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With Nixon: Hoover Profile 500

WASHINGTON AP — John Edgar Hoover, who will be 74 on Jan. 1, went to work as usual today before 9 a.m., fit and vigorous, a symbol of "the honest cop" to millions.

J. Edgar Hoover has run the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 44 years, through Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

Once again, the incoming President, Richard M. Nixon, has renamed Hoover. The two men are friends.

The FBI had no comment on the reappointment. Hoover rarely gives interviews. He lets his views be known in editorials in the monthly Law Enforcement Bulletin of the FBI.

Here he speaks out against such things as communist influences, pornography and crime. In the December issue he urged motorists to use extra caution during the holidays and observe traffic laws.

Hoover, rather aloof and rarely seen on Washington's party circuits, works out of an office on the fifth floor of the Justice Department building, and doesn't roam the halls.

On the closed door to his reception room is a neat "Noel" sign for the holidays.

Hoover has his critics, but his bureau has a definite esprit de corps. The FBI has a reputation of being perhaps the finest police and investigative force in the world.

And no one will deny that Hoover has added a cool precise science to the crimefighting business.

Hoover always has tried to make it plain just what the responsibility of the FBI is. He has said the FBI neither possesses nor seeks national police power in situations such as controlling riots.

"We have meticulously avoided infringement on responsibilities belonging to local and state authorities," Hoover said.

Basically the FBI is an investigative force.

Hoover is a conservative dresser and so are the FBI agents. He drinks sparingly and watches his weight.

FBI agents watch their weight, too. Speaking to some former FBI agents one time Hoover glibed "While I recognize many of the faces, I don't recognize the size of the bodies. The weight control program has obviously not been observed since you gentlemen left the bureau."

A lifelong bachelor, Hoover lives in an old brick home in northwest Washington. He has a housekeeper and two Cairn terriers named G-Boy and Tucker. He walks the dogs in the neighborhood.

Hoover was born Jan. 1, 1895, in northeast Washington. Almost all stories of his life mention that as a youngster he was a boy soprano in a church choir, taught Sunday school and played on the church baseball team. It was during a baseball game that a ball smashed his nose, giving him the bulldog look.

Hoover worked for the Library of Congress and went to school at night to earn his law degree from George Washington University.

He was just 29 when he took over the FBI, then riddled with politics and cluttered with incompetents.

His first task was a thorough housecleaning.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark once said that the FBI is a verification of Ralph Waldo Emerson's judgment that "an institution is the lengthened shadow of one man . . . The FBI is the lengthened shadow of John Edgar Hoover."

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