

Nixon Blasts Permissiveness:

'Crime Softness Is Over'

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Nixon declared today "the era of permissiveness with regard to enforcement of the law is at an end."

Speaking at FBI National Academy graduation exercises, Nixon also said that while FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover may be controversial, "the great majority of the American people back Mr. Hoover and back law enforcement officials."

Having known Hoover for the past 24 years, Nixon said, "I can say from experience that he is a man who has never served a party. He has always served his country, and he deserves credit for that."

Returning to the stiff law and order stance that he embraced as a presidential candidate, Nixon pledged administration support to law enforcement officials "in their attempt to reestablish respect for the law."

Fashionable

Nixon said he had dropped by to give the 100 police officials from all 50 states and from abroad a message; "Don't get discouraged."

He said that it has been fashionable among some to attack the police and law enforcement, but "the great majority of the American people do provide backing for the men who risk their lives for our lives."

The graduation exercises brought together the government's top three law and order men: Nixon, Hoover and Attorney General John Mitchell. What ensued could only be termed a love feast.

Bending the FBI's rules a bit to allow Nixon — once turned down when he applied for an FBI agent's job — to wear jewelry bearing the

FBI insignia, Hoover presented the President with a set of gold cufflinks bearing the FBI motto: "Fidelity, Bravery, Integrity."

Introducing Nixon, Hoover



J. EDGAR HOOVER GETS A BOOST FROM THE BOSS

President Nixon joined FBI director on platform at graduation ceremonies

—UPI Photo

said "No man is more responsible for the fate of America or the destiny of the free world than this man."

Mitchell decried "a tidal wave of legalisms" frustrating society's right to see prompt arrest, speedy trial and swift punishment of criminals.

"Every conceivable twisting and turning of words is used to weigh the side of the defendant — in many cases far beyond the intent and often even the language of the framers of the Constitution," Mitchell said.

"Every conceivable twisting and turning of words is used to unbalance the side of the people, represented by the police and the prosecu-

"The result, already visible, is longer trials and appeals, crowded courts and a lack of finality in conviction that produces prisoners who believe they will beat the rap, and would-be criminals who laugh at the idea that crime doesn't pay."

Policemen now face "a new menace — the violence of extremists who are proclaimed enemies of the police, and often of government itself," he said.

"Disorders are deliberately manufactured to overtax the police organizations, create chaos and if possible, goad police into actions that are then labeled 'brutality,' thus breeding new issues on which to feed.

"To such groups, justice is whatever serves the revolution," Mitchell said.