

A Legend, Nixon Says

Hoover Paid Tribute

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon today led the nation in last tributes to J. Edgar Hoover, calling him a giant, a legend and an American institution.

Nixon said the FBI, which Hoover spent 48 years building into a world-renowned law enforcement institution, will stand as a living memorial to Hoover.

And he called on Americans to live the spirit of law and order as a continuing tribute to Hoover.

"J. Edgar Hoover loved the law, his God," Nixon said. "He loved the law, his country. And he richly earned peace through all eternity."

NIXON, his face somber, delivered a eulogy to the fallen FBI chief at the National Presbyterian Church, where Hoover had been a deacon.

Hoover was found dead at his home Tuesday morning.

The 1,200-seat church was filled with presidential aides, Cabinet members, members of Congress, diplomats, and public mourners.

Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower sat near the President. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew attended.

"One of the tragedies of life is that as a rule a man's true greatness is recognized only in death," Nixon said. "J. Edgar Hoover was one of the rare exceptions to that rule. He became a living legend while still a young man and he lived up to that legend as the decades passed."

Nixon said Hoover personified integrity, honor, principle, courage, discipline, dedication, loyalty and patriotism.

"We can pay him no greater tribute than to live these virtues," he said. "To love the law as he loved it and to give full cooperation to the law enforcement profession which he did so much to advance."

The President said Hoover's passing won't mark the end of an era.

"He built well, he built to last," Nixon said. "For that reason the FBI will remain as a memorial to him, a living memorial."

The Rev. Edward L. R. Elson, pastor of the church and chaplain of the U.S. Senate, opened the funeral service with a prayer and led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer.

The U.S. Army Chorus, conducted by 1st Lt. G. Barry Epperley, sang the hymn, "How Firm a Foundation." This was followed by Bible readings, the President's eulogy, more prayers and another hymn, "Faith of Our Fa-

Turn to Page 4, Column 6

Nation Pays Respects

Continued from Front Page

thers," by the Army chorus.

The benediction closed the service, which was broadcast live on radio and television.

Hoover's casket was placed in the flower-covered Hoover family plot at Congressional cemetery as members of the FBI hierarchy and family mourners looked on.

Hoover was placed beside his father, Dickerson N. Hoover who died in 1921 and his mother Annie M. Hoover who died in 1938. A sister, Daddie Marguerite, who died in 1893 at the age of 3, is also buried in the family plot.

After a brief prayer, the flag that had draped the FBI chief's coffin was presented to his long-time assistant, Clyde Tolson, and the funeral party silently left the cemetery.

Hoover's temporary successor, L. Patrick Gray III, an assistant attorney general, also attended with his wife. Nixon named Gray acting FBI director Wednesday.

The President predicted in his eulogy

that in years ahead Americans will pay Hoover greater honor than now "because the trend of permissiveness in this country, a trend which Edgar Hoover fought against all his life, a trend which was dangerously eroding our heritage as a law-abiding people, is now being reversed.

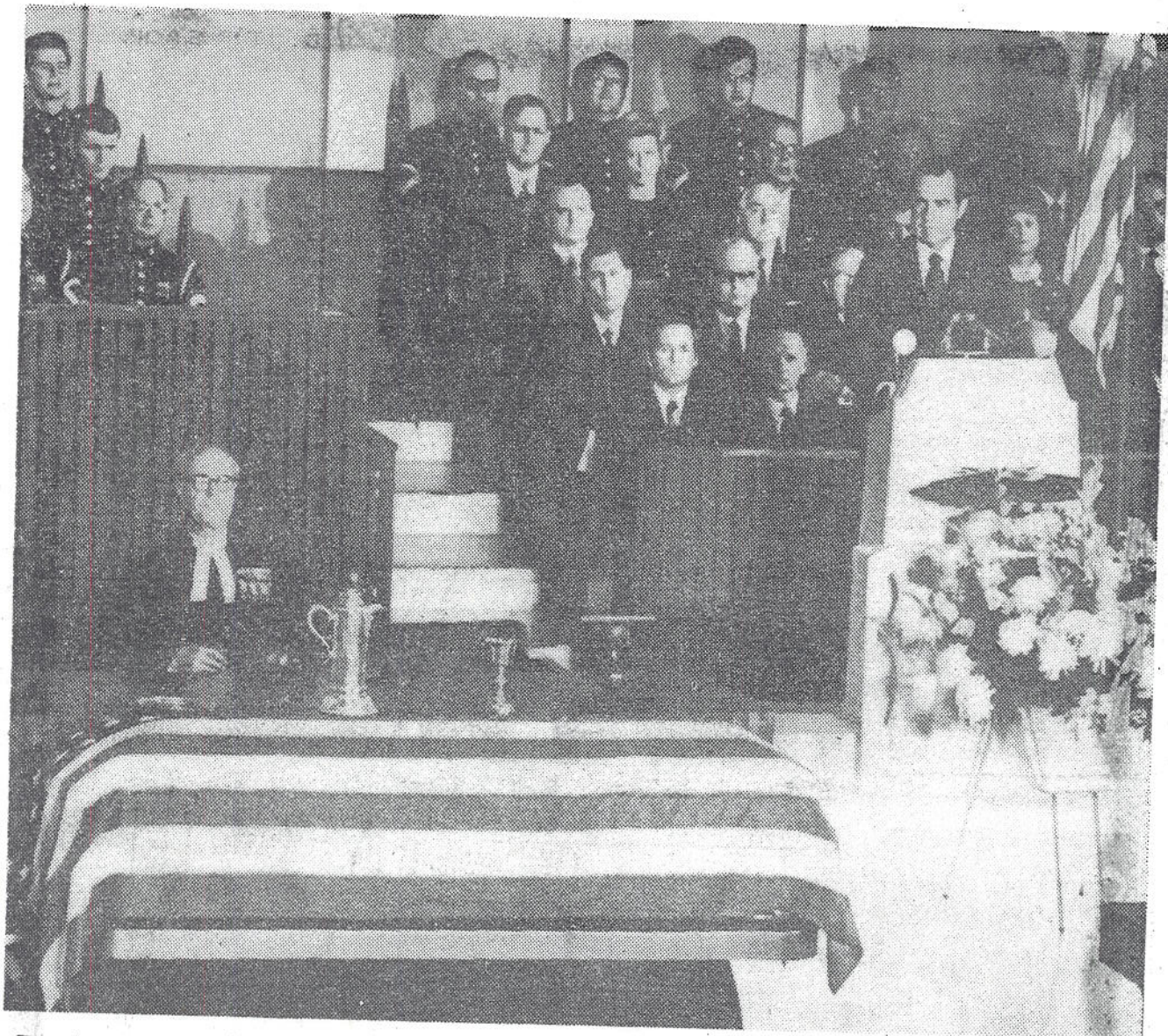
"The American people today are tired of disorder, disruption and disrespect for law. America wants to come back to the law as a way of life, he said.

"And as we do come back to the law, the memory of this great man, who never left the law as a way of life, will be accorded even greater honor than it is today."

Nixon said the FBI itself will be Hoover's monument.

Gray, a former submarine captain, will not need Senate confirmation to fill the job in an acting capacity.

THE WHITE HOUSE said Gray, 55, will keep the post at least until after the Nov. 7 presidential election.



Delivers eulogy

PRESIDENT NIXON talks in tribute of J. Edgar Hoover at funeral for the FBI director in Washington's National Presbyterian Church. Seated at left is the REV. EDWARD L. R. ELSON, chaplain of the U.S. Senate and pastor of the church. (AP Wirephoto.)