

Dilemma

**On Hoover's
Secret Data**

Chicago

Attorney General Edward H. Levi said yesterday it is no easy matter trying to decide what to do with the late J. Edgar Hoover's secret files and other material the FBI may have inappropriately compiled.

"It's too easy to say, 'Destroy all that material!'" Levi said at a Chicago Bar Association luncheon.

"Suppose (FBI Director Clarence M.) Kelley had found Hoover's files and destroyed them?" Levi asked, "What would have been the response then?"

Levi was referring to files of derogatory information about presidents, other members of the executive branch and 17 members of Congress kept by Hoover.

Levi disclosed the ²⁷ existence of the files Thursday.

"The ability to destroy is just as dangerous as the ability to keep files," he said.

Levi said he has spent "a great deal of time" with Kelley in trying to develop guidelines for disposing of inappropriate materials.

"I must say," he told the bar Association, "I do not have a final answer."

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