

SFChronicle
FBI's Hoover
 MAY 27 1975
Shunned

Left Turns

Washington

The FBI agent driving J. Edgar Hoover, the late director of the FBI, from Dallas to Austin in 1959 was told to make the 200-mile trip without turning left, Joseph L. Schott says.

Schott, one of the agents involved in planning the trip, says that several months earlier, Hoover's car had been struck from behind

Back Page Col. 4

URNS SHUNNED

From Page 1

while turning left, shaking Hoover up.

So, Schott said, Hoover had forbidden all left turns on auto trips.

Schott, who retired from the FBI in 1971 after 23 years of service, recalls that incident and dozens of others about the FBI and Hoover in a book entitled "No Left Turns."

Schott said he began the book a year ago, determined to present what he calls "a worm's-eye" view.

"I never operated at any high level," he said in an interview.

It is an irreverent book, written, Schott says, neither to glorify the bureau nor to drag it down with scholarly or emotional critiques.

"I do not feel bitter about my FBI experience," he writes in the prologue, but concedes: "I just never adopted the director as my father, which seems to have happened in the case of many other employees."

Schott, 53, married and the father of one son, spent 21 years of his FBI service in Fort Worth, Tex., and is now in charge of the criminal justice education program at Tarrant County Junior College there.

On Hoover's Texas trip all left turns, except for one, were avoided and the unavoidable left turn, according to Schott, apparently went unnoticed.

Other details may have gone unnoticed, but the Texas agents preparing for the visit were forewarned about Hoover's foibles; four pillows on the hotel bed, the

bottle of bourbon on the shelf, and a lap robe on the limousine's back seat in case of cold weather.

The agents even inspected service station rest rooms along the route, found the most suitable one, and polished it in preparation for a possible visit by Hoover and his traveling companion, former FBI Associate Director Clyde Tolson.

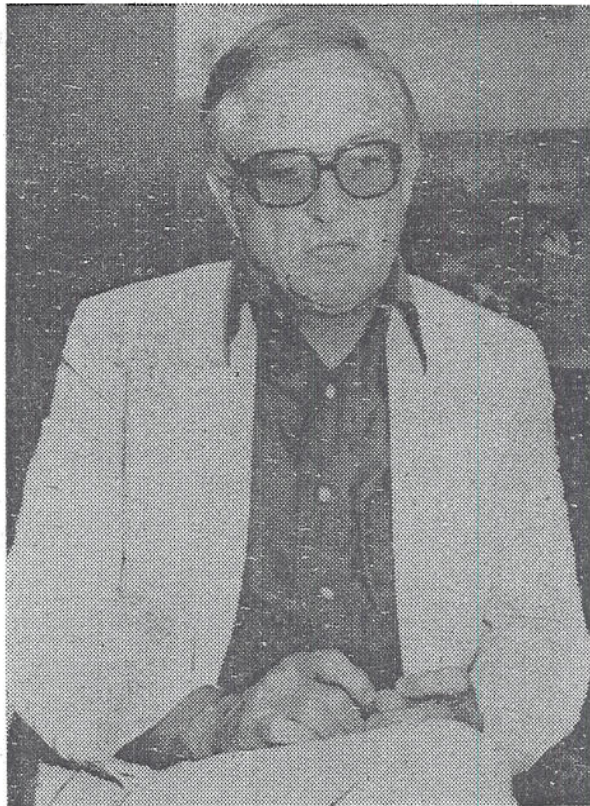
Schott also looked back to his days in training at Quantico, Va., when Hoover surveyed the student agents and told a counselor "One of them is a pinhead. Get rid of him."

The counselor dared not ask the director for more information to identify the "pinhead," but instead peered at each student while making a speech, attempting to find the one with the smallest head.

Unsuccessful, he eventually rummaged through their lockers, checking their hat sizes and found three with hats sized six and seven-eighths, the smallest in the class.

All three students whose heads fit the hats were dismissed, Schott recalled.

Associated Press



IP Wirephoto

FORMER FBI AGENT JOSEPH L. SCHOTT
 He called his book 'a worm's-eye' view