

Nixon to FBI: Help Probe Police Killing

Examiner News Services

WASHINGTON — Despite its position that police killings are a local matter, the Nixon Administration has ordered the FBI to participate actively in investigating such crimes, if local authorities ask for help.

President Nixon initially offered the FBI's investigative help June 3 at a White House conference of police chiefs and followed it up in writing June 14 with a letter to all police chiefs.

On June 21 FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover sent a letter to law enforcement agency heads making the offer more specific.

Those developments, however, were not disclosed here until today when Hoover made public the FBI's annual report for fiscal 1971.

Opposes Legislation

The Administration has opposed attempts in Congress to make the killing of a policeman a federal crime, saying it feared such a law could turn the FBI into a national police force.

Prior to the June 14 White House meeting, Nixon had ordered Attorney General John Mitchell to make all Justice Department resources available, on request, to local police; this was limited, however, to the FBI laboratory, identification division and the national crime information center.

In his annual report Hoover added that "upon request of the head of a local police agency the FBI now will actively participate in the in-

ment officers and the wounding of 21 others."

An FBI spokesman refused to name the slain officers but said the deaths occurred in Omaha in August, in Detroit in October, and in Toledo in November.

The spokesman said "the FBI is not going to be in the position of naming these officers. The reason for that is not wanting to cause additional grief to the families."

Asked why Hoover mentioned the deaths if he intended not name the victims, the spokesman said that the three deaths "are of national interest in racial matters."

Patrolman Killed

In Detroit, Patrolman Glenn Smith, 26, was shot and killed outside a house police said was the headquarters for the National Committee to Combat Fascism. Another officer, Patrolman Marshall Emerson, was wounded in the hand.

Twelve Black Panthers were acquitted June 30 on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the Smith slaying.

In Omaha Patrolman Larry D. Minard was killed by a bobby trap bomb in a vacant Omaha house last Aug. 17.

David Rice, 23, and Edward Poindexter, 26, were found guilty of first degree murder in the death in April of this year. Both are officers in the Nebraska chapter of the National Committee to Combat Fascism, a black militant group. They do not call themselves Black Panthers.

Hoover also mentioned the