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WASHINGTON AP - Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell apparently has backed FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's withdrawal of 15 FBI men from courses at one of the nation's law-enforcement schools.

The withdrawal followed criticism of the agency by a professor at the school, John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York.

Mitchell wrote Friday to George Leifer, chairman of the Student Coalition at John Jay, saying Hoover acted because the 'academic environment as exemplified in this instance was not conducive to an objective pursuit of law enforcement studies'

Former FBI agent John F. Shaw has filed a federal suit charging Hoover forced him to resign after Shaw wrote a letter of rebuttal to the professor who criticized the FBI.

Shaw says his letter defended the bureau, but also acknowledged as valid Prof. Abraham S. Blumberg's critical comments about the bureau's selection of leaders, its disciplinary tactics and reaction to bad publicity.

Hoover, meanwhile, said in a letter to Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., he will not discuss Shaw's case. 'I feel compelled to state that, in my opinion, a full development of the facts will establish that Mr. Shaw's allegations are without foundation,' Hoover said in a letter.

Kennedy had asked an explanation of the case.*

Shaw said he has been unable to obtain another job in law enforcement since Hoover accepted his resignation 'with prejudice' last fall. He resigned after his letter to Blumberg was seen by other employes in the New York FBI office.

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* - as Chairman of Senate Administrative Practice Subcommittee? See NYTimes 2 Feb 71.