

F.B.I. and Secret Service Re-evaluating Guard Role

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (UPI) — The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation told Congress today that the bureau was taking another look at how it relates to the Secret Service so that it will be better prepared to deal with, or prevent, assassinations of Presidents and other national leaders.

William H. Webster, the director, made the comments in testimony before the House assassinations committee, which is reviewing preparations of the nation's major intelligence, protective and law enforcement agencies to deal with the slaying of American public figures.

The committee, which has spent two years investigating the assassinations of

President Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., plans to complete the inquiries this month.

The chairman of the committee, Representative Louis Stokes, Democrat of Ohio, noted that four Presidents had been killed and others had been the targets of assassination attempts. If past performance of the agencies involved is an indication, he said, "the prospects are not good" for an improved response.

Webster Offers Assurances

Mr. Webster said the F.B.I., for one, was working on the problem. He said the bureau would not hesitate, within legal bounds, to do all in its power to prevent the assassination of another President or

public figure or to track down those responsible. "But we cannot be sure," he said.

Mr. Webster said that the Secret Service was responsible for protecting the President and the F.B.I. "is not regularly informed of the President's movements."

But he said his agency was conducting a periodic review of a formal agreement that it has with the Secret Service. He said the review was designed to define "areas of activity regarding the Secret Service's protective responsibilities and the investigative responsibilities of the bureau, and establish mutual communication and cooperation in ordinary and extraordinary situations."

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1978

Mr. Webster said there was no way to tell "how we would react in every situation," but the F.B.I. has a major case operations plan in the event that another President is killed.

Under the plan, two command posts would immediately be set up, one at the site of the killing and one in Washington. All leads would be channeled from the field post to headquarters in Washington, Mr. Webster said.

From the beginning of its \$5 million investigation, the assassinations committee has found flaws in the ways that both the local and Federal authorities investigated the slayings of President Kennedy and Mr. King.

The committee said neither the F.B.I. nor the Warren Commission sufficiently followed up conspiracy theories in either assassination, although the panel itself

has not been able to produce any credible evidence that either Lee Harvey Oswald or James Earl Ray had help.

In other testimony before the committee, Frank C. Carlucci 3d, Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said the C.I.A. had saved the lives of both public figures and private citizens after learning of plots that had endangered them. He did not give any details and the committee members did not ask questions.