

After Almost Half a Century, the Process of Bureau Policies to Face Wide Scrutiny by Public

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WASHINGTON, May 2—The word drifted down through the bureaucracy of the Federal Bureau of Investigation here this afternoon just about the time an informal meeting was taking place in the office of the Attorney General-designate, Richard G. Kleindienst.

The word was not startling. It simply told the thousands of agents, supervisors, inspectors and secretaries what to put at the bottom of letters that for 47 years had borne one indgar Hoover. In the early afternoon, they were told that mail would be signed Clyde A. Tolson, Acting Director.

However, it was clear that the ailing, 71-year-old Mr. Tolson would not be Mr. Hoover's successor. The meeting in Mr. Kleindienst's fourth-floor office—one floor below the F.B.I. director's—began the process of collecting names and, with the names, ideas for the way the F.B.I. should be changed.

When they began to think about a successor for Mr. Hoover, Justice Department officials inevitably began to think of two related questions: What the persons whose names occurred to them would do to the F.B.I. and what their nomination would do to the Nixon Administration politically.

The questions that a new bureau director will have to face range from the agency's surveillance practices to its relationship with the Attorney General, from its role in a period of "radical" politics to the distribution of power within the bureau.

Possible Choices

Persons who are rumored to be under consideration are Jerry V. Wilson, police chief of Washington, D. C.; Peter J. Pitchess, sheriff, of Los Angeles County; Cartha D. DeLoach, a former top F.B.I. official and now a vice president of PepsiCo, Inc.; Myles J. Ambrose, former head of the Customs Bureau and now director of the Office of Drug Abuse Law Enforcement; Jerris Leonard, head of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; and Evelle J. Younger, Attorney General of California.

Darker horses appear to be John E. Ingersoll, director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; and L. Patrick Gray 3d, Deputy Attorney General-designate.

Still less likely appear to be Robert C. Mardian, former Assistant Attorney General, and Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White.

So far there are no sold reports on the persons being considered. According to reli-

able sources within the Justice Department, Mr. Kleindienst's meeting this afternoon was just an informal "name-dropping" session and no machinery has yet been set up to gather and process candidates for White House consideration.

"Do not expect rapid action," one informed official said.

Some Lobbying Evident

Apparently, some informal lobbying has gotten under way. A public relations assistant to Mr. Ingersoll at the Bureau of Narcotics called to offer a reporter a biography of Mr. Ingersoll "in connection with Mr. Hoover's death."

One course that the Administration might choose would be to have Mr. Kleindienst name an acting F.B.I. director—such as W. Mark Felt, the current No. 2 man—and have him keep the hob through November.

That would eliminate the prospect of handing the Democrats of the Judiciary Committee—fresh from the embarrassing hearings relating to the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation—the chance for scrutinizing another Administration appointee as well as the policies and practices of the F.B.I. during the last three years.

By the logic of at least one Administration official, if Mr. Nixon loses in November, the new President will appoint his own F.B.I. director anyway. And if Mr. Nixon wins, "there will be a lot less zeal on the part of the Democrats to question anybody in the fall."

Asked how people in the F.B.I. here were taking the news of Mr. Hoover's death, one long-time bureau official said:

"There is no emotion. What you had is a small empire and a king, and very few people ever got to meet the king. The director was totally isolated. People are sitting around asking, 'What's going to happen

Selecting a Director of the F.B.I. Begins

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53

and how will it affect me?"

'Bureau Run Itself'

The official said, "in a real sense, the bureau runs itself." Edward H. Hayes, the special agent in charge of the bureau in Wisconsin, struck a typical note when he said he had "no worries about the future of the F.B.I. without Hoover."

The personality and experience of the new appointee and the changes the Administration would like to see in the bureau are obviously linked, particularly in a Government bureau that has been the fiefdom of one man for half a century.

Justice Department officials have indicated for a long time that they were unhappy, even at high levels, with three aspects of Mr. Hoover's direction of the bureau, and they are already indicating that they hope the Administration will try to remedy these in appointing his successor.

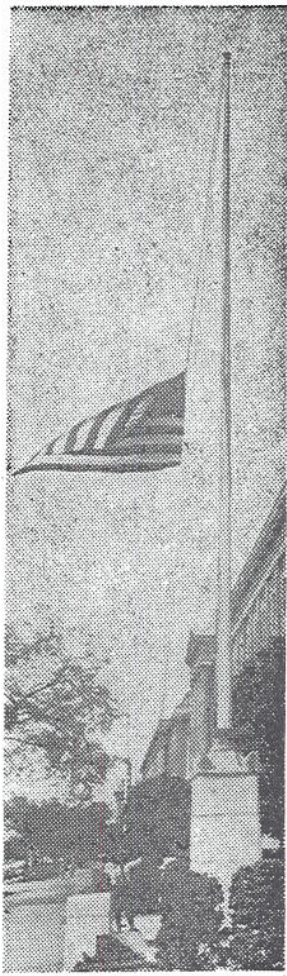
The first complaint of many officials was "the gulf" between the bureau and the Justice Department. As one of them put it, "Mr. Hoover's tremendous

Mrs. Robb Had Slated Interview With Hoover

WASHINGTON, May 2 (AP) Mrs. Charles S. Robb, daughter of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, had a 10:15 A.M. appointment today with J. Edgar Hoover for an interview.

She arrived early, and at 10 A.M., a Federal Bureau of Investigation man asked if she could keep a secret. Mrs. Robb said she had kept many while her father was in the White House.

She was told that Mr. Hoover had died during the night. The news was not yet out.



The New York Times

TRIBUTE TO THE CHIEF:
Justice Department guard
lowering flag to half staff
after news of the death of
J. Edgar Hoover yesterday.

dominance of the bureau allowed him to put a curtain around it and make it inviolable at less than his level." This he said, impeded "day-to-day working intercourse" between people in the department and their counterparts in the F.B.I.

Other Justice Department officials have spoken privately of a kind of clandestine relationship that grew up between themselves and bureau employees, with F.B.I. personnel helping them so long as they were "protected" from Mr. Hoover's learning they were not living by the rigid structure of the organization chart.

That chart required every request from Justice to go to the top of the F.B.I., be approved, then bucked down to the operational man. "It was," one official explained, "a way of preserving Mr. Hoover's control."

Morale Problems Cited

The second complaint of some department people was related. They felt that the F.B.I. had severe morale problems, that it inhibited and repressed its younger men and daily forced so much bookkeeping, clerical work and ritual forms on its agents that they became partially immobile.

The third complaint related to Mr. Hoover's personality. Most Justice Department lawyers shared respect for the man and his accomplishments in law enforcement. They admired what Ray L. Faist, the special agent in charge of the El Paso, Tex., bureau office pointed to today — "47 years free of fraud or scandal."

But some of them worried about his near-total power in a very powerful agency, only casually scrutinized by Congress.

For that reason, former bureau officials have been urging the need for "safeguards" on Mr. Hoover's suc-

cessor. One department official said today that the next appointee "will have to inspire confidence that he will not abuse the power of leading a potential secret police force."

Whether or not Congressional critics of the bureau will now move to build such restraints into the structure of the bureau is not yet clear.

Democratic Views

Democratic sources in the Senate indicated today that some of the persons reportedly under consideration would encounter little opposition from them — such as Justice White and Police Chief Wilson.

On the other hand it was contended that only "Mitchellian logic" could prompt the Administration to face the likely Congressional struggle of appointing some one like Mr. Mardian, whom they regard as an arch-conservative on civil rights.

No matter whom the Administration nominates, the bureau seems certain to face in the course of his confirmation hearings the most thorough public investigation in its history. The nominee will doubtless be asked to deal with a range of questions that have been raised with growing disquiet over the last year.

It was in April, 1971, that Representative Hale Boggs of Louisiana, the House majority leader, charged that the F.B.I. had been tapping the telephones of members of Congress. While subsequently he did not produce evidence that would satisfy most of his colleagues, this appeared to be the first of a string of criticisms.

Senator Edmund S. Muskie, Democrat of Maine, charged that the F.B.I. had conducted widespread surveillance of antipollution rallies on Earth Day, 1970. Senator George McGovern, Democrat of South Dakota, contended that Mr. Hoover had tried to injure the reputation of an airline pilot who had criticized the bureau for its handling of a hijacking attempt.

Burglars broke into the Media, Pa., office of the F.B.I. and released to the press documents indicating that the bureau was engaged in active surveillance of student, Negro and peace groups.

It was disclosed last fall that the F.B.I. had broken off direct liaison with the Central Intelligence Agency a year and a half earlier because the C.I.A. would not tell Mr. Hoover who had leaked information from his organization.

Other issues that came to be discussed included: the responsiveness of the bureau to the control of the Attorney General and the President; its role in a time of "radical" politics; meaningful overseeing of the bureau's finances; the relationship between the bureau and local police forces; the dissemination and control of computer-stored information, and whether the bureau should combine both criminal investigations and security surveillance.

Many, if not all of these questions are now certain to come up for official scrutiny. As one department official said today, "The bureau is going to be looked at sooner or later — it's just a question of when."