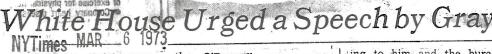
New York Times



By JOHN M. CREWDSON Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 5— The White Houseburged the act-ing director of the Federal Bu-reau of Investigation to accept a speaking invitation in Cleve-land last summer because Ohio was believed to be "crucially vital" to President Nixon's re-election campaign. This was disclosed today in

This, was disclosed today in memorandum from Patrick E. O'Donnell, a former Presidential assistant, to L. Patrick Gray 3d.

The memorandum, provided by the F.B.I. to the Senate Judiby the F.B.I. to the Senate Judi-ciary Committee, was included in copies of papers requested last week by members of the committee, which is holding hearingns on Mr. Gray's nomi-nation as permanent successor to the late J. Edgar Hoover. The memorandum, written on White House stationery, advised Mr. Gray that the City Club of Cleveland "has asked our as-sistance in attempting to secure your participation as a key

sistance in attempting to secure your participation as a key speaker" sometime in the next few.weeks. It added: "With Ohio being crueially vital to our hopes in November, we would hope you will assign this forum some priority. in planning your schedule." Mr. Gray had become acting F.B.L. director. following Mr.

F.B.I. director following Mr. Hoover's death six weeks earlier

Hoover's death six weeks ear-lier. On the first day of hearings last week, Mr. Gray acknowl-edged to the Senators that he had been asked to make the Cleveland appearance by a Nixon campaign official but he said that the decision to do so had been his own. He denied that it had ben intended as a contribution to Mr. Nixon's re-election campaign, but rather to carry "the F.B.I.'s message to the people." In the Aug. 11 speech, Mr. Gray criticized "those who in-sist that our priceless liberties are being eroded—that free-dom is increasingly in jeopardy across the United States." He cited statistics that he said showed "the upward thrust of crime is being turned back" and said that the country's economy was "on the thresh-hold of the greatest growth in our history." President Nixon, asked<sup>®</sup>at a news conference last week

our nistory." President Nixon, asked<sup>®</sup> at a news conference last week whether the White House had enlisted Mr. Gray as a surro-gate campaigner, replied that it was his intention that the former Navy captain must re-main "a nonpartisan figure." Questioned specifically about

the O'Donnell memorandum, Mr. Nixon replied: "If there was anything indicating that during the campaign we were trying to enlist him in that, it certainly didn't have my sup-port and would not have it now."

Tough Question Feared Three days after the receipt of the O'Donnell memorandum by Mr. Gray's office, a bureau official prepared a second official prepared a second memorandum for internal use on the nature of the forum for the proposed speech.

for the proposed speech. The report, dated June 16, states that "the Cleveland of-fice has advised that the City Club has no political connec-tions and actually the majority of the members could be clas-sified as 'liberals.'" It cau-tioned that "the club engages in discussing controversial 'sub-jects and it is entirely possible that some embarrassing ques-tions could be put to Mr. Gray which might prove embarrasswhich might prove embarrassing to him and the bureau.'

ing to him and the bureau." But, the memorandum said, 'these are the type of people-we should be contacting in an effort to 'convert them."") On June 27, 'Thomas E. Bish-op, at the time assistant direc-tor in charge of the FBL's crime records division, who has since retired, informed the act-ing asociate director, Mark Felt, that Mri Gray had agreed to make the speech and that

Felt, that Mri Gray had agreed to make the speech and that he, Mr. Bishop, had "advised Patrick E. O'Donnell of the White House, through whom the invitation had been extended.", On June 28, Larry Robinson, who had arranged the Gray speech on behalf of the City Club, wrote to thank Mr. Gray for agreeing to come and said that Mr. O'Donnell "has been enormously helpful to us and we are writing at his sugges-tion."

The Judiciary Committee will resume its questioning of Mr. Gray tomorrow morning.