

~~FBI~~ 1100

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1964.

Johnson Hails Hoover Service, Waives Compulsory Retirement

By MARJORIE HUNTER

WASHINGTON, May 8 — President Johnson cleared the way today for J. Edgar Hoover to remain as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Hoover will reach the compulsory retirement age, 70, on Jan. 1.

Minutes before meeting with Mr. Hoover in the White House Rose Garden late this afternoon President Johnson signed an Executive order exempting him from the Federal retirement law for "an indefinite period of time."

Mr. Johnson said he signed the order because the nation needed Mr. Hoover.

"I know you wouldn't think of breaking the law," the President told Mr. Hoover, who stood ramrod straight beside him.

The brief ceremony, attended by a few Congressional leaders, was held shortly after Mr. Johnson returned from a two-day tour of poverty areas in Appalachia.

Despite the grinding schedule of speeches and travel, the President looked rested and his voice was still loud and clear. He was deeply sunburned.

"The best thing about going

away is to come home and find so many old and dear friends here in the back yard," he said.

The President described Mr. Hoover as a "household word, a hero to millions of citizens and an anathema to evil men." He also praised him as a "quiet, humble and magnificent public servant."

Although Mr. Hoover did not say he would remain on the job after Jan. 1, he is expected to stay. He has been director of the F.B.I. since May 10, 1924 — for 40 years as of next Sunday.

He has served under nine Presidents, from Calvin Coolidge to Lyndon Johnson, and has built up what many regard as the greatest criminal investigative body in the world.

The White House ceremony was attended by members of both parties. The Democrats present included House Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, the Senate president pro tem, Carl Hayden of Arizona, Representative Clarence Cannon of Missouri and Representative John J. Rooney of Brooklyn.

The Senate Republican leader, Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois, also was present.

J. Edgar Hoover Honored By Resolution in the House

WASHINGTON, May 7 (AP)

—The House unanimously approved Thursday a resolution of congratulations and gratitude to J. Edgar Hoover in observance of the 40th anniversary this Sunday of his appointment as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Speaker John W. McCormack of Massachusetts said "love of God animates his every action, and love of country."

The Republican leader, Charles A. Halleck of Indiana, said Mr. Hoover had "earned and deserves the respect, confidence, admiration, yes, and the love of all the people of our country."

The democratic leader, Carl Albert of Oklahoma, said Mr. Hoover is "one of the great public servants in the history of America."

Many other Republicans and democrats, including two former F.B.I. agents, praised Mr. Hoover on the House floor.