

Scout

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High Cost of Hoover's Car

Washington

A bulletproof 1971 limousine for FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is expected to cost about \$30,000, pushing the total cost of such cars for Hoover to more than \$150,000 during a seven-year period.

The government leases a bullet-proof limousine for the President at an annual cost of about \$5000. It buys one annually for Hoover.

A General Services Administration spokesman confirmed that it is negotiating for a 1971 model for Hoover and expects to pay perhaps \$30,000 or a little more for it. The federal budget provides for purchasing an armored car for only one official — the long-time FBI director.

Every year the GSA purchases a new Cadillac chassis which is shipped to Hess and Eisenhardt in Cincinnati where armor plates, bullet-proof windows and specially built tires are installed.

The cost for Hoover's car has increased steadily over the years. In 1970 it was \$27,665. It was \$23,241 in 1969; \$21,114 in 1968; \$19,377 in 1967; \$18,533 in 1966 and \$17,336 in 1965.

When Hoover gets his new car in Washington, he assigns the year-old model to another FBI office, thus building up a fleet around the nation.

The latest models are maintained for his use in the areas he most frequently visits, such as Miami and Southern California vacation spots where he enjoys horse racing. He has just ended a 26-day stay in Miami, which he visits every winter. He spends August at La Jolla, Calif.

A spokesman for Hess and Eisenhardt, said that when the FBI decides one of Hoover's cars is too old to use it removes the armor plate and bulletproof glass and sells the car as surplus.

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