became police chief of Kansas City.

A demoralized agency with a deteriorating public image that clung to law enforcement practices that had been criticized as outdated.

Kelley, 61, was nominated by President Nixon yesterday to head the FBI. Mr. Nixon said the search for a permanent replacement for the late J. Edgar Hoover had been exhaustive and Kelley was first on the list of 27 finalists.

SHAKE-UP

If Kelley's record as a bold administrator at Kansas City is any indication, the FBI can expect an early shakeup on top personnel, closer relations with the press, closer cooperation with local and state law enforcement agencies, and innovative law enforcement practices.

Kelley, known as a strict but compassionate disciplinarian, is credited with transforming a police department rocked by scandals into one of the nation's most modernized and efficient departments.

Sterling Ford, a Kansas City *Star* police reporter who served as chief of detectives during Kelley's administration, says:

"In 30 years with the department I worked under seven different chiefs. In my last ten years under Kelley the department advanced more technically and in morale than in the other 20 years I was on the force."

Kelley, an ex-FBI agent, is not expected to run into serious difficulties when the



AP Wirephoto

CLARENCE KELLEY
Shakeup expected

Senate judiciary committee holds confirmation hearings on his nomination. However, he may be questioned closely about police-race relations, the one area where he has been subjected to any significant criticism.

Dr. Charles T. Bryant, 68, a retired educator and the only black Kansas City police commissioner, who served from 1964 through 1968, said he was noncommittal when surveyed by the FBI about Kelley as a potential director.

Bryant said Kelley was "pretty unpopular" in the black community, had failed to crack down on police brutality, and had a poor record of promoting blacks in the police department. The black community, Bryant said, blamed the police for riots that left six blacks dead in the aftermath of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968.

However, Ford and other supporters of Kelley say the

chief has taken disciplinary action in all cases of police brutality, including some connected with the 1968 riots.

Kelley has acknowledged there has been criticism of his role as police chief from Kansas City's black community, but "in my estimation there has been a very good level of relationship. We have about 100 black officers out of 1300."

He has said also he considers the recruitment of minorities into the FBI an important goal.

Born in Kansas City, Oct. 24, 1911, Kelley graduated from the University of Kansas and received his law degree from the University of Missouri. Except for brief service as a Naval officer during World War II, he served with the FBI from 1940 until he retired to become chief at Kansas City in 1961.

His innovative programs as chief have attracted police officials from other states and foreign countries to Kansas City.

After his nomination, Kelley told reporters he would like to get to know them better and added, "You form a strong barrier to oppressive law enforcement and I for one want to aid you in attacking this spectre."

He also promised closer FBI cooperation with state and local law enforcement agencies.

Kelley, a disciple of Hoover, who headed the FBI for almost almost a half-century, has made no secret of his interest in the job since Hoover's death in May, 1972. He told friends it was the only job that would lure him from Kansas City.

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