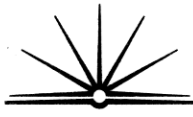


b)

i) In 1917, J Edgar Hoover began his position as a filing clerk for the Library of Congress, his organisation of files later ~~on~~ would prove to be a source of immense power. Hoover then joined the Bureau of Investigation in 1917. This was in the midst of World War One and the sentiments which it entailed; anti-Communism, Americanism, nativism, anti-immigration et al. Fred Cook (1964) describes Hoover as being "at the vortex of the storm."

The Palmer Raids of 1919 were a significant event in Hoover's career. They included the rounding up and deportation of alleged Communists, back to Europe. The Raids were carried out in an environment of xenophobia and although they were



widely supported at the time, they were later condemned, by even the Congress for their breach of civil liberties. Hoover managed to deflect criticism of the raids by arguing that he was simply following orders from above and had regretted the tactics of Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer.

The Teapot Dome Scandal of 1922 again highlighted Hoover's political savvy. Oil reserves ~~were~~ owned by the government were sold to private enterprise. The Harding administration was one of the most corrupt in history and very few survived, however Hoover was underestimated by his colleagues as being a ~~&~~ loyal bureaucrat.

The Sacco and Vanzetti case of



1921 also illustrates the breach of civil liberties, as the two radicals from Italy were not entitled to a fair trial.

The Prohibition Era brought Hoover into the public eye, and thus the 'Hoover Myth' began to be constructed. The arrest of Alvin Karpis in 1933 was the first of Hoover's career and he made sure that it was widely publicised.

In 1930 the Wickersham Report detailed that crime had in fact become a national crisis and therefore upped the ante in Hoover's power game.

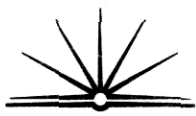
The Kansas City Massacre of 1933 resulted in the death of three FBI agents and a shift in public perception resulted.



Franklin D. Roosevelt proceeded to pass bills through Congress in 1934 resulting in the rights of agents to make arrests and carry arms. They were some of the lesser known but most important reforms of the New Deal.

The Depression threatened to destroy the very pillar of society that Hoover had sworn to uphold and the New Deal transferred more power to the government, and to Hoover.

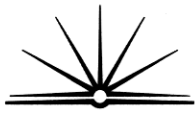
In 1939, after the invasion of Poland, Roosevelt asked Hoover to 'temporarily monitor all subversive activities in the US'. Hoover used the temporary charter as an umbrella under which to carry out illegal



surveillance for the rest of his career.

Hoover was determined not to make the same mistakes as he did for WWI again, and he urged people not to vilify anyone whose beliefs may be different to yours, "though it is tempting I know."

The ~~Hoover~~ FBI increased dramatically after World War Two into the organisation of criminal investigation it remains to date.



Q 5(dii)

J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI virtually ignored organised crime during the 20s and 30s, concentrating instead on the various "public enemy number 1", perhaps because of Hoover's concern with promoting his image.

During the 20s and 30s, Prohibition led to flourishing businesses in bootlegging and rum-running. Speakeasies flourished under the control of gangsters, as there was high demand for alcohol during the post war era. Organised ~~crime~~^{gangsters} became like business administrations, subverting various levels of government officials & law enforcers. These gangs caused trouble such as the St. Valentine's Day massacre.

While official FBI history declares that they fought crime and gangs in the 30s, historians such as ~~that~~ Kessler



believed that Hoover and the FBI turned a blind eye to organised crime. It was due to their passivity that organised crime reached heights of wealth and administrative organisation, reflecting Hoover's ineffectiveness in fighting crime during that era. There are many possible reasons why Hoover ignored organised crime. While historians such as Warrnal believe fighting crime was not the responsibility of Federal agents, this ~~was~~^{is} a rather weak excuse. Some suggest Hoover ignored crime because it was a difficult task to ~~for~~ combat gangsters, and given his type of agents, with little ethnic mix, it was difficult to train convincing agents. Perhaps Hoover ~~do wanted~~ didn't want to jeopardise the FBI's high conviction rate attained by doing



"easy" jobs, reflecting his concern with image. Some suggest ~~the~~ Hoover didn't want to cause trouble for his friends in office who were receiving bribes from gangs. Some, such as historian Summers, even suggest ~~#~~ the gangs had compromising photos of Hoover, and blackmailed him with his alleged homosexuality. This, once again, reflects Hoover's obsession with maintaining a 'clean' image.

While he ignored the growing influence of gangsters in the 30s, Hoover launch a highly publicised and effective campaign against 'public enemies' such as 'Pretty Boy' Floyd and 'Machine Gun' Kelly. While Agent Melvin Purvis gunned down two major 'public enemies', his role is minimised in official FBI



accounts, and critics cite Hoover's jealousy as the main reason. If stories such as that of Alvin Karpis are acknowledged, then Hoover was indeed more concerned with image than crime. While it is believed Hoover personally arrested Karpis, Karpis later claimed in his biography that Hoover only arrived at the scene after his agents had made the arrest to receive the publicity.

In 1939, the FBI arrested the Louis "Lepke" Buchalter, for a long time the only gangster arrested. ~~This once again reflects the~~ Yet he was only arrested because his gang decided to sacrifice him to the FBI. This once again reflects the failure of Hoover in combating ^{gangsters.} ~~crime.~~

Hoover and the FBI were more concerned about image than crime, and their ineffectiveness in the 30s allowed organised crime to flourish in ~~the~~ American society.