
Hoover Declines Speech to Police

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A federally-funded conference on police problems opened today without the presence of FBI director J. Edgar Hoover.

The Justice Department, which put \$52,154 into the two-day conference and of which the FBI is a part, confirmed that Hoover declined an invitation to deliver the main address.

A Justice spokesman, however, refused to comment on reports that Hoover declined an invitation from Attorney General John Mitchell, who will take Hoover's place at the conference, because of Hoover's dislike for two of the other participants.

Justice spokesman John Hushen, who confirmed Hoover turned down the invitation from Mitchell, said, "You'll have to get the reasons from the FBI."

"We don't give out reasons," said a spokesman for Hoover.

Hoover is known to dislike Quinn Tamm, executive director of the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Patrick Murphy, police commissioner of New York.

Both Tamm, whose organization is cosponsoring the conference with the Justice Department, and Murphy are playing major roles in sessions today and tomorrow.
