

# Karpis Declares Hoover No Hero

NEW YORK (UPI) — Alvin Karpis, the notorious bank robber-kidnaper of the Depression, says his arrest made FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a national hero in 1936 but it was a "reputation he doesn't deserve."

"He (Hoover) didn't lead the attack on me," the former Public Enemy No. 1 said in a newly published autobiography, "The Alvin Karpis Story." "He waited until he was told the coast was clear. Then he came out to reap the glory."

Karpis and Freddie Barker, leaders of the infamous Karpis-Barker gang of the 1930s, were arrested by two dozen FBI men while sitting in a car on a New Orleans parkway.

"That May day in 1936, I made Hoover's reputation as a fearless lawman," Karpis said. "It's a reputation he doesn't deserve."

According to the FBI version of the arrest, as related in Don Whitehead's book, "The FBI Story," Hoover led the arresting party and jerked Karpis from the car as he reached for a rifle lying on the back seat.

"What rifle?" Karpis said. "What back seat? We were in a 1936 Plymouth coupe that had no back seat. We had two rifles, but they were wrapped in a blanket to prevent damage to the sights and they were locked away in the luggage compartment."

Karpis said when he and Barker were well covered, an



ALVIN KARPIS (COATLESS) IN 1936 DRAMA  
J. Edgar Hoover didn't aid in capture, con says

FBI agent turned to the corner of a nearby apartment building and shouted "We've got him. We've got him. It's all clear, chief."

Karpis said it was then that Hoover made his appearance.

Karpis was paroled from prison in 1969 after 33 years. He said the whole time in prison "it grated on me that Americans had been gulled into cheering Hoover as one of the country's great men on

the basis of his version of my arrest."

Karpis also disagreed with the FBI's identification of Ma Barker as head of the Barker gang. He said Ma Barker had no brains, was an ordinary Ozark hillbilly mother and was never informed of the gang's plans.

Karpis was deported to his native Canada after his parole and spends most of his time in Europe.

## TERROR GRIPS KARPIS, TAKEN IN U. S. RAID

April & May 2, 1936  
Desperado Flown in Chains To St. Paul After Capture With 2 Pals at New Orleans

No. 1 Enemy Afraid to Put Up Battle; No Shots Fired; Hoover Commands Coup

ST. PAUL, May 2.—(AP)—Alvin Karpis, the Nation's No. 1 criminal, who boasted he "wouldn't be taken alive," but who was "scared to death" when Federal agents seized him in New Orleans, was held today in the Federal building while authorities questioned him regarding three kidnapings and other crimes.

J. Edgar Hoover, head of the Federal Department of Investigation, who led the capture, related details of how Karpis was trapped in New Orleans yesterday, and how he "turned yellow" at the last moment. "Karpis said he'd never be taken alive," said Hoover, "but we took him without firing a shot. That marked him as a dirty, yellow rat. He was scared to death when we closed in on him. He shook all over—his voice, his hands and his knees."

### CHAINED TO SEAT ALL DURING LONG AIR TRIP

Karpis was brought here by Hoover and eight Federal agents at 8:47 a. m. today after a dramatic airplane trip in which several stops were forced by