

NEWSWEEK ASSAILED IN A LETTER BY F.B.I.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6 (AP)

—The Federal Bureau of Investigation released today a letter in which it accused Newsweek magazine of "a new low in reporting" and of presenting inaccurate statistics on the agency.

The letter, dated Nov. 30, was sent by the F.B.I. associate director, Clyde Tolson, to the Newsweek editor, Osborn Elliott.

The letter was a reply to an article in the Dec. 7 issue of Newsweek in which the magazine said President Johnson had decided to replace F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover—an allegation since denied by the White House.

The edition, released in advance of its cover date, also said that Representative John J. Rooney, Democrat of New York, who heads a House appropriations subcommittee, was especially sympathetic to Mr. Hoover's request for funds.

It said five special F.B.I. agents were on loan to Mr. Rooney to help with subcommittee work. Mr. Tolson's letter denied this.

The letter also denied Newsweek's assertion that Mr. Hoover did not send a letter of condolence to his superior, Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, now Senator-elect from New York, when Mr. Kennedy's brother, President Kennedy, was assassinated.

NEWSWEEK DISPUTES F.B.I. ON HOOVER JOB

Newsweek magazine says that its article stating that President Johnson is looking for a successor to J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, came from "a most responsible White House source."

The statement was made in a letter Dec. 4 from Newsweek's editor, Osborn Elliott, to Clyde Tolson, associate director of the bureau.

The text of the letter was released by the magazine yesterday, after Mr. Tolson made public a letter he had written to Newsweek calling the article "a new low in reporting."

Mr. Tolson questioned the accuracy of the article in the Dec. 7 issue.

Mr. Elliott replied that the magazine's report that five bureau agents were on loan to Representative John J. Rooney, Democrat of Brooklyn, head of a House Appropriations subcommittee, had come from the Justice Department and had been confirmed by a member of the bureau.

He said Newsweek regretted it had been mistaken in saying that Mr. Hoover had not sent Robert F. Kennedy a letter of condolence after his brother's assassination.

Mr. Elliott said he understood that Mr. Kennedy's staff had "unearthed" the letter after a search prompted by the controversy. He said he had been informed that Mr. Kennedy never saw the letter until after the search.