

original filed Hoover

Nixon Will Retain Hoover and Helms

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—J. Edgar Hoover, for 44 years the director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Richard Helms, the director of Central Intelligence, will remain in their posts for at least the first year of the Nixon Administration.

At a news conference this morning, the President's spokesman announced that Nixon had talked with Mr. Hoover at his headquarters and had decided to remain in his post. Mr. Hoover, he said, would do so.

It was not clear whether they would have other jobs. Mr. Ziegler said Mr. Nixon had not sought to propose time for either of them.

However, Mr. Nixon said immediately after announcing the news that he would remain only a few days or just before his

75th Birthday

This special occasion is celebrated in part by the President's 75th birthday. Mr. Hoover's 75th birthday, which he may find a relief from which to end his government service.

The announcement was made in Federal Office Building 7, a relatively new Federal structure on 17th Street where part of the President-elect's staff has occupied office space during the transition period.

As Mr. Ziegler talked to news men on the second floor, Mr. Nixon conferred upstairs with Republican leaders, including Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois and Representative Gerald R. Ford of Michigan, the Senate and House minority leaders.

Mr. Nixon's decision to keep Mr. Hoover follows a pattern set by his immediate predecessors. One of the first announcements made by John F. Kennedy after he became President in 1960 was that he had asked Mr. Hoover to remain.

Since Mr. Hoover is past the compulsory retirement age of 70 for Federal employees, Mr. Nixon, when he takes office, will have to sign an executive order exempting Mr. Hoover from retirement. President Johnson waived the rule when he reappointed Mr. Hoover.



J. Edgar Hoover



Richard Helms

Support for Helms

In asking Mr. Helms to stay on, Mr. Nixon has accepted the advice of his associates in his staff and on Capitol Hill who have come to regard the C.I.A.'s director as one of the Government's most able and effective servants.

A veteran of nearly two decades as the agency's deputy director, Mr. Helms assumed full command at the request of Mr. Johnson on June 18, 1966. Since then he has earned the reputation as a fair and honest reporter of intelligence data, who has focused on the primary business of information-gathering and kept clear of policy disputes.

He is viewed, particularly in Congress, where the intelligence agency has long been cause of controversy — as a reliable source of data on the war in Vietnam, and he has not been afraid to give assessments of the war contrary to those provided by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and even the White House.

In 1967, for example, his evaluation of the effects of the bombing was decidedly more critical than the Joint Chiefs', and his evaluations of enemy strength have, as a rule, been more pessimistic than those from other sources.

Mr. Hoover has also sought to remain above controversy but has been less successful in doing so. He is a bachelor who dresses conservatively, drinks and eats sparingly and expects his agents to do the same. He

seldom gives interviews and remains aloof from Washington's official social circuit.

Despite his Spartan life, however, he speaks out frequently and forcefully in his agency's monthly Law Enforcement Bulletin against Communist influences in the United States, organized crime, civil disorder, and pornography.

A Campaign Issue

He has tangled publicly with civil rights leaders, and had a caustic exchange with the late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. During the campaign, Senator Eugene McCarthy publicly called for his removal.

Vice President Humphrey delicately sidestepped the question when asked whether he would retain Mr. Hoover. Of the major candidates only Mr. Nixon unequivocally pledged to keep the F.B.I. chief in his job.

At the same time, Mr. Hoover has developed a powerful esprit de corps among his agents, and under his leadership the F.B.I. has attempted to lift the business of fighting crime from an

amateur exercise to a professional discipline.

Meanwhile, authoritative sources confirmed that Mr. Nixon would shortly name Gov. Nils A. Roe of South Dakota as director of the Office of Emergency Planning. The office administers the President's contingency fund and coordinates Federal planning and assistance in times of national disaster, such as a major flood, hurricane, or earthquake.

In another development of the transition, John N. Mitchell, the Attorney General designate, spent an hour conferring with President Johnson this afternoon at Mr. Johnson's office in the White House. George Christian, the White House press secretary, declined to give any details of their conversation.

Mr. Christian said earlier today that the President would probably be seeing a number of the Nixon Cabinet members throughout this week at the request of the President-elect, Mr. Mitchell was the first.

The President-elect spent more than two hours with the Congressional leaders, then paid a call on former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who is recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from a heart attack.

After the visit, Mr. Nixon told newsmen that the General would watch the wedding of his grandson, David, to Mr. Nixon's daughter Julie on a specially arranged closed-circuit television hookup.

"He will be the only individual, incidentally, other than those in the church, who will have a chance to see it—because this is not being telecast otherwise," Mr. Nixon reported.

The President-elect returned to New York late this afternoon to prepare for a round of appointments tomorrow.