

FBI Director

Hoover Scores 'Police-Watchers'

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover has charged that the real objective of civilian groups who want community control over police departments "is to intimidate and harass police."

"Police-watchers" and self-styled law enforcement reformers "have no place in our society," he said. "Their altruistic mouthings are a front and a sham, for they have already prejudged law enforcement as an enemy to their nihilistic cause. Their real objective is to intimidate and harass police."

Hoover attacked the concept of civilian police review boards — a controversial proposal that has met with little success — in the June edition of the monthly FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. He also said there was no need for "sidewalk kangaroo courts" to judge police.

Hoover called "half-baked" proposals that each city ghetto be given public funds and authorization to form its own racially segre-

gated police force.

He described as "well meaning but misled" organizations which have given financial support to some groups to gain "community control" over police departments.

Such groups, according to the director, "care nothing about public protection and orderly due process. They seek special privileges which place them above the law and commit abuses which encroach on the rights of others."

He also commented on proposals that "college youth should not be subjected to contacts by police officers, and that only specially trained, highly paid, un-

S.F. Examiner—Page 5
Mon., June 1, 1970 ☆

armed, elite police forces should be used to handle civil demonstrations."

Without identifying the authors of such proposals, Hoover said, "if these ideas and techniques seem half-baked, it is because they are."

"But the intent of those who foster such schemes is clear," he said. "They want to negate the rule of law. To do this they must first create public distrust of it and ill will toward those who enforce the law."

"Our system of government provides adequate and proper safeguards for remedial action against indiscretions of policemen," Hoover said. "Certainly, we do not need to resort to sidewalk kangaroo courts made up of militants and malcontents who cannot even discipline themselves."