

Acting Chief's Notes

Controversial Ideas at the FBI

Washington

Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III said yesterday he is considering creation of an advisory committee of 12 to 18 outside experts to give him a fresh outlook on operation of the bureau.

Under the late J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI was a highly insular agency that pretty much went its own way.

Gray said that the "Director's Advisory Committee" he foresees would include individuals with extensive law enforcement expertise and related human behavioral disciplines, such as psychology and penology.

He said creation of the committee, if he decides to go ahead with it, "in no way indicate a lack of confidence in the top officials in the bureau." As he put it, it would provide "a look at the FBI through another window."

CONTROVERSIAL

Gray conceded that bringing in outsiders to take a look at the FBI would be a controversial step but said he likes to work with what

he called "outside minds."

In another area of some controversy, he said he also was considering hiring women FBI agents — and if the did they would not be assigned to "limited duties." He did not elaborate on this point.

Gray also announced the retirement of Alex Rosen, 66, assistant to the FBI director in charge of investigative operations. Rosen, a 38-year veteran of the bureau, said in a letter to Gray that he was requesting retirement for personal reasons, effective May 31.

Rosen was the second member of the bureau to step down since Hoover's death. Clyde A. Tolson, 72, Hoover's closest friend, resigned as associate director May 4, citing ill health.

Gray said he thought no more retirements were in the offing, but did not rule out the possibility that he might ask for some.

NOTES

Gray said he came up with the idea for a director's advisory com-

mittee last weekend at his Stonington, Conn, home, where he went to assess his new assignment, away from Washington interruptions.

He showed a visitor 13 pages of yellow, legal-size paper filled with neat notes he had jotted down while reviewing the bureau.

Gray said he also is considering setting up a "director's staff group," made up of three individuals to engage in long-range planning. The members "would not

necessarily be FBI people," he said.

The staff group would ponder such problems as what the bureau's role in society should be, and what steps should be taken to achieve it.

Gray said the advisory committee and the smaller staff group were among the matters he would discuss today at a meeting of the bureau's "executive conference," which is made up of the associate director, the two assistants to the director and the assistant directors.

Setting up the advisory panel of outsiders is "likely to be highly controversial," Gray said. "It's not a decision I will undertake lightly."

L.A. Times Service