

SF Examiner 2 Oct 71

'Loyalty'

Hoover Ousts Top FBI Aide

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Assistant FBI Director William C. Sullivan has been forced into retirement after a series of policy disputes with Director J. Edgar Hoover, The Washington Post said today.

The Post said Sullivan, 59, was on sick leave yesterday while his name was removed from his office door and the locks changed. He was not officially informed of the action, the dispatch read.

A spokesman for the FBI would not comment further than confirming Sullivan's replacement by Alex Posen, head of the bureau's general investigative division.

Sullivan could not be reached immediately for comment.

Quoting sources close to the issue and unnamed former bureau staff members, the Post said Sullivan had been under intense pressure from Hoover to resign but had resisted as late as 10 p.m. Friday.

The sources said they expected Sullivan to decide over the weekend whether actually to turn in his resig-

nation or to challenge openly his one-time benefactor at the risk of his government pension," the story read.

The newspaper quoted unnamed Justice Department sources as suggesting that one reason for Sullivan's downfall was the strong relationships he developed with Atty. Gen. John Mitchell and other top Justice officials, "apparently casting doubt on his loyalty to the director."

The story said the beginnings of the policy differences between Sullivan and Hoover date to the early 1960s when Sullivan argued that the Ku Klux Klan's efforts to hinder civil rights advances constituted the nation's major domestic threat, rather than the Communist Party.

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FBI 'Heir Apparent' Now Out

WASHINGTON (UPI) — William C. Sullivan, a 30-year FBI veteran and at one time the heir apparent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover is retiring amid reports he was forced to leave under pressure from Hoover.

The FBI confirmed yesterday that Sullivan, 59, will be succeeded by Alex Rosen, head of the bureau's general investigative division, whose post will be filled by Charles Bates, special agent in charge of the FBI's Chicago office and former chief of the San Francisco office.

Sullivan could not be reached for comment on reports that his retirement was not voluntary or whether he

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actually had submitted his resignation.

Sullivan served as director of the FBI domestic intelligence division since 1961 until he became an assistant to Hoover last year. He suffered an obvious demotion in August when Hoover appointed W. Mark Felt, head of the internal inspection division, to a newly created position above Sullivan.

Until then, Sullivan had been considered a likely successor to Hoover, 76, in replacing Cartha D. "Deke" DeLoach, who quit as assistant last year to take another job outside the FBI.

Felt's promotion to a third-ranking position behind Hoover and his ailing best friend and longtime companion, Clyde A. Tolson, the FBI's 71-year-old associate director, was regarded as a clear indication that Sullivan no longer was Hoover's favorite.

The Washington Post said Sullivan was expected to decide during the weekend whether to turn in his resignation or to challenge Hoover at the risk of his government pension.

Sullivan's name already has been removed from his office door and the locks have been changed, the Post said.

Sullivan, the Post said, made Hoover furious by his efforts to modernize the FBI and his increasingly close ties with Attorney General John Mitchell and other top Justice Department officials.

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