

Keystone Kops of Dallas

Television cameras on Sunday, and news pictures on Monday, recorded for posterity the most incredible scenes in the history of law "enforcement" and police negligence. Certainly the murder of Abel by Cain in prehistoric days couldn't have been handled worse than was the incredible situation in Dallas (Texas) handled by its paid gendarmes. Nothing in the popular movie comedies, known as the "Keystone Kops" could rival it. The worst and most incredible part of it was that this was "for real" and not for public entertainment.

The whole crazy quilt picture is incredible. When the first heinous act occurred, the shooting of the President of the United States and the Governor of Texas (by the accident of trajectory), it was announced that four agencies were "investigating" the affair---and positively that the Communist Lee Oswald had pulled the trigger. The four agencies named were the US Secret Service, the FBI, the Texas Rangers and the Dallas Police.

Since the finger had been definitely placed on Oswald, and the statement was made that they were no longer seeking a trigger man, the only thing left to investigate was the master mind or minds behind the assassination. Oswald was a New Orleans resident, and had only moved to Dallas two months ago when it was announced that the President would make a "non-political" political trip to Dallas. On such trips it was the Presidential custom, much against the wishes of the Secret Service, to ride in an open car and take the bows and plaudits of voters and prospective voters. The Police and FBI were reported trying to find the "Birchites" the Rockefeller Center press agents said were responsible.

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SECRET SERVICE BLAMELESS---The US Secret Service, whose chief function is to guard the bodies of the President and Vice President, is being criticized in the Press for "allowing the thing to happen". This criticism is unjust, no matter how culpable the Dallas Police are for allowing the only evidence as to who was behind the killing of President Kennedy to be destroyed---and with another wanton, cowardly murder.

It is true that the Secret Service has a force of over 200 operatives to provide maximum security for the President. At ballgames and other functions they "case the joint" first. They surround him on all sides. They are not supposed to look at the ball games, but to scan the crowds for suspicious-looking individuals or acts, for the appearance of a firearm or for a suspicious looking bulge on any hip or under any armpit. On inauguration days the Army and Marines have armed soldiers stationed in front of the crowd every ten feet along the parade route. They're not supposed to watch the parade, but the windows of the buildings on the other side of the street. The mere appearance of any kind of a gun barrel would bring a volley of lethal shots into that window.

The critical Washington POST asked three critical questions of the Secret Service---publicly. (1) Why wasn't the building from which the gunman fired policed beforehand? (2) Why wasn't this particular building under surveillance as the Presidential Party approached? (3) How could the armed assassin enter the building hours before the President's arrival during a period of intense security preparation.

We say that, to watch every window along the Dallas parade route would take two divisions of the US Army. The trouble was that Mr. Kennedy was seeking votes---and no one has a better right to do this than he. He was showing himself off to the Dallas populace where his New Frontier was in serious political trouble. The top was down. He was a sitting duck.

The best answer to any such further occurrence would be for Congress to pass a law giving the Secret Service absolute power over security arrangements. The power to overrule the President. They have been worried at the way he has exposed himself on political jaunts. If they could have done so, they would have had the Bubble Top up, making the whole car bullet proof. The Secret Service knows more about such things than any President can ever learn---unless he remember the lesson taught by this terrible tragedy deep in the heart of Texas.

TENNESSEE TANTRUMS---All Tennesseans don't have their hands in the TVA till. This will come as some comfort to Sen. Goldwater who stired up a hornet's nest when he advocated operation of the government white elephant by private enterprise. A. G. Heinsohn, operator of the Cherokee Mills at Sevierville (Tenn) says: "Some of us Tennessee, believe it or not, still worship God over government. We refuse to sell our soul for cutrate power. Some of us have even found out that "something for nothing" from Washington is a cruel hoax because government has nothing to give to the people except a shrunken residue of what it first took away from them." (And Mr. Heinsohn is a heavy user and payer-for electric power.)