

Men Who May Succeed Hoover as FBI Chief

Washington

President Nixon will delay naming a successor to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover until after the Senate has passed final judgment on Richard G. Kleindienst, his nominee for attorney general, high-ranking administration sources said yesterday.

Informed speculation began to focus on Eugene T. Rossides, 44, assistant secretary of the treasury for enforcement, as a leading candidate to take over the sensitive job.

Rossides, who has been a leader of the administration's drive against major narcotics traffickers, was described by Justice Department sources as possessing the qualifications considered most important by the White House — "a managerial type from the law enforcement arena."

A former assistant attorney general of New York State and a onetime campaign aide to former Republican Senator Kenneth B. Keating (now U.S. Ambassador to India), Rossides has taken on increasing responsibilities over the past three years without becoming a controversial political figure.

CRACKDOWN

He has been instrumental, for example, in the administration's crackdown on secret foreign bank accounts maintained by American citizens and has coordinated the anti-hijacking force of federal "sky marshals."

Flags at Half Staff

San Francisco officially went into mourning yesterday over the death of J. Edgar Hoover.

Acting Mayor Ronald Pelosi ordered all city buildings to fly their flags at half staff. Earlier, from Washington, President Nixon had decreed that flags on all federal buildings fly at half staff.

The sources stressed, however, that Mr. Nixon may choose a new FBI director "completely out of the blue" and could deliberate over his choice until after the November presidential election in order to avoid yet another potentially damaging Senate confirmation fight.

The successor to Hoover will be the first FBI director to require Senate "advice and consent" — as do all assistant attorneys general — rather than merely serving at the pleasure of the President.

Hoover's death brings into effect Title Six of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which introduced the requirement of Senate confirmation.

ACTING

Under Justice Department regulations, Clyde A. Tolson,

72, Hoover's longtime friend and associate director, automatically became acting director of the FBI yesterday.

Tolson is in ill health, however, and late yesterday the White House said Mr. Nixon will name an acting director today.

Prime candidates for that interim job are W. Mark Felt, John P. Mohr and Alex Rosen, all of whom have recently served as close aides to Hoover.

OUTSIDE

But Justice Department sources said that the permanent replacement is more likely to come from outside FBI ranks, as the administration moves to assert more control over the bureau's operations than has been possible during the years of Hoover's tenure.

Besides Rossides, speculation focused on Washington, D.C., police chief Jerry V. Wilson, John E. Ingersoll, director of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, and Myles W. Ambrose, a special assistant to the attorney general for drug abuse programs, as possible successors to Hoover.

Wilson, who has been close to the Nixon administration, would be likely to encounter serious opposition on Capitol Hill, however.

In anticipation that Ingersoll, a former police chief in Charlotte, N.C., would be mentioned, his press aide distributed his biography to reporters yesterday.

'A Tremendous Loss,' Reagan Says of Hoover

Sacramento

Governor Ronald Reagan said yesterday no 20th Century man "has meant more to this country" than J. Edgar Hoover during his years of service as chief of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"It is a tremendous loss indeed and it will be very difficult to fill his shoes," Reagan said in a statement issued by his office. Reagan is in West Virginia attending the Republican Governors' conference.

Meanwhile, Acting Governor Ed Reinecke ordered flags on California state buildings flown at half staff yesterday in tribute to Hoover.

Associated Press

Administration sources squelched speculation that the President might turn to Jerris N. Leonard, administrator of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, or Robert C. Mardian, until last week assistant attorney general for the internal security division.

Both, the sources said, are "too political."

The sources were also skeptical that Supreme Court Justice Byron R. White might be persuaded to step down and take the job or that Mr. Nixon would choose Peter J. Pitchess, the nonpartisan sheriff of Los Angeles county.

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