

Kelley's Quick Reverse

Washington

FBI director-designate Clarence M. Kelley agreed yesterday that no one at the White House except the President should have access to confidential FBI files.

Kelley, testifying before the Senate Judiciary Committee on his nomination, at first said he would consider supplying raw FBI files to top echelon White House aides if they submitted a request in writing through the attorney general.

Kelley's response startled Senator Robert C. Byrd (Dem-W. Va.), who was instrumental in forcing L. Patrick Gray III to withdraw as the nominee for FBI director because of his role in the Watergate inquiry.

Byrd, suggesting Kelley reconsider his words, asked if Kelley meant he would "operate under the same presumption as Mr. Gray," who admitted turning over secret files on the FBI's Watergate inquiry to White House Counsel John W. Dean III.

Kelley, currently chief of police at Kansas City, quick-



CLARENCE KELLEY
Senate grilling

ly got the message and reversed himself.

Repeating his question for emphasis, Byrd asked.

"Then you would not supply raw files to a person in the White House even if he made a request in writing through the attorney general?"

"That's right," Kelley replied.

Kelley, husky and graying at 61, had several other but less serious instances of difficulty during grilling by Byrd at the committee's second day of hearings on his nomination. The hearings resume next Monday with at least one opposition witness scheduled to testify.

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