(NYT filed Ford Ad.)

A Limit on FBI Chief's Term Urged

Washington

U.S. Attorney General Edward Levi said yesterday that he would favor passage of a law to limit the tenure of the FBI's director.

Speaking on the CBS television program, "Face the Nation," Levi suggested a term in office of about ten years, although, he said, the precise length of tenure was not important.

"I think that probably some limitation would be appropriate, in view of history," Levi said. He did not say what he meant by history, but presumably he was alluding to recent disclosures of apparent abuses by the FBI under J. Edgar Hoover's direction. Hoover died in office in 1972, after 48 years as chief of the FBI.

Levi also said a federal law is needed to prevent abuses by the FBI. He said guidelines proposed by the Justice Department could be the basis for legislating "the kind of regulations the bureau thinks it can live with."

In response to questions, Levi also said the Justice Department may consider the appointment of a special prosecutor to investigate again the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. He said the civil rights division of the department is reviewing all of the files on the King assassination, to see if there were flaws in past investigations.

New York Times