

Cahill-FBI

Rumors Renewed

Speculation Hoover to Quit

There was speculation in Washington yesterday that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover will retire Jan. 1 to pave the way for San Francisco Police Chief Thomas Cahill to take over the FBI.

Hoover will celebrate his 74th birthday Jan. 1. However, the date has nothing to do with forcing Hoover's retirement, because Congress last year adopted special legislation allowing him to retain the directorship past the usual retirement age.

Chief speculator in the capitol has been The Washington Post, which places Cahill as a front runner.

The Post notes that when Cahill addressed the graduating class of the FBI Academy last October, Hoover referred to him "as the best police chief in the country."

It was noted, too, that Hoover has never groomed a replacement within his own bureau and that future leadership probably must come from without.

INGERSOLL

A second front runner for the speculators has been John E. Ingersoll, 39, a former California policeman



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S.F. POLICE CHIEF TO HEAD THE FBI?

Thomas Cahill, mentioned as successor to J. E. Hoover

who was named director of Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs four months ago.

Hoover himself has said nothing about retirement. He was uncommunicative last week after conferring with President-elect Nixon, an old friend.

Chief Cahill sidestepped the issue of whether he would accept the biggest political plum in law enforcement saying he admires Hoover and believes "he should not retire at this time."

As for the federal job opening, Cahill added:

STRONG CASE

"I have been in court many times as a witness. You are bringing up something not in evidence."

The Cahill case, however, seems strong, considering

the deference shown him by Hoover.

The director invited Cahill to address the May, 1968, FBI Academy graduating class, an invitation Cahill was forced to decline because of the illness of his wife, who died that month.

It was well-known in FBI circles that a second invitation is never extended. Nevertheless in October Hoover again invited Cahill and personally introduced him at the ceremonies.

Cahill will leave next week for a month-long inspection of Argentine police functions. The tour will be at the joint invitation of the Argentine government and the U.S. State Department. The official explanation is that Cahill will be making the inspection in his role as president of the International Association of Chiefs of Police.