

FBI Chief Scans New Decade

WASHINGTON (UPI) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover looked ahead Saturday to the coming decade and found the outlook for America's growing crime problem bleak but "certainly not hopeless."

He also predicted more college and high school disruptions and reiterated his determination to stay on the job. "It is my hope, as long as my health remains excellent, to continue to serve my country in my present capacity," he said. "I do not have any plans to retire on Jan. 1, 1970, or on any foreseeable date in the future."

The only man ever to head his law enforcement agency, Hoover will be 75 Jan. 1, beginning his 46th year as FBI director and serving his eighth president.

"Crime during the 1960's outstripped our population growth by over 11 to one," he said in written answers to questions from UPI. "And this trend would appear to show no sign of abating in the foreseeable future."

"Based upon past statistics, there is every indication that violent crimes, in particular, will continue to show alarming increases," Hoover said. "While this outlook is assuredly bleak, it is certainly not hopeless."

"Improved law enforcement measures, strongly supported by our responsible citizens, will, I am confident, substantially aid in checking this wave of lawlessness and violence," he said.

Hoover expressed deep concern "about the increasing disrespect for the law, a growing infatuation with violence and the rise of extremism."

At the same time, he said, "we see the gradual erosion of legitimate authority based on mutual respect, tolerance and understanding. These trends, in my opinion, are disturbing."

Hoover, who recently passed with flying colors the annual physical examination required of all his men, said the greatest single challenge to an FBI agent today "is to uphold the reputation and traditions of a service which I am proud to say has been free from scandal, political influence and always devoted to the best interests of the nation."

He has the full confidence of President Nixon, a former neighbor when Nixon was vice president, and Attorney General John N. Mitchell.