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(320) HOOVER-CRITICS

WASHINGTON, MARCH 29 (AP)-FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER ASSAILED TODAY "DRUMMERS OF DISCORD" WHO HE SAID ADVOCATE THAT THE FBI "DISPENSE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND APPLY POLICE-STATE METHODS."

HOOVER REITERATED THAT HIS FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION "IS A FACT-GATHERING AND FACT-REPORTING AGENCY, NOT A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE."

THE FBI, HE SAID, "IS NOT EMPOWERED TO FURNISH PROTECTION NOR TO POLICE THE STREETS OF OUR COMMUNITIES."

WRITING IN THE FBI'S APRIL LAW ENFORCEMENT BULLETIN, THE FBI CHIEF NAMED NO CRITICS BUT SAID "SOME INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SECURE THE FUNDAMENTAL GUARANTEES OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR ALL CITIZENS, HAVE CRITICIZED THIS BUREAU FOR NOT EXCEEDING ITS AUTHORITY AND FOR NOT ASSUMING RESPONSIBILITIES BELONG TO LOCAL AND STATE POLICE."

HOOVER SAID CITIZENS "SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY THE SELF-STYLED 'MEDICINE MEN' IN OUR MIDST WHO WITH THEIR PATENTED TONICS FOR ALL SOCIAL ILLS PROFESS TO HOLD THE MAGIC KEY TO UTOPIA.

"UNDER CLOSE EXAMINATION, THEIR CREDENTIALS OFTEN PROVE TO BE AS FALSE AS THEIR CHARGES THAT THE FBI IS 'DRAGGING ITS FEET' AND IS NOT DETERMINED TO ENFORCE CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS. THE LUDICROUSNESS OF THESE CHARGES IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY THEIR INACCURACY."

TERMING A NATIONAL POLICE FORCE A "TOOL OF TYRANNY" HOOVER SAID:

"I ABHOR THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE TERM, AND I REFUSE TO LET THE FBI BE FORCED INTO PRACTICES WHICH SMACK OF POLICE-STATE ACTIONS, BE FORCED INTO PRACTICES WHICH SMACK OF POLICE-STATE ACTIONS, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES." HE SAID THE FBI-FULLY APPRECIATES THE GRAVE RESPONSIBILITY INHERENT IN THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS STATUTES.

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"AS I HAVE STATED MANY TIMES, WE ARE MEETING THESE OBLIGATIONS WITHOUT APOLOGY. OUR ROLE, HOWEVER, IS THAT OF AN INVESTIGATOR--NOT AN ACCUSER, PROSECUTOR, JURY OR JUDGE....

"IN A DEMOCRACY, THE END DOES NOT ALWAYS JUSTIFY THE MEANS. WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE PATH OF JUSTICE IS A TWO-WAY STREET....THE FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS OF OUR NATION CAN BE IMPLEMENTED, AS WELL AS PRESERVED, WITHOUT RESORTING TO TOTALITARIAN TACTICS."