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Kelley Defends Hoover
On Ehrlichman Opinion

WASHINGTON, July 26 (UPI)—Clarence M. Kelley, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, defended the late J. Edgar Hoover today against reported feelings by the Nixon Administration that he should have retired before the Watergate investigation.

Mr. Kelley, speaking at a news conference, answered allegations by John D. Ehrlichman the former adviser to President Nixon, that Mr. Ehrlichman felt Mr. Hoover should have retired earlier. Mr. Hoover died May 1, 1972, at the age of 77.

"My personal reaction in my association with Mr. Hoover as an agent, as an agent-in-charge and later as chief of police was that he was entirely capable in discharging his duties, lucid in his discussions and I was most satisfied with his performance," Mr. Kelley said.