

Elvis Presley is dead

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Carter may name judge to FBI post

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter has chosen U.S. District Judge Frank Johnson, whose decisions have boosted civil rights in his native Alabama, to become FBI director, knowledgeable Administration sources said Tuesday night.

The White House planned to announce Wednesday afternoon that Carter will nominate Johnson, a 58-year-old Republican, to succeed Clarence M. Kelley as chief of the beleaguered investiga-

tive agency. Kelley has announced plans to retire at the end of this year.

Johnson, a lifelong Alabamian, has been a federal judge for the Middle District of Alabama in Montgomery since his appointment to the bench in 1955 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Before that, he was a U.S. attorney.

The nomination will be subject to Senate confirmation.

The choice of Johnson ends Carter's search of more than (Continued on Page 24, Col. 1)

Heart irregularity claims 42-year-old King of Rock

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Elvis Presley, the gyrating king of rock 'n' roll who forever changed the face of music two decades ago when he growled "You Ain't Nothin' But a Hound Dog," died at his mansion Tuesday of an "erratic heartbeat."

The 42-year-old singer — "Elvis the Pelvis" when he burst upon the world in the mid-1950s — died face down on the floor of a

bathroom at his Graceland mansion.

He was found there by his road manager, Joe Esposito, at 2:30 p.m. But Shelby County Medical Examiner Dr. Jerry Francisco said Presley may have been dead since 9 a.m.

Francisco told newsmen after an autopsy that Presley died of "cardiac arrhythmia," which he described as a severely irregular heartbeat. He said it was brought about by "undetermined causes."

Both Francisco and Dr.

Americans in the Far East shocked at Presley's death — fans or not. Reactions, review of Presley's Army hitch on Pages 12 and 13.



ELVIS PRESLEY DURING A 1971 PERFORMANCE

George Nichopoulos, Presley's personal physician, said there was "no evidence of any illegal drug use."

Efforts to revive Presley were abandoned at Baptist Hospital at 3:30 p.m.

Francisco said at a news conference that "There was severe cardiovascular disease present. He had a history of mild hypertension and some coronary artery disease. These two diseases may be responsible for the cardiac arrhythmia. But the precise cause was not determined. Basically it was a natural death."

"The precise cause of death may never be discovered," he said.

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by Pentagon**

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dropped**

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Ed Sullivan showed him from waist up

The night 'Pelvis' went nationwide

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — There were a lot of dinner table debates that Sunday night in 1956. Would parents let their children watch a sneering long-haired, swivel-hipped Mississippi country boy croon his suggestive rock 'n' roll on Ed Sullivan's television show?

In living rooms across the country today's adults, yesterday's kids, got their first look, albeit a discreet one, at the man who would change American lifestyles and the nation's popular music.

Sullivan showed him only from the waist up, rocking around up there on the flickering tube. Most of the parents hated him — which made the kids love him all the more.

From the soles of his blue suede shoes to the tips of his rakish, hair-oiled sideburns, Elvis was the first

shellburst in a revolution of American folkways.

From "Heartbreak Hotel" to "Love Me Tender," a million rapturous baby-soxers begged to just let them be his teddy bear; and a million boyfriends, jealous and admiring, imitated Elvis' look. They grew duck-tail haircuts and sported black leather jackets and tried to speak like the sons of Mississippi tenant farmers.

The changes were more than superficial. What Elvis did — it was enough to say Elvis — was bring sexuality into the open. Maybe parents wondered about the lyrics, "Love me tender, love me true, never let go, for my darling I love you . . ." but their children didn't need to be told. He took the raunchy back beat of the black blues and made them top 40 fare — with just enough whitewash to give them the patina of

respectability.

Anyway, some parents said, he mumbled most of the time.

That first night, on the television, you couldn't tell he couldn't play the guitar very well. Who cared? That first night you couldn't tell he'd be overweight one day and a little snappish in his last concerts. Who cared? That first night you didn't have the slightest idea what a blue suede shoe looked like. Who cared?

The kids those parents worried about are today's parents.

"Oh, no," said a 33-year-old buyer for Bloomingdale's, the chic New York department store, when she heard the news. Then the woman, mother of a two and a half year old, broke down and cried.

Tuesday night in Memphis, Elvis died. A generation of people cared.