

KATZENBACH-HOOVER

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WASHINGTON, APRIL 7 (AP)-SINCE NICHOLAS KATZENBACH BECAME HEAD OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AN AIR OF FRIENDSHIP SPANS THE LONG MARBLE CORRIDOR WHICH SEPARATES THE OFFICES OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER.

THE CHILL THAT AROSE BETWEEN HOOVER AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE WHEN IT WAS HEADED BY KATZENBACH'S PREDECESSOR, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, HAS VANISHED.

THE FBI IS A BRANCH OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

ONE DAY RECENTLY KATZENBACH, 43, WANTED TO DISCUSS SOME ASPECT OF THE BOBBY BAKER CASE WITH HOOVER. HE DONNED HIS COAT AND MARCHED DOWN THE HALL TO THE 70-YEAR-OLD HOOVER'S OFFICE. ASKED WHY HE HADN'T SUMMONED HOOVER INSTEAD, HE SHRUGGED IN SOME SURPRISE AND SAID, "I'M RATHER YOUNGER THAN MR. HOOVER."

ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS, THE FBI BOSS SHOWED UP IN KATZENBACH'S OFFICE FOR MINOR SOCIAL EVENTS--THE SWEARING-IN OF ONE ASSISTANT DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE FAREWELL PARTY FOR ANOTHER.

KENNEDY, NOW A NEW YORK SENATOR, APPEARED AT EACH GATHERING, TOO. FROM THE FRINGE OF A CROWD THAT OVERFLOWED THE BIG OFFICE FOR THE SWEARING-IN (HE HAD ARRIVED LATE) HE SPOTTED HOOVER AND WHISPERED WRYLY "TIMES SURE HAVE CHANGED." AND AFTER HOOVER HAD LEFT THE FAREWELL PARTY, KENNEDY PAID JOCLAR TRIBUTE TO KATZENBACH FOR HAVING MADE PEACE WITH THE FBI CHIEF.

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NOT ONLY DID HOOVER IGNORE SIMILAR GATHERINGS WHEN KENNEDY WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL, HE DIDN'T EVEN APPEAR AT A FAREWELL PARTY FOR KENNEDY IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT COURTYARD FIVE FLOORS BELOW OR A MORE FORMAL GOING-AWAY DINNER THROWN BY THE REST OF KENNEDY'S TOP AIDES.

WHEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON NOMINATED KATZENBACH TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN JANUARY, HOOVER SENT A LENGTHY CONGRATULATORY LETTER, EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR KATZENBACH'S HAVING DEFENDED THE FBI'S OFTEN CRITICIZED

WHEN KENNEDY WAS RUNNING THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, AN FBI ASSISTANT DIRECTOR WAS IN AND OUT OF HIS OFFICE DAILY, ACTING AS A SORT OF LIAISON BETWEEN THE TWO MEN.

IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ASSOCIATED PRESS LAST WEEK, KATZENBACH WAS ASKED ABOUT HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HOOVER AND THE FBI.

"I HAVE LONG HAD THE HIGHEST REGARD AND ESTEEM FOR HIM AND FOR THE REMARKABLE AGENCY THAT, REALLY, IS HIS CREATION," KATZENBACH SAID.

"CERTAINLY, SINCE I HAVE BEEN ATTORNEY GENERAL . . . THE FBI HAS ALWAYS DONE EVERYTHING THAT I HAVE ASKED IT TO DO AND DONE IT WELL."

AND SO IT IS THAT THE TWO MEN FROM TIME TO TIME HAVE SHARED KATZENBACH'S LIMOUSINE FOR THE RIDE TO THE WHITE HOUSE--FOR LUNCH, FOR DISCUSSIONS OF CRIME LEGISLATION, OR TO FLANK JOHNSON AS HE ANNOUNCED THE FBI'S ARREST OF SOME SUSPECTS IN A CIVIL RIGHTS SLAYING AND HIS WAR ON THE KU KLUX KLAN.

TOGETHER, THE TWO MEN WOULD RETURN TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AND RIDE TO THE FIFTH FLOOR IN KATZENBACH'S PRIVATE ELEVATOR.

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