

POLICE-REVIEW UNITS DEPLOYED BY HOOVER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (UP)—J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, criticized today the establishment of civilian-review boards in some cities to hear complaints against local police forces.

He called them "questionable" and said they were a step toward political domination of law enforcement.

Mr. Hoover made his comments in an article in the January issue of the monthly F.B.I. law-enforcement bulletin, which is circulated to thousands of enforcement agencies throughout the nation.

He did not mention any cities by name, but the article was apparently a follow-up to an F.B.I. report issued last fall. That report covered investigations of civil rights rioting in Eastern cities.

At that time, Mr. Hoover complained that some local police officers interviewed by his agents had said they were fearful of making riot arrests because of second-guessing by review boards.

In the current article, Mr. Hoover wrote that "a questionable move currently being championed in some localities in the establishment of civilian-review boards."

He said that "to a large degree these panels would consist of appointed individuals who are generally inexperienced and uninformed in law enforcement and police administration."

Such boards, he said, represent a backward step for enforcement "toward ineptness and mediocrity."

"Moreover," he continued, "of the major weaknesses of the boards is their inherent political overtones."