

SFF Examiner SEP 21 1972

Demoted FBI Chief To Retire

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — Wesley G. Grapp, former head of the FBI office in Los Angeles who was censured and suspended recently for defying orders by acting director L. Patrick Gray and for bugging his own office, is retiring, Gray said today.

Gray announced in a lengthy statement that Grapp, 54, a veteran of more than 25 years service, had been granted a request to retire effective next Tuesday. Gray said the censure and suspension had been withdrawn.

Gray stressed in his statement that Grapp's failure to adhere to his policy relaxing the late Director J. Edgar Hoover's strict groom and dress standards constituted "a direct violation of orders regularly and lawfully issued" by him.

Huge Pension

Grapp will leave government with a civil service rating of GS18, which carries a \$36,000 annual salary. His retirement benefits will not be affected. Gray had reduced him to GS13, which carries a top salary of \$24,362.

Grapp was demoted Aug. 25 as chief of the Los Angeles office for telling several agents to shave off their mustaches and reportedly boasting that he did not intend to abide by Gray's orders.

Reassigned Him

Gray reassigned him to be chief of the much smaller El Paso, Tex., field office.

Grapp was suspended again Sept. 15 for allegedly bugging his own office telephone and recording conversations in his Los Angeles office.

Gray then dropped him to GS13 and ordered him transferred to the Minneapolis field office. At the time, Gray ended Grapp's original 25-day suspension, placed him on pay status for eight hours, then suspended him from duty without pay for 30 days.