

Washington (AP) - The White House announced Wednesday that Asst. Atty. Gen. L. Patrick Gray III, a longtime friend of President Nixon, will double in brass as acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation - at least until the November election.

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..... Press secretary Ronald L. Ziegler said Nixon will not nominate a regular FBI chief, to succeed the late J. Edgar Hoover, until after Nov. 7 because "he doesn't want it (the choice of a successor) considered in the middle of an election year" and perhaps become the subject of "partisan debate."

..... Ziegler was asked whether Nixon would name a regular FBI director after the election should he be defeated.

"We're not thinking in those terms, quite frankly."

Pressed further, he said that if Nixon lost the ballotting, he would not attempt to fill the FBI post but would leave the selection to his successor.