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WASHINGTON AP - Proclaiming it a good day for police, President Nixon declared Wednesday that "the era of permissiveness with regard to law enforcement is at an end in the United States."

Buoyed by developments in the field of narcotics and by statistics indicating a slowdown in the urban crime rate, Nixon lavished praise on FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and expressed optimism about the prospect of licking crime.

Speaking to 100 graduates of the FBI's National Academy, Nixon and Atty. Gen. John N. Mitchell assured them the Republican administration and "a great majority of the American people" back the FBI and their local police.

Mitchell decried what he called "a tidal wave of legalisms" that he said is frustrating society's right to swift justice, and warned the police officers of "a new menace."

This is "the violence of extremists who are proclaimed enemies of the police, and often of government itself," Mitchell said. He said such extremists manufacture disorder and look upon justice as "whatever serves revolution."

Mitchell said society is confused by public figures and responsible publications who say that the nation is headed for a police state.

"In my view, just the opposite is the case," Mitchell said. "Today our society is more permissive more tolerant and more protective of human rights than ever before."

Of the 76-year-old Hoover, who has served under three Democratic and two Republican presidents in the 24 years of their acquaintance, Nixon said:

"I know from experience that he is a man who has never served a party; he is a man who has served his country and he deserves credit for that."

Hoover, obviously delighted at the presence of his two bosses on his home ground; bowed to the President, made him an honorary member of the Academy and gave him gold cufflinks with the Academy's motto, "Knowledge, Courage, Integrity."

Nixon said that Turkey's announcement that it will outlaw opium production in 1972, and results of the FBI's quarterly survey of crime statistics make "today . . . a good day in terms of news in law enforcement."

And the crime statistics, showing a slower increase in crime nationally and an actual decrease in crime in 61 large cities, indicates that "we are making progress in the fight against crime," he said.

The President said he wanted the Academy graduates to take a message back to their fellow officers.

"When you go home, tell your colleagues that the era of permissiveness with regard to law enforcement is at an end in the United States of America," he said.

Hoover introduced Nixon as a statesman and a friend of law enforcement, saying:

"There is no man no more responsible for the fate of America or the destiny of the free world than this man."

"Throughout his entire adult life he has given attention to law enforcement, to its improvement."

Mitchell told the graduates:

"Every conceivable twisting and turning of words is used to weigh the side of the defendant . . . to unbalance the side of the people, represented by the police and the prosecutor."

This has resulted in longer trials, more appeals, crowded courts and uncertain convictions that have produced

"prisoners who believe they will beat the rap and would-be criminals who laugh at the idea that crime doesn't pay," he said.

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