

GRAY RESHUFFLES

9 ON F.B.I.'S STAFF

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8 Had Long Service in the Crime Records Division in Hoover's Regime

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 2 —

L. Patrick Gray 3d, acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has ordered the immediate reassignment of nine members of his headquarters staff, eight of them with long service in the bureau's Crime Records Division under J. Edgar Hoover, the late director.

Six of the reassignments involve transfers to posts outside Washington. In all, five men with the rank of inspector and four with the rating of special agent are affected.

Although Mr. Gray characterized the moves as "promotions," at least two men plan to retire rather than accept reassignment.

They are among six of the eight former members of the Crime Records Division who meet the bureau's minimum retirement criteria of 25 years of service and 50 years of age. Mr. Gray abolished the division

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Dec. 1.

The notices of reassignment were sent out last Friday. Mr. Gray said today that he had already received a notice of retirement from James F. Bland, an inspector with 30 years of service who, until last month, was the assistant head of the Crime Records Division.

Mr. Bland had been ordered to the field office in Albany, N. Y., where he would have become special agent in charge.

Also retiring is Donald G. Hanning, a special agent with 26 years of service whom Mr. Gray had reassigned to the post of assistant head of the bureau's Philadelphia field office.

The former head of the abolished division, Thomas E. Bishop, an assistant director of the bureau, was transferred last month to the F.B.I. Academy at Quantico, Va., where he is doing research on what are described as "major case studies." His request for retirement has

been accepted by Mr. Gray and will take effect Feb. 1.

The Crime Records division performed a number of functions, including acting as the bureau's liaison with Congress and the press. Mr. Gray said that his office has since taken over those duties and that the division's other duties had been "scattered throughout the bureau."

Mr. Gray rejected as "totally, completely and unalterably false" reports that he had made the reassignments with the intent of dispersing old-line agents who had been resisting some of his innovative policies.

Hoover Policies Changed

Since becoming acting director last May, after the death of Mr. Hoover, Mr. Gray has made a number of changes in bureau policies instituted under Mr. Hoover, including allowing women to apply for the post of special agent.

Mr. Gray conceded in a telephone interview today that there had been some resistance among certain unidentified bureau members "who feel that their nests are in danger," but he said that these members were "very few."

He also discounted reports that he had engendered some animosity among longtime bureau employees by concentrating increasing power in his personal staff.

In the last eight months, Mr. Gray has presided over numerous changes in the bureau's top personnel in Washington and elsewhere. At least two changes were for disciplinary reasons. They involved Wesley G. Grapp, who until September was special agent in charge of the bureau's Los Angeles office, and Robert Kunkel, who was special agent in charge of the field office here.

A two-page memorandum, purportedly written by bureau staff members and being circulating among reporters in Washington, alleges that Mr. Gray's "airing of linen" in re-

spect to the Grapp and Kunkel matters" has resulted in strong resentment on the part of agents throughout the organization.

The document charges that, as a result of Mr. Gray's actions, the bureau's reputation and credibility are "seriously damaged," and that "morale, in the F.B.I. is at an all-time low point."

Lack of Decision Seen

Mr. Gray is also accused having "given total authority to his so-called personal staff," a group of three young lawyers who "know absolutely nothing re intelligence work." It continues:

"His [Mr. Gray's] complete lack of management experience is becoming more and more obvious. Committees abound, endless inane discussions, but no decisions. Recommendations and studies requested by him sit for months in his office without action. His frenetic schedule is aimless and has resulted in no significant accomplishments."

In addition to Mr. Bland and Mr. Hanning, the following agents were given reassignment orders on Friday:

Harold P. Leinbaugh, an inspector, reassigned as assistant head of the Detroit field office.

George T. Quinn, an inspector, transferred to the bureau's Inspection Division.

Henry A. Schutz Jr., an inspector, the bureau's top aircraft hijacking investigator, shifted to the inspection staff.

Also, Bernard M. Suttler, an inspector, transferred to the F.B.I. Academy.

William H. Stapleton, special agent, to become assistant head of the Chicago field office.

George W. Gunn, special agent, to become assistant head of the San Francisco field office.

Gordon E. Malmfeldt, a special agent transferred to the bureau's inspection staff.

REMEMBER THE NEEDLES!