

Hoover Left Fortune to Friend

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Except for a few minor bequests to namesakes and faithful employees, J. Edgar Hoover has willed his entire estate of \$551,500 to the man who was his closest friend, companion and law enforcement associate for more than 40 years.

Clyde A. Tolson, the 72-year-old associate director of the FBI, who resigned almost immediately after Hoover's death on May 2, is both the beneficiary and executor of a will made public yesterday in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia.

Tolson, who inherited Hoover's \$100,000 dollar Washington house and antique furnishings, has reportedly already moved out of his own apartment and is now occupying the dwelling. He



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CLYDE A. TOLSON
Hoover's heir

gave the address of the house as his own on court records.

Tolson, failing in health, automatically became act-

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ing director of the FBI after the 77-year-old Hoover was found dead in bed three weeks ago.

Grief-stricken, he sent a one-sentence letter of resignation to the bureau and declined even to take a telephone call of condolence from the man appointed to act as Hoover's temporary replacement, Assistant Attorney General L. Patrick Gray III.

Tolson, recruited into the FBI by Hoover in 1928, became the person closest to him over the years. The two bachelors lunched and dined together almost every day and had dinner together in Tolson's home the night that Hoover died peacefully in his sleep.

LOOPHOLE

Hoover would pick up Tolson en route to the office every morning in his bullet-proof limousine and drop him off again in the evening.

They took vacations together.

When Tolson reached the mandatory retirement age of 70 two years ago, Hoover encountered criticism for finding a loophole to keep his old friend on the payroll despite ill health.

In addition to Hoover's home, Tolson was also bequeathed "approximately 40 oil, gas and mineral leases (or parts thereof) for interests in Texas and Louisiana." The estimated value of those holdings was given as approximately \$125,000.

Hoover's personal property, estimated in value at \$326,500, consisted of the following:

- Stocks and bonds: \$122,000.
- Cash in banks and loan associations: \$84,000.
- Insurance payable to estate: \$45,000.
- Unpaid salary and annual leave: \$18,000.
- Household effects: \$7500.

- Jewelry: \$5000.

According to the petition for probate filed by Tolson, Hoover left no unpaid debts except funeral expenses of approximately \$5000 and miscellaneous current expenses of approximately \$1000.

In leaving his estate to Tolson and "his heirs, executors, administrators and assignees forever," Hoover asked in his will that Tolson "keep, or arrange for a good home, or homes, for my two dogs."

OTHERS

Seven other persons were remembered by Hoover in the following bequests:

His longtime secretary, Helen W. Gandy, was left \$5000.

His chauffeur, James E. Crawford, is to be paid \$2000 over a period of three years. Also, Crawford and an FBI messenger, W. Samuel Noisette, were left "equal distribution of all personal wearing apparel."

Annie Fields, the housekeeper who found Hoover's body, is to receive \$3000.

NAMESAKES

One namesake, John Edgar Nichols of Leesburg, Va., son of another longtime Hoover friend and associate, Lou Nichols, was bequeathed a small star sapphire ring and two pairs of cuff links.

Another namesake, John Edgar Rueh, was left a platinum watch and two other pairs of cuff links.

Hoover left nothing to four nieces and two nephews, listed as his "heirs-at-law." The children of his deceased sister and brother, they are his next of kin.

If Tolson had preceded Hoover in death or died simultaneously, the estate was to have been divided equally between the Boys Club of America and the Damon Runyon Memorial Fund for Cancer Research, Inc.