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Nixon May Rebuff Hoover, Name Rogovin To Head New Crime-Fighting Division

WASHINGTON — If President Nixon names crime expert Charles Rogovin to head the Justice Department's new law enforcement section, it will be a rebuff of unprecedented severity for J. Edgar Hoover.

The venerable FBI director always has maintained an informal but effective veto over any appointment remotely touching on crime enforcement.

Hoover sought to exercise that veto against Rogovin, now an assistant attorney general in Massachusetts — even making a personal trip to the White House to present his objections to Mr. Nixon.

But Rogovin had a powerful ally in Deputy Atty. Gen. Richard Kleindienst, a tough political fighter.

Consequently, the President now intends to name Rogovin head of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration set up by the 1968 anti-crime act no matter what Hoover thinks. That would not only signal some decline in Hoover's power but would also indicate that Charles Rogovin, not J. Edgar Hoover, will be Mr. Nixon's leading adviser on crime control.

Just what objections to Rogovin Hoover raised with the President are unknown. But what really bothers the FBI hierarchy is no secret in the Justice Department: The LEAA under Rogovin might eclipse the FBI in policy-making.

The FBI was not enthusiastic about the anti-crime bill and particularly the new law-enforcement office.

The fact that Rogovin is a former staffer of the National Crime Commission, whose views on organized crime often have diverged sharply from Hoover's, does not endear him to the FBI director.

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A confidential letter to the White House from Sen. Gordon Allott of Colorado, denying published reports of growing friction between Republican senators and the administration over patronage, has infuriated those very senators.

Allott was apparently embarrassed over stories that leaked out of a closed-door session between the complaining senators and White House Lobbyist Bryce Harlow. The source of his embarrassment: Allott was the one who called the session



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Policy Committee.

Allott's letter, addressed to President Nixon through Harlow, said the start of an administration always runs into minor patronage problems. Overall, he told Mr. Nixon, relations between Republican senators and the White House are excellent.

This infuriated several Republicans as an attempt to minimize real frictions. One New England senator, for instance, has been waiting weeks for his administrative assistant to be named to an important regional job in the immigration service.

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The fact that a white New Englander now is front-runner to be appointed territorial governor of the predominantly black Virgin Islands has caused anger and dismay among President Nixon's corporal's guard of black supporters.

On top of the White House list for the job—but not yet selected—is Peter Bove, a prominent Vermont Republican (once chairman of that state's liquor board) who served as the appointed comptroller of the Virgin Islands in 1957-1968.

Bove is pushing for the job and, what's more, has an influential patron: Sen. George Aiken of Vermont, the Senate's senior Republican.

However, Bove's appointment would go badly in the Virgin Islands, where the black population resented the white governor appointed by President Kennedy and retained by President Johnson. Thus, Bove's appointment might seriously erode Mr. Nixon's mea-