

## Iowan's Life as An FBI Man

By Nick Lamberto

Dwight J. Dalbey, the highest ranking Iowan in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, retired from service Friday with "malice toward none" and a high regard for Acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray III.

In view of the recent discussions about the controversial retirement of some FBI veterans since Gray became acting director, Dalbey said he thought "it was only fair to make clear that I was able to work with Mr. Gray" and was not leaving because of dissatisfaction.

Dalbey, 59, born and reared in the Clarinda area, said he didn't want to "leave the organization by doing harm to the man (Gray) who has treated me, and the people working with me so well."

**Since 1955**

Since 1955, Dalbey has been in charge of legal research for the FBI and in November, 1965, was named inspector. He has held the title "assistant director, legal counsel," since February, 1971.

Dalbey said he had planned his retirement for some time and had promised his wife that he would do so last June 30 but changed his mind when Gray was appointed "so I could stay on awhile and see what happened."

In his letter to Gray requesting retirement, Dalbey wrote: "This is not an easy letter to write. I find it somewhat difficult to take the final step that marks the end of a career in an organization in whose mission I believed and with whom people I long have been proud to be associated. Yet I am convinced that my time to retire has arrived."

**"There are two facts which I wish to stamp indelibly on the record as I leave.**

"First, this is a planned retirement, not one arrived at in haste for any reason. It has long been my hope to retire on or before my 60th birthday (Mar. 9), in order that I might have time for certain pleasures on the outside while I am yet ambulatory.

"As you know from our earlier discussions, I gave serious thought to retirement on last June 30 but elected to stay temporarily for several reasons, not the least of which was my belief that I owed a certain duty to the FBI and to you to remain until you had a fuller opportunity to become acquainted with the work I do. You now have had that opportunity and my obligation has been discharged.

"The second fact is that my decision to retire is made with malice toward none, and without regard to whether you are or are not appointed the next director of the FBI.

"I have disagreed with some of your decisions, but this disagreement I believe inevitable in any human relationship. I did not agree with all of the decisions made by Mr. Hoover, nor would I agree with all of those made by any other director.

**"Free to Disagree"**

"Much more important is the fact that I obviously have been free to disagree. Despite any differences of opinion between us, you have kept in all official and personal matters, most considerate of me and of those who work with me.

"For such generous tolerance I am indebted to you, and both honesty and courtesy demand that the fact be recorded here.

"If I can at any time provide a citizen's assistance to the FBI, you need only ask."

Gray, who became acting FBI director after the death of J. Edgar Hoover on May 2, 1972, wrote a personal letter to Dalbey, addressing him as



Dwight Dalbey  
Praised by FBI Chief

"Dear Judge" and expressing his sorrow at Dalbey's leaving, said Gray:

"Your career in the FBI has been a distinguished one, and the Bureau has benefited most substantially from the dedicated and effective manner in which you have met the demands of challenging assignment. You can certainly be proud of the record you have established.

"Thank you for your offer to be of future assistance. I hope that the future will bring you every happiness, and Mrs. Dalbey and you have my best wishes."

The letter was signed "Pat Gray" and in a handwritten postscript Gray added: "I have valued highly and appreciate deeply your advice and counsel."

Dalbey and his wife live in Bettendorf, Md. They have a son, Army Pfc. Joseph J., stationed at Aberdeen (Md.) Proving Grounds and a daughter, Susan, a high school senior.

**Plan to Travel**

"My wife and I plan to travel along the East Coast, take a trip to Europe and see a lot of things in the Washington area that we missed during the times I was working 12-hour days, six days a week and sometimes on Sundays," Dalbey said.

"I'm in the pink of health and looking forward to retirement years. Now I'll have time to take in some theater and see some things around the country. I suppose many tourists to Washington have seen a lot more of the city than I have."

In a telephone interview, Dalbey also said that in about a year his "ultimate retirement" plan calls for him to come back to Iowa to live.

"I think we'll locate somewhere in the Des Moines area on a plot big enough for me to pursue my hobbies of gardening and landscaping," Dalbey said. "I also like to go white-water canoeing and I like hiking."

**The gardening comes from the fact that there's still enough farmer left in me from my youth. You know the old saying, 'You can take the boy off the farm, but you can't take the farmer from the boy.'**

"The reason for the Des Moines area is because my brother, Charles W., lives at Infantine and I like the area."

Dalbey's mother, Nettie, 85, and another brother, George W., live on adjacent farms near Clarinda. Dalbey's father died six years ago at the age of 84.

Dalbey said two things will remain in his memory about his 17 years and two months service with the FBI.

"First, being in the FBI was rather adventuresome," Dalbey said. "There were hard days and relatively easy days, but never any dull days.

"Then, the people you work

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