

The FBI's MAR 19 1975 'Man in

The Legion'

New York

Atlantic magazine says the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover had one of his top aides join the American Legion and "straighten it out" about who was running investigations of liberals and left-wingers.

Washington newsman Sanford J. Ungar wrote in the magazine's April issue that the assignment to handle "the American Legion problem" was given in 1953 to Cartha (Deke) DeLoach, then a special assistant to the FBI's number two man, Clyde Tolson.

DeLoach resigned from the FBI in 1970.

Ungar said the American Legion's fervor in hunting Communists had become embarrassing to Hoover at times and, in the middle of the McCarthy era, the FBI director felt the Legion was "causing trouble" by demanding investigations of liberals and left-wingers.

"Hoover did not object to the spirit of the Legion's interest," Ungar wrote, "but he liked to set the ground rules and choose the targets himself . . . DeLoach took the job seriously. His FBI credentials served him well inside the organization, and he became a post commander, department vice commander, department commander and eventually, national vice commander.

"At one point, he was urged to run for the position of national commander, but Hoover vetoed that as 'too political' a job."

The magazine article also detailed the in-fighting between DeLoach and William C. Sullivan to become Hoover's heir-apparent on the mistaken assumption that he would resign some day.

Associated Press