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Amid Heavy Security, Ford and Levi Eulogize Late Director

By LINDA CHARLTON

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 30—With pomp, prayer and a President, the Federal Bureau of Investigation dedicated today its new, \$126-million headquarters building, a buff-colored concrete fortress named for the bureau's late director, J. Edgar Hoover.

In the half-hour ceremony, President Ford and Attorney General Edward H. Levi eulogized the man whose name surmounts the main entrance of the building. Mr. Hoover directed the F.B.I. from its inception in 1924 until his death May 2, 1972, at the age of 77.

800 GUESTS

Security was heavy and visible, with the metropolitan police and F.B.I. agents joining the usual cadre of Secret Service men that precedes and accompanies a Presidential appearance. Although the 11-story building gives an appearance of impenetrability and credentials were checked at the door, a man with field glasses scanned the sky from the rooftop above the open court where Mr. Ford spoke.

The buildings, which some say Mr. Hoover considered a "monstrosity" and others maintain he wanted even larger and more formidable, cost \$126.1-million. A G.S.A. spokesman said this was the

most expensive executive branch building ever constructed by the Federal Government, but only technically. He noted that the Rayburn House Office Building may have cost as much as \$122-million—estimates of the final cost may vary by millions—but those were nineteen-sixty dollars' worth more than those of 1975.

Many of the F.B.I.'s operations have been housed in the Justice Department building across Pennsylvania Avenue, but other offices were in eight buildings in Washington.

Some 800 guests, described as being mostly law enforcement officials from around the country, former F.B.I. agents and officials, and others connected with the agency, were seated in the court. The guests were shown to their seats by employees wearing gray trousers and blue blazers adorned with an F.B.I. seal on the pockets and with plastic labels describing them as "F.B.I. courtesy escorts."

The late-morning air was filled with the amplified brasses of the Marine Band as it played patriotic medleys—from "Yankee Doodle" to "Dixie" and "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" and show tunes.

Mr. Ford, in a gray suit, entered shortly after the band whipped through a tune



Tom Moutin, Mr. Hoover's chauffeur for many years, at yesterday's dedication.

announced as being "The J. Edgar Hoover March." Before the prayer and the eulogy, there was a military ceremonial.

The master of ceremonies was Arthur F. Sampson, head of the General Services Administration, which is the Federal Government's landlord. Mr. Sampson introduced the other speakers, starting with the Most Rev. William W. Baum, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Washington.

Clarence M. Kelley, the director of the F.B.I., then spoke about how much more efficiently the bureau could operate now that it was centralized, and talked about Mr. Hoover.

Then Mr. Kelley turned to Mr. Ford, sitting beside the lecturer, and said, "Mr. President, we've been looking you over and you appear to be good agent material." So he said, he was presenting him with a badge "which is indicative of the fact that you are one of us."

Mr. Ford, smiling broadly, accepted the wooden box containing the badge mounted on a plaque and proclaiming him a "special agent," and said it had once been his "great ambition" to be an F.B.I. agent.

On Hoover's Role

Attorney General Levi talked about the bureau's history with particular emphasis on the role of Mr. Hoover.

Mr. Ford, the final speaker, said that the massive building "symbolizes the role of the F.B.I. as the bastion of Federal law enforcement." He described Mr. Hoover as "a pioneering public servant."

In dedicating the building, President Ford said he was calling for "a renewed commitment to the rule of law in America and to the legal system that perpetuates freedom and justice."

Among those in the audience was Charles Bates, the special agent in charge of the San Francisco F.B.I. office, a symbol of one of the bureau's recent successes, the capture of Patricia Hearst.

Also there, sitting in a back row off to the side, was Tom Moutin, who was Mr. Hoover's chauffeur for many years.

The ceremonies ended after Mr. Ford's speech, when Mr. Sampson presented him, Mr. Kelley and Mr. Levi with what he said were "symbolic keys" to the building.



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Above: President Ford chatting with Clarence M. Kelley, F.B.I. director, as a color guard passed during ceremonies dedicating the J. Edgar Hoover Building, right, new headquarters for the bureau.

