

# The FBI's Kelley gets signals to retire early

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WASHINGTON - The latest flap involving FBI Director Clarence Kelley's attempt to deliver an attack on the press, which was overruled by the White House, could hasten his departure from office.

Kelley, who weathered a storm last August over his use of \$335 in government-furnished drapery valances for his apartment, turns 65, retirement age, in a week. Justice Department officials told a reporter that Kelley has been given signals to retire.

Kelley has repeatedly insisted that he has no plans to retire and will not submit his resignation even if a new administration takes office.

When a speech prepared for delivery Friday night in Albuquerque,

N.M., began circulating at the Justice Department Friday afternoon several officials became concerned. The speech warned that the FBI would not cooperate with Washington correspondents "who support hostile notions about our agency."

It said some reporters were afflicted with a "scandal mania" which was destroying the credibility of the FBI.

President Ford was campaigning in Iowa and it was Philip Buchen, White House counsel, who made the decision to force Kelley to change the text. Buchen contacted Att. Gen. Edward Levi, who had not seen the text.

They agreed that Kelley's remarks were in direct contradiction of Ford's own views about the press. Ford has said that he believes he has been treated fairly by the

press.

At the moment of agreement, Kelley was in a plane taxiing down the runway at Chicago's O'Hare Airport on the way to Albuquerque. The plane was turned around and Kelley had to take a later flight after taking a call from Levi.

Levi told Kelley that his remarks did not reflect his or the President's policy. The Justice Department then issued a statement from Kelley that the speech "appears to give the wrong impression and does not truly reflect my feelings towards the press."

It was unclear whether Kelley had read the final version of the speech, which was given to reporters Thursday, before Levi called. But FBI aides were openly skeptical in advance about the speech, which reportedly had been planned by

Kelley's highest aides.

The thinking was that Kelley and the FBI had been targets of so many critical stories about break-ins, burglaries, corruption and ineptness that it was time to strike back.

The Kelley speech was expected to improve morale in the 59 FBI field offices.

Instead, Levi once again had to step in to save Ford from a potentially embarrassing situation at the FBI. Several months ago, Levi had to force a reluctant Kelley to fire Associate FBI Director Nicholas Callahan after Callahan's name surfaced in an investigation of the FBI.

One Justice official called Kelley's first version of the speech, which he scrapped, as "dumb, dumb, dumb."