

Talk of Hoover Quitting FBI

Washington

Is FBI director J. Edgar Hoover about to announce his retirement after more than 44 years as the Nation's most famous law enforcement officer?

Such speculation among high officials in government circles increased after Hoover's call on his friend, President-elect Richard Nixon, at the Pierre Hotel in New York City yesterday.

One sign that the man who has been FBI director under seven presidents and 15 attorneys general is on the verge of ending his career was his glowing reference to San Francisco Police Chief Thomas J. Cahill during a recent speech to an FBI Academy graduating class.

At that time, Hoover hailed Cahill as "the best police chief in the country" — a statement that was seen as a boost for Cahill as a possible successor.

(In San Francisco last night, Cahill said he doubted that Hoover would resign.

("When I saw Hoover in Washington on October 30, he never looked better," Cahill said. "It didn't seem as if he would have to or want to retire. It is my understanding that Hoover and Nixon are close friends. It would appear that Hoover would stay on for some time.")

Another sign of Hoover's possible retirement, however, was the absence of any apparent "electioneering" by Hoover during the presidential campaign. In past campaigns, officials noted, Hoover had sought to inspire statements by each candidate that he would retain the FBI director.

If Hoover does decide to resign, it is not considered likely that he would do it before Nixon is inaugurated. Nixon, as President Johnson did, could keep Hoover on as FBI director by signing an executive order waiving the rule that requires retirement at age 70. Hoover will be 74 on January 1.

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FBI's Hoover on Law, Order and --Incidentally--Justice

New York

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said yesterday that justice is "merely incidental" to law and order.

Hoover made the com-

ment, after a meeting with President-elect Richard Nixon, in an exclusive interview with CBS newsmen Ben Silver. The segment was aired nationally over the CBS eve-

ning news with Walter Cronkite.

Hoover was asked by Silver what was the answer to riots, burnings and lootings in the cities.

"The answer is vigorous law enforcement," Hoover said. Asked if that was the only answer, Hoover replied, "That is the only answer."

Silver asked, "How about

justice? You hear a lot about justice with law enforcement."

To which Hoover answered, "Justice is merely incidental to law and order. Law

and order is what covers the whole picture. Justice is part of it, but it can't be separated as a single item." That ended the CBS interview.

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