

Kelley Is Unanimously Approved By Senate Panel as F.B.I. Head

**Confirmation of Kansas City's
Police Chief to Take Hoover
Post Is Expected Soon**

By LINDA CHARLTON
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 26 —

The Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved today the nomination of Clarence M. Kelley, the chief of police in Kansas City, Mo., as the new director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The committee's action, at a closed session, clears the way for confirmation by the full Senate this week, possibly tomorrow.

Mr. Kelley, 61 years old, has been police chief of Kansas City since 1961. He was an F.B.I. agent for 21 years before that.

The nominee underwent three days of hearings by the committee. Upon confirmation, he would become only the second permanent director of the bureau.

He would take over from William D. Ruckelshaus, the former director of the Environmental Protection Agency, who was appointed temporary director at the end of April, after the resignation of L. Patrick Gray 3d.

Heated Hearings on Gray

Mr. Gray took over after the death of J. Edgar Hoover, the bureau's founding director, but his chances of becoming its permanent chief were destroyed in eight days of tumultuous hearings before the same committee that approved Mr. Kelley today.

During the March hearings Mr. Gray's involvement with the Watergate cover-up was disclosed. When it became apparent that he could not be confirmed, his nomination was withdrawn by President Nixon on April 5. Mr. Gray resigned later as acting director, and Mr. Ruckelshaus, an openly reluctant draftee, became the interim head.

Much of the three days of questioning on Mr. Kelley's nomination has reflected the Gray experience, with pointed queries from the four Democrats who did almost all the interrogation — Senators Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia, Philip A. Hart of Michigan, John V. Tunney of California and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The aim of much of the questioning seemed to be to elicit commitments from Mr. Kelley that he would not repeat Mr. Gray's errors, that he would not release F.B.I. information to anyone at the



Associated Press

**Senator James O. Eastland
at news conference.**

White House except the President, for example, and would not make political speeches.

On the final day of the hearings, six outside witnesses appeared before the committee, all Kansas City residents. Two of the six opposed his appointment on the grounds that he condoned police misconduct during 1968 racial disturbances there and was insensitive to the needs of minorities; the other four urged that he be appointed.

With the exception of Senator Roman L. Hruska of Nebraska, few of the Republican members of the committee showed up for the hearings. One, Senator Strom Thurmond of South Carolina, announced last week that he thought Mr. Kelley eminently qualified and that his approval could be voted by proxy. He returned briefly during yesterday's testimony.