



The Hoover Legacy

Talk about the F.B.I. still tends to conjure up the legacy of J. Edgar Hoover. But except for news of illegal burglaries and wiretaps, only limited information has come to light about the values and the attitudes that remain from the late Director's era. A few weeks ago, however, Edward J. Tulley, an instructor at the bureau's training academy at Quantico, Va., gave a speech to the association of Louisiana sheriffs which provided some insights into the Hoover legacy.

Mr. Tulley's speech was important not just because of its florid rhetoric and startling ideas—he called, for example, for a “warrior class” of law enforcement officers to “cry the battle alarm” against those “who demean our heritage by their mindless control of our lives”—but because as a trainer of new agents he is a purveyor of values.

Mr. Tulley attributed the bureau's troubles to “bureaucrats who have been honing their knives for the F.B.I. autopsy for the last 20 years” and to the “new intelligentsia . . . who are educated beyond their capacity to learn.” Describing the role he thinks the “warrior class”—the police—should play in this society, Mr. Tulley argued that the problem of crime would not be solved by the intelligentsia “whose continued assault on constitutional matters has given them more and more freedom to practice life styles which make Sodom and Gomorrah pale by comparison,” but rather by members of the law enforcement community. It is they, the police, who “must make proper attitudes dominate [and] must rout out from all levels of government those bureaucrats whose lack of understanding brought us to the point where we are today.”

The speech speaks for itself, but the question needs to be asked: For whom does Mr. Tulley speak? In appearing as an F.B.I. official on a public platform and calling for what can only be viewed as a police state, he clearly is not presenting the official position of the bureau or of its director, Clarence M. Kelley. But is such a distinction clear to his listeners in Louisiana and to his students in Quantico? It is a question that cannot be ignored by Mr. Kelley and his new team as he deals with the F.B.I.'s past and future.