

Ford dedicates 'monstrosity'

WASHINGTON - President Ford got his G-man badge Tuesday as he dedicated the new \$126 million FBI headquarters named for the late J. Edgar Hoover, who once called the building a monstrosity.

"Mr. President, we've been looking you over and you appear to be good agent material," FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley told Ford during the ceremony in the sunlit courtyard of the building.

Some 1,600 dignitaries and invited guests gathered at the structure officially designated the J. Edgar Hoover building to hear the President say the dedication of FBI men and women "will be a monument even more enduring than this imposing building."

The massive structure on Pennsylvania Avenue occupies a full city block about halfway between the White House and the Capitol.

Hoover reportedly disliked the design so intensely that he hoped the building would not be named for him.

In his dedication address, Ford called for "renewed commitment to the rule of law in America and to the legal system that perpetuates freedom and justice."

Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi and Kelley joined Ford in praising Hoover's legacy.

Ford revealed that he, like thousands of other youths in the Hoover era, dreamed of being an FBI agent. He confided this ambition after Kelley presented him with an FBI agent badge mounted on a plaque.

The dedication ceremony, complete with the U. S. Marine Band playing the "J. Edgar Hoover March," marked the end of 13 years of planning, construction and cost overruns.

Hoover once complained that "the ancient Egyptians were able to build their pyramids in far less time than it is taking to erect our new building," a comment Kelley recalled as he expressed relief that the work was done.

Many of the FBI's operations previously were housed in the Justice Department building across Pennsylvania Avenue, but other offices were in eight buildings scattered around the city.

Beginning Wednesday, the public gets the chance to appraise the new structure inside and out. That's when the popular FBI tour moves from the Justice Department to the Hoover building.

Some 500,000 visitors are expected annually for the free tours running at 15-minute intervals every working day.

Associated Press
WASHINGTON - The government announced Tuesday that out-of-pocket hospitalization costs for the nation's 24.1 million Medicare beneficiaries will go up 13 per cent next Jan. 1.

Each aged and disabled person on Medicare will have to pay the first \$104 of his or her hospital bill next year, up from the present \$92.

Social Security Commissioner James B. Cardwell said the increase is necessary to keep pace with hospital costs which have been increasing 50 per cent faster than the over-all cost of living.

The \$104 is equivalent to the average cost of one day of hospitalization, Cardwell said. The average hospital stay under Medicare now is about

Medicare costs to rise

13 1/2 days, at a cost of \$1,400.

The agency also announced comparable increases in Medicare deductible charges for extended hospital care beyond 60 days and for post-hospitalization care in skilled nursing homes beyond 20 days.

Beginning next year, Medicare beneficiaries will have to pay \$26 daily compared with the present \$23 for hospitalization from the 61st through the 90th day.

For extended nursing home care after release from the hospital, the beneficiary will be charged \$13 compared with the present \$11.50 for the 21st through the 100th day.

After the first charge of \$104, Medicare will pay all the bills for the first 60 days in a hospital and the first 20 days in a skilled nursing home.

Medicare also provides a "lifetime

reserve" of 60 extra hospital days that a beneficiary can use when he needs more than 90 days to recover from an illness. The daily out-of-pocket charge for that once-only benefit will increase to \$52 from the present \$46.

The monthly charge for Medicare beneficiaries who choose the optional medical coverage for doctors' bills has been frozen at \$6.70 since July 1974 because of a quirk in the law. The administration has asked

Congress repeatedly to remove the freeze so that the charge can keep pace with medical costs.

Of the 24.1 million people Medicare, 22 million are aged 65 and older and 2.1 million are disabled.

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