

...And Mr. Hoover Again

Like time and the river, J. Edgar Hoover is apparently destined to go on forever. President-elect Nixon has followed Presidents from Calvin Coolidge on in keeping him as head of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Hoover has outlived his usefulness and often exceeded his authority. Last year, he exercised a personal veto against the Soviet-American consular treaty. This year, he openly sided with Mayor Daley and his police; his testimony in favor of the police barbarism has since been disputed by the special report to the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Crime.

Mr. Hoover blames the increase in crime on "judicial leniency and public indifference," which takes law enforcement off the hook. Only a few weeks ago he declared that "justice is incidental to law and order," a strange comment from the head of an agency which at least theoretically comes under the Department of Justice. And so, at age 73, he remains in office, a law unto himself.