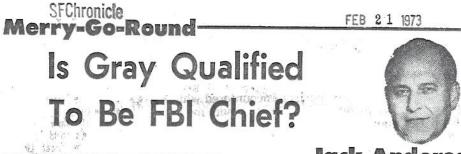
SFChronicle New Orleans States-Item

21 Feb 73



PAT GRAY, with his bullet head and pugnacious jaw, has the look of an FBI director. It is now clear that he lacks the qualifications.

His credentials were less than impressive when he was appointed acting director in May 1972. He had no experience whatsoever in law enforcement.

He was selected, insiders knew, because of his complete devotion to Richard Nixon. Gray had joined Mr. Nixon's personal staff in 1960 and had established himself as a loyal team member. By Nixon standards, there is no higher qualifications than loyalty to the team.

★ ★ ★ G RAY'S main mission was to make the FBI responsive to the President's will and, thereby, to assure that the FBI, like himself, became part of the team. In short, Gray was chosen for his political reliability to fill a post that the Senate has decreed should be kept out of partisan poli-

tics. He immediately started roaring around the country ostensibly to inspect FBI field offices. Almost everywhere he went, however, he took the occasion to say something favorable about President Nixon. Gray's travels had the earmarks of a political campaign tour.

But most serious of all, Gray has used the FBI as a political police force. He denied to newsmen last May that the FBI kept dossiers on politicians, newsmen, movie stars, black leaders and other prominent Americans. "None of you guys

Jack Anderson

a

We promptly furnished him with excerpts from the files of a number of nota-, bles, who had committed no crimes and are unlikely to commit any crimes. Yet the files showed they were under active FBI surveillance.

Six months later, FBI agents were caught actually checking on a Democratic congressional candidate in Ohio. This flushed out the fact that the FBI had been gathering information on both congressmen and candidates.

An embarrassed Gray pleaded that the practice had "just come to my attention" and said that he had ordered it stopped: All that had been collected, he insisted, was "biographical data on major candidates for the House of Representatives and the Senate from newspapers, magazines, campaign literature and reference publications."

* * *

ONCE AGAIN, we published details from the files of several congressmen, including House Speaker Carl Albert and House Republican leader Gerald Ford, to prove that their dossiers also contained eavesdrop information, surveillance reports and gossip from informants.

The President now wants to make. Gray, as a reward for his loyalty, the permanent FBI chief. In our view, this would turn the nation's most formidable law enforcement agency into a political police force. We hope the Senate will refuse to confirm him.

ever, he took the occasion to say something favorable about President Nixon. Gray's travels had the earmarks of a political campaign tour, yet he flew in Air Force planes at the taxpayers' expense.

He was away from Washington so much that he became known around FBI headquarters as "Two-Day Gray." When he wasn't off somewhere promoting the re-election of the President, he was usually splashing in his swimming pool at his summer home in Stonington, Conn.

But most serious of all, Gray has used the FBI as a political police force. He denied to newsmen last May that the FBI kept

ly unqualified; of confirm him

dossiers on politicians, newsmen, movie stars, black leaders and other prominent Americans. "None of you guys are going to believe this," he said, ". . .but there are no dossiers or secret files."

We promptly furnished him with excerpts from the files of a number of nota-

Jack Anderson

les, who had committed no crimes and are inlikely to commit any crimes. Yet the files howed they were under active FBI surveilance. To help Gray locate the hidden dosiers, we even provided the FBI file numers.

I checked on Democrats

Six months later, FBI agents were aught actually checking on a Democratic ongressional candidate in Ohio. This flushed ut the fact that the FBI had been gathering iformation on both congressmen and candiates.

We can now cite a more personal abuse police power. On January 31, eight FBI gents arrested my associate Les Whitten hile he was reporting on the return of stolen Indian documents. The agents tore his notes out of his hands, snapped on the handcuffs and threw him into the pokey.

We made a painstaking investigation to find out how this violation of Whitten's constitutional rights could have been committed by agents sworn to uphold the Constitution. We learned that the White House had passed down the word to the FBI to make a case against us, presumably as an example to other newsmen who might try to dig too deeply.

Gray sent his agents into action against Whitten, although the FBI knew he was in no way involved in the theft or possession of the stolen documents.