

# Hoover's Silence Hit By Waldie

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has refused to testify and will not permit any of his subordinates to testify before the House Crime Committee. His refusal drew a sharp rebuke today from one member of the panel.

Rep. Jerome Waldie (D-Antioch), charged that the newly formed committee could not effectively perform its mission "without the cooperation of the top law enforcement agency in the federal government."

"This also concerns me because I think any executive agency has a responsibility to assist a congressional committee," Waldie said.

The select committee, created earlier this year, has been charged by the House with examining all facets of crime, including its causes, methods of combatting it and efforts to rehabilitate criminals.

Committee Chairman Claude Pepper (D-Fla.), wrote Hoover about three weeks ago and invited him to testify, according to a committee spokesman.

Hoover, through a deputy, replied that he testified only before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, at hearings which traditionally are closed.

Waldie, at a hearing of the committee today, noted the FBI also declined to send a subordinate.

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## REFUSAL BY HOOVER TO TESTIFY DEcriED

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Representative Jerome R. Waldie, Democrat of California, charged that the newly formed committee could not effectively perform its mission "without the cooperation of the top law enforcement agency in the Federal Government."

"This also concerns me because I think any executive agency has a responsibility to assist a Congressional committee," Mr. Waldie told a reporter.

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The committee chairman, Claude Pepper, Democrat of Florida, wrote to Mr. Hoover about three weeks ago and invited him to testify, according to a committee spokesman. Mr. Hoover, through a deputy, replied that he testified only before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, appearances that are traditionally closed.