

## Report of Nixon's Pick For FBI

### Washington

President Nixon is reported ready to nominate Police Chief Clarence M. Kelley of Kansas City, Mo., a 61-year-old career law enforcement officer, as director of the FBI.

Administration officials said yesterday that Kelley has become the leading candidate among a dozen contenders for the post long held by the late J. Edgar Hoover and predicted that his designation would be announced by the White House within a few days.

Kelley, who served as an FBI agent for more than 20 years before becoming Kansas City police chief in 1961, left Washington yesterday after two days of conferences at the FBI and the White House. Officials said he did not meet personally with the President.

### PRESSURE

If nominated by Mr. Nixon and confirmed by the Senate, Kelley would become the second permanent director of the agency. After Hoover's death a year ago, L. Patrick Gray III was nominated by the President, but he withdrew Gray's name under severe political pressure during his confirmation hearings.

William D. Rukleshaus, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, had agreed to accept the position temporarily upon urging by Mr. Nixon on the day of the Gray resignation, April 27, but asked to be relieved as soon as possible.

During his dozen years as head of the Kansas City police, Kelley has compiled a



AP Wirephoto

CLARENCE M. KELLEY  
Kansas City chief

record regarded as outstanding by his many enthusiastic supporters and all but a handful of his occasional critics.

### DISORDERS

His only serious problem resulted from the 1968 riots after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Six blacks were killed in the ensuing disorders, some under circumstances that led to charges of police brutality. Kelley subsequently conceded that some mistakes had been made.

"I'm not sure he had any real sensitivity to the black point of view," one observer said, "but he's been very successful in a city that is essentially conservative and racist. I think he's tried seriously to get more blacks on the force, but he hasn't made much headway."

Among the innovations Kelley introduced in Kansas City were day-and-night helicopter patrols, use of computers to speed police response, a new procedure for cordoning crime sites and creation of a metropolitan squad covering a six-county area in both Missouri and Kansas.

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