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The FBI: what Role?
**Agency Hurt
By Watergate**

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Once upon a time the FBI had the highest public relations profile in Washington —its exploits celebrated on radio, television, film and the annual appearance on Capitol Hill of the late J. Edgar Hoover.

But the Watergate scandal has brought egg to its face and demoralization to its ranks. The bureau has been accused of leaking like a sieve, relaxing surveillance of domestic subversives and turning its back on the rest of the intelligence community.

Its former acting director L. Patrick Gray III, was a prime casualty of Watergate. He has been heavily discredited for his role in the investigation and the subsequent White House cover-up operation.

The reputation of Hoover who was in his lifetime beyond the reproach of Presidents, has been posthumously muddied by President Nixon and the revelations of the "Dean papers."

The President's statement of May 22 strongly suggested that Hoover had become a cranky misanthrope

See FBI, A12, Col. 1