

Hoover Dead



AP Wirephoto

J. EDGAR HOOVER
He ran the bureau for 48 years

FBI Director

Dies in His Sleep

United Press

Washington

J. Edgar Hoover, who became an American institution as the first and only director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for nearly a half-century, died in his sleep early yesterday at the age of 77.

His body was found lying beside his bed at his north-west Washington home by his maid, Annie Fields, who had arrived about 8:30 a.m. to prepare his breakfast.

The last person to see him alive apparently was Clyde Tolson, 72, Hoover's lifelong friend and FBI associate director in whose home the two had dined until late Monday night.

Hoover, one of the most controversial, most feared most admired and — next to the President — one of the most powerful men in the United States, died of "hypertensive cardiovascular disease" or high blood pressure, frequently associated with hardening of the arteries, according to District of Columbia Medical Examiner James L. Luke.

The FBI director had no previous history of serious illness, had never discussed his heart ailment, and made no mention of feeling sick Monday evening.

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President Nixon, the eighth chief executive under whom Hoover had served, appeared in the White House press room to mourn the personal friends and advisers" and ordered all government flags flown at half-staff.

"His magnificent contribution to making this a great and good nation will be remembered by the American people long after the petty carpings of his detractors are forgotten," Mr. Nixon said.

In Congress, where demands for Hoover's resignation had been heard in recent years by men accusing him of being out of step with the times, there was nothing but praise for the man nearly everyone called "a legend in his own lifetime."

HONOR

A resolution was adopted providing for Hoover's body to lie in state in the capitol rotunda, an honor traditionally reserved for presidents, war heroes and distinguished legislators. He will be the first civil servant in U.S. history to be so honored.

Tolson, who has been in failing health for the past decade, was named acting FBI director until the President appoints a successor to the \$42,500 - a - year post.

Congress decreed in 1968 that Hoover's successor must be confirmed by the Senate, with the understanding that he would serve an

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indefinite term at the pleasure of the president.

Hoover, a native of Washington and a lifelong bachelor, joined the Justice Department in 1917 as a \$900-a-year law clerk and became assistant director of the scandal-ridden Bureau of Investigation four years later. In 1924 he became director of its successor, the FBI.

MUTED

For the most part, Hoover's past critics appeared to be muted in their comments on the death of the former FBI chief.

Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who had criticized Hoover and had in turn been depicted by the FBI director as "a spineless jellyfish," added his voice to the tributes.

"I am saddened to hear of his death," Clark said. "He has been a major figure on the American scene for a long time. He loved this country, and we shall miss him."

Senator Edward Kennedy (Dem-Mass.), similarly praised Hoover, saying that "even those who differed with him always had the highest respect for his honesty, integrity had his desire to do what he thought best for the country. He will be missed and remembered."

'FBI' Star Mourns Hoover

Reno

Efrem Zimbalist Jr., star of television's "The FBI," gasped in shock yesterday at the news that J. Edgar Hoover had died.

Zimbalist, visiting his retired father here, said, "I knew Mr. Hoover quite well and saw him only a few weeks ago.

"I think all America has suffered a great loss. But the FBI will carry on because he established the agency so well. Still, it will never be the same without him.

"J. Edgar Hoover was one of the greatest Americans in history."

United Press

Conceding that he had criticized the FBI for "going beyond its jurisdiction" to investigate the business dealings, sex habits and personal affairs of prominent Americans, columnist Jack Anderson also extolled Hoover's direction of the FBI in

its early days.

Calling the death of the FBI director "a great tragedy," former Attorney General John Mitchell assailed his critics, saying that "anybody who would say anything against J. Edgar Hoover would be maligning him. He didn't deserve it."

Acting Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst described Hoover as "a giant among patriots."

Joining in the praise of Hoover, Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger said that he had constructed the FBI "without impinging on the liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and our traditions."

The few caustic comments on Hoover came mainly from radical or anti-war figures who had clashed with the FBI. "It's a great relief," said Dr. Benjamin Spock of Hoover's death.

Another Hoover antagonist, yippie leader Jerry Rubin, greeted news of Hoover's death with the exclamation: "Wow- Wow! Wow!"

Convicted of conspiracy for the disorders at the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Rubin said that Hoover "was punished by God for his crimes against the people of the United States."