

# Capital Playing New Guessing Game:

By JAMES M. NAUGHTON  
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WASHINGTON, May 13 — The new game in the capital is called G-man, and it consists of guessing who will succeed J. Edgar Hoover as director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The favorite among those playing the game, inside as well as outside the Nixon Administration, is Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White, whose supporters include career men at the F.B.I. Others mentioned seriously and with regularity are Richard Helms, the Director of Central Intelligence, and Evelle J. Younger, Attorney General of California.

What makes this game interesting is not that any number can play, but that they do. Monday was the 47th anniversary of Mr. Hoover's appointment by President Coolidge. There have been occasions before when critics have wished that Mr. Hoover would be replaced, but never has there been such widespread expectation that he will be.

Attorney General John N. Mitchell is said to have decided that Mr. Hoover should go but to be uncertain, like several of his predecessors, that he wants to be the one to tell the director. The White House is split on the political advisability of replacing Mr. Hoover.

Given the profusion of criticism of Mr. Hoover among liberal Democrats in the Senate and the stipulation under the Safe Streets Act of 1968 that future F.B.I. directors be confirmed by the Senate, the assumption is that the nominee

would have to be nationally known, of unquestioned probity, familiar with criminal law and apolitical.

Accordingly, some of those being named as possibilities are rated as dark-horse contenders. They include Jerris Leonard, Director of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration; John E. Ingersoll, Director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs; William C. Sullivan, the top assistant to Mr. Hoover; Henry E. Petersen, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, and Nathaniel E. Kossack, Inspector General of the Agriculture Department.

One suggestion is that George Romney, whose honesty is without question but who has no background in criminal justice, be named director with one of the above technical experts as his deputy.

For the moment, the speculators are inclined to rule out various police officials, such as Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess of Los Angeles County, Police Chief Jerry V. Wilson of the District of Columbia and Police Commissioner Patrick V. Murphy of New York.

How to ease Mr. Hoover out gently is one problem. Some officials would not be surprised if he were "promoted" to something such as adviser to the President on criminal law. When criticism of the Director of Selective Service, Lieut. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, reached a peak a little more than a year ago, the President appointed him adviser to the President on Manpower Mobilization.

Now General Hershey spends most of his time giving speeches or doing volunteer work with the Boy Scouts and Red Cross, has a

staff of two in an office next to a Federal credit union and has seen the President once, at White House church services. "I don't happen to belong to the Shrine," said the general the other day, "but they have a saying: There's nothing so past as a Past Potentate."

Some Past Potentates make comebacks. Senator Hubert H. Humphrey is deciding whether to run again to be the Presidential pick while mulling suggestions for a better condition.

This bothers Senator Frank M. S. Muskie of Maine whose campaign orators complain that Mr. Hoover has tied up as many resources who have been counted to \$10-million and Nixon.