



The new FBI building, which J. Edgar Hoover once called a 'monstrosity'

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FBI's New Quarters Dedicated

Building Named for Hoover

Washington

President Ford got his G-man badge yesterday as he dedicated the new \$126 million FBI headquarters named for the late J. Edgar Hoover, who once called the building a monstrosity.

"Mr. President, we've been looking you over and you appear to be good agent material," FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley told Mr. Ford during the ceremony in the sunlit courtyard of the build-

ing.

Some 1600 dignitaries and invited guests gathered at the structure officials designated the J. Edgar Hoover Building to hear the President say the dedication of FBI men and women "will be a monument even more enduring than this imposing building."

The massive structure on Pennsylvania avenue occupies a full city block about halfway between the White House and the capitol.

Hoover reportedly disliked the design so intensely that he hoped the building would not be named for him.

In his dedication address, Mr. Ford called for "renewed commitment to the rule of law in



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FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley stood by display in the building

America and to the legal system that perpetuates freedom and justice."

Attorney General Edward H. Levi and Kelley joined Mr. Ford in praising Hoover's legacy.

Mr. Ford revealed that he, like thousands of other youths in the Hoover era, dreamed of being an FBI agent. He confided this ambition after Kelley presented him with an FBI agent badge mounted on a plaque.

The dedication ceremony, complete with the U.S. Marine Band playing the "J. Edgar Hoover March," marked the end of 13 years of planning, construction and cost overruns.

Hoover once complained that "the ancient Egyptians were able to build their pyramids in far less time than it is taking to erect our new building," a comment Kelley recalled as he expressed relief that the work was done.

Many of the FBI's operations previously were housed in the

Justice Department building across Pennsylvania avenue, but other offices were in eight buildings scattered around the city.

Beginning today, the public gets the chance to appraise the new structure inside and out. That's when the popular FBI tour moves from the Justice Department to the Hoover Building.

About 500,000 visitors are expected annually for the free tours running at 15-minute intervals every working day.

On the day of Hoover's death in May, 1972, Senator Ernest F. Hollings, (Dem-S.C.) told the Senate that Hoover thought the architecture of the building was "the greatest monstrosity ever constructed in the city of Washington."

Hollings said Hoover had expressed "his hope that his name not be connected with the building."

The architects were C.F. Murphy Associates of Chicago.

The building has a seven-story front section and an 11-story rear section and is faced with sand-colored concrete.

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