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## F.B.I. to Work on Police Killings If Local Departments Seek Help

WASHINGTON, July 15 (UPI) —Despite its position that police killings are a local matter, the Nixon Administration has ordered the Federal Bureau of Investigation to participate actively in investigating such crimes, if local authorities ask for help.

President Nixon first offered the F.B.I.'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, J. Edgar Hoover, the F.B.I. director, sent a letter to law enforcement agency heads making the offer more specific.

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

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

Before the June 14 White House meeting, Mr. Nixon had ordered Attorney General John N. Mitchell to make Justice Department resources available, on request, to local police; this was limited, however, to the F.B.I. laboratory, identification division and the National Crime Information Center.

In his annual report, Mr. Hoover added that "upon request of the head of a local police agency the F.B.I. now will actively participate in the investigation of a police killing."

Officials said there had been no requests. They added that 96.4 per cent of such slayings were solved almost immediately by local police.

There is no Federal law per-

mitting active participation by the F.B.I. in this type of crime but Mr. Nixon's order was described in Mr. Hoover's letter as "a mandate" for the cooperation of his agency. F.B.I. agents asked to help investigate such a killing would turn over any evidence obtained to local authorities for local prosecution.

As of June 30, there had been 56 policemen killed this year. Fifty-one had been killed at the time of the White House conference.

Mr. Hoover also disclosed that a Federal grand jury in Detroit was investigating the \$200,000 bombing of the Senate wing of the United States Capitol on March 1.

### Never Confirmed

This had been rumored but never confirmed by the Justice Department. Mr. Hoover indicated that the bureau may have completed its work in the case when he said, "The F.B.I. has conducted widespread investigation into the bombing, and Federal grand juries in Seattle and Detroit are considering evidence in this case."

The Seattle investigation was made public April 28 when the Justice Department sought a court order to transport Leslie Bacon, 19 years old of Atherton, Calif., there for questioning. She had been arrested the previous day as a material witness in the bombing incident.

Mr. Hoover also said that more than 630 organized crime figures were convicted during the fiscal year and cases involving more than 1,900 others were in various stages of prosecution.

And the F.B.I. director said that Black Panther party membership had risen slightly to 800 persons while the white extremist Ku Klux Klan membership had risen to about 4,500.