

Eulogy for Hoover

President, Public Pay Homage

Washington

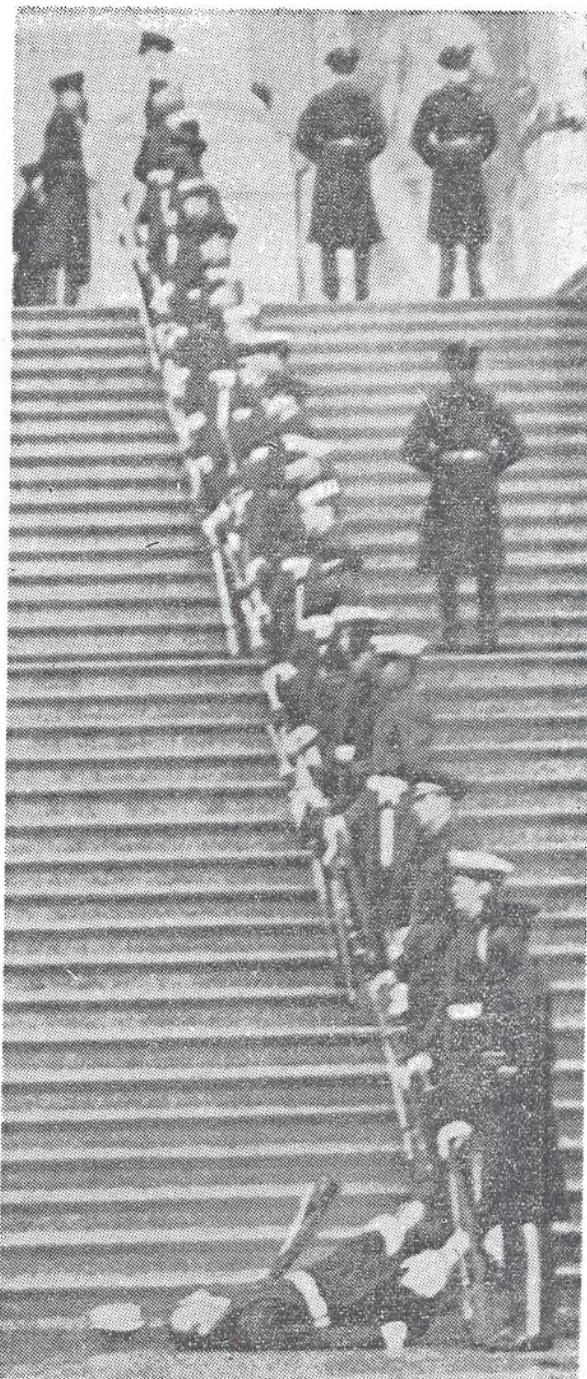
The mighty of Government and the public he tried to serve so devotedly bade farewell yesterday to J. Edgar Hoover, with President Nixon eulogizing him as "a peace officer without peer" during nearly half a century at the helm of the FBI.

Members of Congress, the Cabinet, the Supreme Court and hundreds of admirers jammed the National Presbyterian Church to attend the nationally televised funeral services for the highly controversial FBI chief, who was found dead at 77 in his home Tuesday, apparently of a heart attack.

Hoover was buried in a private family ceremony at the Congressional Cemetery, about a mile from the United States Capitol where his body had lain in state for 22½ hours in an honor never before bestowed on a civil servant. Police estimated that almost 18,000 persons had filed by the flag-draped bier before the casket was moved to the church yesterday.

In his 11-minute eulogy, Mr. Nixon hailed Hoover as "one of the giants" in American history who nearly singlehandedly built the FBI into "the finest law enforcement agency on earth" and then led a battle to reverse "the trend of permissiveness . . . which was dangerously eroding our national heritage as a law-abiding people."

The church, a spare, ultra-modern stone building where Hoover was a regular Sunday worshiper, was filled to its capacity of 1250 people



UPI Telephoto

A sailor in the honor guard for J. Edgar Hoover's funeral fainted on the steps of the Capitol.

and more than 1000 others either watched the service on closed circuit television downstairs or waited out front to pay respects.

Seated in the front row with the President and Mrs. Nixon were Mrs. Mamie

Eisenhower and Assistant Attorney General L. Patrick Gray, who was appointed by Mr. Nixon Wednesday to serve as acting FBI director until after the November elections.

United Press