SFChronicle SEP 20 1975 Gray is Off The Hook in Watergate

Washington

L. Patrick Gray III, the former acting FBI director, has been told he will not be prosecuted for destroying documents in the Watergate coverup case.

"We have informed Gray's attorney that we've closed the investigation of Gray," a spokesman for special Watergate prosecutor Henry S. Ruth said yesterday.

"There was never a basis for prosecution against Pat Gray," said Stephen H. Sachs, Gray's attorney. "He has never been guilty of wrongdoing and has willingly responded to calls to . testify before grand juries without demands for immunity."

Gray, a former submarine captain, was named acting FBI chief May 3, 1972, after the death of J. Edgar Hoover.

President Nixon nominated Gray to be permanent director, but he resigned after disclosing that he had burned papers taken from the White House safe of Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Gray said White House aides told him the papers "were never to see the light of day."

United Press