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RADIO TV REPORTS

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM ABC Closeup

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DATE June 3, 1982 10:00 P.M. CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT J. Edgar Hoover

MARSHALL FRADY: May the 4th, 1972. After almost half a century of power as Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover is dead. He had served under eight Presidents, 16 Attorneys General, longer than anyone else holding such high office in government. During that time the made the FBI into almost a shadow government unto itself, holding many in Washington in fear. Perhaps more than any other bureaucrat in our government's history, this one man, J. Edgar Hoover, imposed his personal vision on Congress, on Presidents, and on millions of Americans.

Who was this man who came to command such reverence, such dread?

PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON: J. Edgar Hoover was one of the giants. He became a living legend while still a young man. And he lived up to his legend as the decades passed.

J. EDGAR HOOVER: May I emphasize that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is as close to you as your nearest telephone.

FRADY: For almost 50 years, this stern bull-terrier of a man seemed the defender of all our Main Street rectitudes, of order, patriotism, discipline. But this is, among other things, a story of illusion and reality, of the wrong inside the good, and of the compulsion for power behind the legend of J. Edgar Hoover.

In the next hour, ABC will examine the consequences of Hoover's quest for power: national security compromised in a World War II case, political use of the FBI, attempted destruction of enemies, intelligence failures in the murder of a

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