

FBI Gets First Guidelines

Washington

The Justice Department yesterday issued the first of a series of guidelines aimed at bringing the powerful FBI more under the department's direct supervision.

The guidelines will govern domestic security investigations, investigations conducted on White House orders, and reporting by the bureau to the Justice Department on civil disorders and demonstrations.

Other guidelines, still in preparation, are intended to reach all aspects of FBI operations.

The most controversial part of earlier drafts of the domestic security guidelines — a section describing in broad terms what types of "preventive action" will be allowed the FBI — was missing entirely from the final

version.

Attorney General Edward Levi conceded it has been dropped because it had touched off an uproar in Congress and the press.

Critics of early drafts charged that "preventive action" was nothing more than a newly coined term under which the FBI could revive the discredited Cointelpro campaigns it conducted from the late 1950s until the early 1970s.

Cointelpro was an acronym for the counterintelligence programs launched by the FBI's director, the late J. Edgar Hoover, against organizations he felt were bad for the country and thus should be disrupted and harassed.

Cointelpro tended heavily toward "dirty tricks" such as anonymous letters. Levi has

characterized its tactics as largely reprehensible and frequently ridiculous.

Of the three guidelines issued yesterday, the one on domestic security investigations seems certain to have the most long-range effect, being an area in which the FBI has long gone its own way without meaningful Justice Department guidance.

The new rules will require the FBI, when conducting a full investigation in the domestic security area, to cut it off after one year unless it gets Justice Department authority to keep it alive.

Two lower categories of investigations, "preliminary" and "limited," must be wound up within 90 days unless FBI headquarters — always subject to Justice Department veto — approves an extension.

Reuters