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WASHINGTON AP - FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's domination of the agency is excessive and he is too concerned with his personal reputation, former Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark says.

In his newly published book "Crime in America," Clark says the FBI under Hoover is so taken with its own reputation that it will back off from a crime fight rather than share credit with another organization.

Clark, who headed the Justice Department from 1967 to 1969 and was Hoover's boss, goes on to write that the crime syndicate, La Cosa Nostra, is "on the ropes now" and may be extinguished within a few years, though organized crime is not likely to disappear with it.

"It is the people who support organized crime," Clark writes. "There will be a great demand as long as millions of poor, hopeless and powerless people are crowded in urban slums."

The former attorney general, who is considered a possible dark horse candidate for the Democratic nomination for president in 1971, says in his book the FBI came slowly to the war against organized crime.

For such a natural adversary, this is surprising," Clark writes. "It was still making pursuit of the Communist party its claim to fame long after there was any risk to national security from that source."

While the Communist party "has been reactionary and irrelevant to new radical movements for years," Clark says, "the FBI continues dramatizing its peril."

Clark credits the late Robert F. Kennedy with bringing to the job of attorney general in 1961 "the first real understanding of and commitment to the control of organized crime."

As Kennedy took center stage Clark contends, the FBI stepped aside and "remained on the periphery until 1965."

Clark says Kennedy requested and obtained legislation that provided new tools that enlarged federal power to combat organized crime, increased and vitalized the organized crime section of the Justice Department and visited major centers of organized crime throughout the country.

The conflict between Atty. Gen. Kennedy and the FBI arose from the unwillingness of the bureau to participate on an equal basis with other crime control agencies," Clark continues.

The FBI has so coveted personal credit that it will sacrifice even effective crime control before it will share the glory of its exploits.

This has been a petty and costly characteristic caused by the excessive domination of a single person, J. Edgar Hoover, and his self centered concern for his reputation and that of the FBI."

The federal effort against organized crime mounted despite the FBI's "half-hearted gestures," Clark says, climbing from 19 indictments of organized crime figures in 1960 to 687 in 1964, to 1,107 in 1967 and to 1,166 in 1968.

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