

Senator Says Carter Can Fire Kelley

Washington

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley, despite a law giving him a ten-year term, can be fired at any time by President Carter, Senate majority leader Robert C. Byrd said yesterday.

Kelley, named to the post in July, 1973, by President Nixon, has said he would not voluntarily resign with the change in presidential administrations because such a move could make the FBI subject to political influences.

Byrd made clear yesterday his view, as the chief sponsor of the new law governing the tenure of the FBI director, that the President can dismiss the FBI director, even though the attorney general might not have that authority.

Kelley, 65, the former police chief of Kansas City, said earlier this week that he has written a letter to Attorney General Griffin Bell, saying, "I intend to remain as FBI director until Jan. 1, 1978, at which time I will retire."

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