

Opening Windows

by Vera Glaser and
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ACTING FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III rose at 5:30 a.m., breakfasted with his wife, Bea and was deep in paper work when two reporters arrived for early morning coffee and a glimpse of his private life.

"Around home, call me Pat Gray. In the office it's more formal," smiled the rugged-looking crew-cut former naval officer, who wears a tiny American flag in his lapel.

The late J. Edgar Hoover, who kept a blinding spotlight focused on his front door to discourage callers, must have turned over in his grave.

It has taken just two weeks for Gray to shatter the aura of mystery and untouchability surrounding the FBI and its top man for almost half a century.

Gray even described some reporters as "sweetie pies—once you talk to 'em." The term would have given J. Edgar the shakes.

The most conspicuous change so far in the Bureau's image is Gray's decision to hire women agents, and the prominence he gives his own wife. She travels with him and plans to publicize the role of FBI spouses. The former FBI chief was a bachelor.

Gray, 55, radiates energy and excitement about his new \$38,000-a-year post. His rah-rah conversational style is full of patriotic references to the "hearts and minds of the American people."

Discussing his approach to the job, he said, "I don't believe you lead people with a hatchet or a club. You've got to motivate them." He recalled a former aide once telling him to his face,



RAMSEY CLARK
FBI accountability

"You're the meanest SOB I ever worked for, but the fairest."

Following the shooting of presidential candidate George Wallace, Gray worked on and off through the night. It caused him to miss his daily 7:30 Mass at St. Patrick's, after which he strides four blocks to the Justice Department.

Although Gray has orders from President Nixon to keep any smell of politics out of the FBI, the Director flashed fire when asked about former Attorney General Ramsey Clark's recommendation of more "public accountability" for the Bureau.

"I don't agree with anything Clark says," Gray snapped. Then he had second thoughts.

"If he means information to the free press, reporting responsibly, I'd agree.

"But if he means creating an external oversight committee to come in and shred and tear apart the FBI, I couldn't differ more."

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at the FBI--to Let The Mystery Out

Girls Who Want to Be G-Men

Washington

FEMALE G-man? FBI employees in a dozen cities can't understand why a woman would apply to be a special agent.

But since Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III reversed the late J. Edgar Hoover's rigid policy against hiring women for crime investigation, hundreds of women have inquired about becoming special agents.

The telephone check of 12 field offices and a visit to bureau headquarters here turned up polite, cordial responses from employees asked for information about obtaining a job as female special agent.

But typical of comments was this from an agent in New York who declined to give his name:

"The job isn't for a woman. There's a lot of danger involved. She'll have the same duties as men. No pampering. Now really, would you want to see your daughter packing a .38 revolver?"

A San Francisco agent said some of his colleagues fear women agents will make their work more dangerous.

"For instance," he said, "when

you take someone with you on an arrest, he's the guy who may save your life. If a fellow is with a 120-pound girl, he'd have to do most of the job. Fellows aren't too enthusiastic about making an arrest with a girl with them."

In Dallas, a woman who said she's been with the FBI for 30 years said: "It isn't glamorous like they show you on TV. You're on call 24 hours a day. You're expected to work two hours a day overtime. You have to have an unblemished record."

FBI employees stress that women agents will be granted no special privileges. At an intensive 14-week training course, they must qualify with revolver, shotgun and rifle, meet stiff pull-up, sit-up and push-up requirements and run two miles in 17 minutes.

Applicants must be graduates of law school or accounting majors in college who have had one year experience in their profession. Otherwise, they must have a college degree and three years professional working experience.

Currently, 3000 qualified men are on the waiting list to be special agents.

Associated Press

The question of setting up an outside advisory group to study the Bureau is sensitive. Gray is considering it, along with eleven other areas affecting his domain of 20,000 employees.

"Let me tell you," Gray said, "I think one reason (the President) put me here is he really knew I'd start digging. If I find things that

need it, I'll make corrections."

When pressed, Gray described himself as a "moderate" Republican, but added, "I don't like those labels. I like two words to describe me—human being."

He volunteered an emphatic prediction that Nixon will be reelected and Attorney - General - Designate

Richard Kleindienst, whose nomination has been under fire, will be confirmed.

"Opening the window" at the FBI, a phrase Gray uses often, has meant making himself available to individual reporters, something Hoover almost never did.

He does not plan to use his bulletproof car regularly. He won't be guarded around the



ACTING FBI DIRECTOR L. PATRICK GRAY III
"If I find things that need it, I'll make corrections"

clock by FBI agents.

Although Gray has given his men leeway on their hairstyles, he won't change his own crewcut. "I've had it since 1946," he said. "I got it on submarines when the hydraulic oil leaking out of the periscope caused me to lose my hair. So I cut it."

How can a man who is sensitive to people and deep-

ly religious be hard-nosed enough to run the FBI?

"Because he has so much self-discipline," Mrs. Gray interposed. "He can even be that way on vacation. He doesn't clutter his mind with trivia."

The Grays live simply in a rented efficiency apartment, but spend weekends at their Stonington, Conn. home with

their four sons and two grandchildren.

In 1960, Gray retired from the Navy to work in Nixon's presidential campaign, then practiced law in Connecticut until the 1968 victory. Even as top brass in the Justice Department, Gray was comparatively unknown until plunged into the FBI hot spot.