FBI Probe Finds Pattern of Abuses
By Hoover, Aides

By Charles R. Babcock
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Longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and his inner circle of top aides regularly misused bureau employees, equipment and funds, a Justice Department investigative report charged yesterday.

FBI employees were "on call night and day" as personal servants for Hoover, the report said, rearranging furniture, polishing metal, building decks, porticos and fish ponds, and repairing his lawnmower, snowblower and television set.

In addition, Hoover used a bureau accountant to do his personal tax work and several other employees to build gifts for him, the report said.

Top Hoover aides John P. Mohr and Nicholas C. Callahan, who was fired in 1976, also received numerous gifts and services from bureau employees, according to the 46-page outline of what Attorney General Griffin B. Bell yesterday called "abuses of power and position."

The aides also diverted thousands of dollars from special FBI funds for unappropriated, though not personal, uses, the report said.

In a strongly worded statement accompanying release of the report, Bell said he was making public the names of the officials involved because of "the legitimate interest of the American public in knowing how its government operates and how high-ranking officials have abused their official positions and neglected their official responsibilities."

None of the officials involved will be prosecuted, however, because the offenses occurred too long ago, the report stated.

Michael E. Shaheen Jr., head of the department's Office of Professional Responsibility, which reviewed the investigation, said yesterday in an interview that "there definitely would have been prosecutions if the statute of limitations hadn't run."

He said it was possible that civil actions might be taken to recover diverted funds or misuse of government property by those named in the report.

Bell emphasized in his statement that "a very few individuals engaged in improper conduct" and that they "in no way represent the thousands of FBI employees who are dedicated, honest public servants. ..."

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FBI PROBE FINDS ABUSES BY HOOVER, AIDES

"FBI Probe Finds Abuses by Hoover, Aides," the headline reads. The article is discussing allegations of misconduct within the FBI, specifically involving its director, J. Edgar Hoover, and his aides. The document continues with details about the investigation and the findings, which likely involve instances of abuse of power, corruption, or other forms of misconduct.