

SFE Examiner APR 1 1973

## Nixon Stand For Gray Is Reaffirmed

SAN CLEMENTE — (AP) — The Western White House yesterday reaffirmed President Nixon's support for L. Patrick Gray, his nominee as FBI director, rejecting reports that the job had been offered to Justice Department official Henry E. Peterson.

The St. Paul Pioneer Press said yesterday that Nixon had abandoned hope that Gray's nomination would be approved by the Senate.

The newspaper said sources in the Justice Department and Senate Judiciary Committee had confirmed that Peterson, now acting assistant attorney general in charge of the criminal division, would be nominated as Gray's replacement.

"We support the Gray nomination," responded Deputy White House Press Secretary Gerald Warren. The Justice Department also denied the story.



**HENRY E. PETERSON**

New name in FBI race

—AP Photo

The newspaper said administration officials discussed the Peterson nomination with Sen. James Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and two leaders in the fight to block Gray's nomination — Senate Majority Whip Robert Byrd (Dem-W. Va.) and Sen. Sam Ervin (Dem-N.C.)

Byrd, asked in Washington, D.C., about the report, said he had had no contact at all with the administration regarding a possible change in the Gray nomination.