FBI Probe Finds
Pattern of Abuses
By Hoover, Aides

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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. Shahen 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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The report, which President Johnson ordered to investigate the allegations of misconduct in the FBI during the Hoover administration, included a detailed review of the Hoover files and interviews with former agents and staff members. The report found evidence of a culture of abuse and harassment within the FBI, including instances of sexual harassment, physical abuse, and corruption.

The report, which was released in 1973, concluded that Hoover had a "pervasive and systematic pattern of misconduct" that had gone unchecked for decades. The report also found that Hoover had used his position to intimidate and suppress opposition, and that he had a "culture of fear" within the FBI that encouraged agents to suppress information and violate civil liberties.

The report's findings were widely reported in the media and had a significant impact on public perceptions of the FBI. The report also led to calls for reform within the agency, and to increased scrutiny of government agencies in general.