

WASHINGTON, D.C.

In writing about the FBI one must prudently preface his words by acknowledging that the late J. Edgar Hoover was a great American, a dedicated patriot, and a selfless public servant who devoted his life to the structure and supervision of one of the federal government's most respected and efficient agencies.

But John Edgar Hoover (1895-1972) was a human being, not a god, and like all members of the human race, he generated strengths and weaknesses. He lived a wifeless life deprived of the married love most men find necessary and enriching.

Instead, early in his adulthood, in 1921, he became wedded to the then Bureau of Investigation, which he later renamed, zealously reformed, nurtured, promoted, and protected. The FBI became his entire *raison d'être*, his shield and his syndrome, and for 48 years he ruled it with an iron hand. Woe to the man who questioned or spoke ill of it.

Hoover's book

I remember one occasion at a cocktail party many years ago. A group of Hollywood writers were talking shop. In the course of the discussion I remarked that Warner Brothers had just paid Mr. Hoover \$50,000 for the movie rights to his book, *Masters of Deceit*. A few days later an FBI agent called upon me. He explained that Mr. Hoover had kept only one-fifth of that money for himself and had donated the remainder to the FBI recreation fund and other charities. Moreover, the agent pointed out, Mr. Hoover never accepted any book royalties or magazine article payments for his own account but gave away all such fees. The agent just wanted to make sure I damn well understood the literary operations of his boss.

So long as J. Edgar Hoover ruled the FBI, its reputation or the activities of its agents were not to be questioned. The old despot was a hard taskmaster who ran a tight ship. A law-enforcement agency, he rightly believed, had to be like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. For his subordinates, he insisted upon shoe shines, white shirts, clean fingernails, the Victorian code of behavior under which he had been reared.

His name meant FBI

He resented inquiry into the agency's inner operations or its personnel management, and until he died, his was practically the only name equated in the public ken with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He made friends of almost all the U.S. Presidents he worked under (John F. Kennedy was an exception), and for most practical purposes he "owned" John J. Rooney, the Congressman from Brooklyn who heads the House Appropriations Committee and always gave him the money he re-

Know Your FBI

by Lloyd Shearer



A popular tour for visitors to Washington, D.C., is the Department of Justice. L. Patrick Gray, FBI acting director, chats with a group of admiring tourists.

quested.

Under J. Edgar Hoover, the FBI became, in the judgment of many persons, a semi-secret police force, an investigatory agency above the law and beyond the community, a group of elite, supposedly noble, near-perfect men whose behavior was not to be questioned by ordinary taxpayers.

L. Patrick Gray III, the acting head of the FBI who succeeded J. Edgar Hoover this past May, is, of course, a different type of leader—open, compassionate, understanding. But, as befits a former Navy captain, tough, demanding, and a man who believes in accountability to the public.

In the six months Gray has held office he had made public more FBI personnel changes than Hoover did in almost 50 years. Gray believes firmly in the right of the people to know what he is doing in the FBI, and why.

Since May 3, 1972, Gray has presided over personnel changes in almost one-

third of the FBI's 59 field offices. He has retired or transferred 18 special agents-in-charge in New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, San Diego, New Orleans, Richmond, San Antonio, Sacramento, Charlotte, Honolulu, El Paso, Little Rock, Milwaukee, Mobile, and Butte.

He stripped Wesley G. Grapp of his rank as head of the FBI office in Los Angeles, demoted him five grades, and ordered him transferred to Minneapolis. When Grapp decided to retire rather than accept the lower rating, Gray issued a six-page release to the press, explaining the entire background of the Grapp case. Hoover would never have done that.

Gray has also made available to the press the FBI manual of rules and regulations for FBI employees, another first.

Gray will also go down in the books as the first FBI director to hire woman agents and to establish an FBI office of equal employment opportunity affairs.

It was he who disclosed some months ago that the FBI had only 1454 employees who were black, Spanish-surnamed, of Oriental extraction or American Indians, and that he was determined to increase that number. He has.

The new acting FBI director is also responsible for changing the old-fashioned dress regulations of FBI agents and the educational requirements of FBI applicants. Gray is willing to give a chance to liberal arts graduates. Hoover used to insist upon lawyers and accountants, but in some cases would make an exception for men who knew Russian.

Right to know

Gray, 56, the father of four grown sons, believes in communication. He feels strongly that the people in any community are entitled to know and be aware of the FBI agent in charge of that particular field office. Which is why PARADE, with his cooperation, prints with this article a list of such key FBI agents.

Last summer when the wives of FBI agents in Honolulu wrote Gray complaining about Richard Rogge, then head of the Honolulu office, Gray sent a special inspection team to Oahu to investigate the charges. Discovering that the Hawaii field office suffered from "a serious morale problem," Gray transferred Rogge to Richmond, Va. Gray is a man who will listen.

Several weeks ago when the Wesley Grapp case broke in Los Angeles, James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, retired at 86 as Archbishop of Los Angeles, wrote President Nixon, asking him to prevent Grapp's transfer. Henry Salvatori, a millionaire Los Angeles oilman and a hefty contributor to the Republican Party, pressured Nixon with a similar letter. Nixon wrote back explaining to both men that the matter would be handled by L. Patrick Gray III, acting director of the FBI.

Honest and 'untouchable'

Pat Gray is a Nixon appointee. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1960 to work for Nixon. Politically he is a Republican. But he is scrupulously honest and "untouchable." Democrats who expect him to whitewash the "Watergate bugging" to protect Republican politicians involved in what must be regarded as the most idiotic political caper of the campaign, judge him incorrectly.

Pat Gray runs his own show. He will let the chips fall where they may. John Mitchell, Maurice Stans, Robert Mardian, whoever may and may not be involved in the caper, can expect no coverup from Pat Gray.

Quite the opposite. This man refuses to compromise his conscience or truth. Of all the appointments Richard Nixon has made in his Administration, two stand out like beacons in a fog-shrouded sky: Henry Kissinger and Pat Gray.