

FEB 17 1973

## Nixon Is Reported Set to Keep Gray As F.B.I. Director

NYTimes

The Washington Star-News

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16—L.

Patrick Gray 3d will soon be nominated to the post of permanent director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Gray has held the acting directorship of the agency for more than nine months, since the death of J. Edgar Hoover. His nomination by President Nixon would require confirmation by the Senate.

Mr. Gray met privately with the President at the White House before a Cabinet meeting today, reliable sources disclosed.

There were strong indications after the meeting that an announcement of the President's decision to nominate Mr. Gray as F.B.I. director might come within 24 to 48 hours.

Mrs. Gray was Deputy Attorney General when the President made him Acting Director of the F. B. I. last May 4.

Mr. Nixon had indicated that he would not name a permanent successor to Mr. Hoover until after the November election to help keep the F. B. I. out of politics.

Questions about the delay in the decision to nominate Mr. Gray for the \$42,500-a-year permanent job brought the reply that it had not been considered an urgent matter of functioning in good fashion.

But Mr. Gray's nine-month stewardship at the F. B. I. has been controversial, and he will face tough interrogation at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee. However, he is expected to be endorsed by the committee and confirmed by the Senate.