

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

PP-4

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

June 8, 1964

GA-1 SECRET SERVICE

Mr. J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of June 1, we find that many of the old records which might have revealed reliable information about the complement of agents in the past years have been destroyed in accordance with the Retirement and Disposition of Records Program of the Federal Government.

Based on recollections of old workers of the Secret Service, we estimate that the first White House Detail, protecting President Theodore Roosevelt, consisted of two or three agents. Apparently they did not work on regularly scheduled shifts, but remained close to the President until he retired for the night. When the President traveled, the number of agents was increased to five or six.

The number of agents of the Detail increased to about ten during World War I.

It cannot be definitely determined when regularly scheduled shifts were established for the Detail, but they were in effect during the administration of President Calvin Coolidge. At that time there were twelve agents on the Detail, one of whom was assigned to Mrs. Coolidge and another to one of the President's sons.

The Detail gradually grew in size through the administrations of President Hoover and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1939, for example, there were sixteen agents and two supervisors, working seven days a week with no days off. In 1940 arrangements were made to provide days off, and the Detail was increased to about twenty-two.

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When the United States entered World War II it was considered advisable to assign extra men to the protection of the President, and the Detail operated with ten men on each of three shifts, with three supervisors and four drivers, for a total of 37 men.

In October of 1950, thirty-three special agents were assigned to the White House Detail, plus two drivers (Special Employees).

The force level of the White House Detail since 1950 is classified information which we will supply in a separate communication.

There is listed below the legislation which brought about the growth of the White House Police from thirty-three men at the time of its inception in 1922 to a present ceiling of 250 authorized positions.

| <u>Public Law</u> | <u>Congress</u> | <u>Date Approved</u> | <u>Authorized Ceilings</u> |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 380 | 67th | 9-14-22 | 33 |
| 292 | 68th | 12-5-24 | 39 |
| 221 | 71st | 5-14-30 | 43 |
| 80 | 74th | 5-22-35 | 60 |
| 475 | 76th | 4-21-40 | 80 |
| 463 | 77th | 2-21-42 | 140 |
| 90 | 80th | 8-9-47 | 120 |
| 693 | 81st | 4-15-50 | 133 |
| 418 | 82nd | 8-29-52 | 170 |
| 481 | 87th | 6-8-58 | 250 |

The number of positions established by the authorized ceilings imposed by the Congress does not necessarily reflect the number of positions for which Congress grants appropriations each year. For instance, the present authorized ceiling for the White House Police is 250 men. The increase in the ceiling provided by Public Law 481 was requested and authorized by Congress to extend protection to the Executive Office Building and permit protection for future buildings as such need is required. The Congress appropriated funds for 213 officers for fiscal year 1964.

There follows a list of the number of positions for which appropriations were granted from the year 1940 through 1964 (prior to 1940 appropriations generally were granted for the authorized ceilings).

P R I N T

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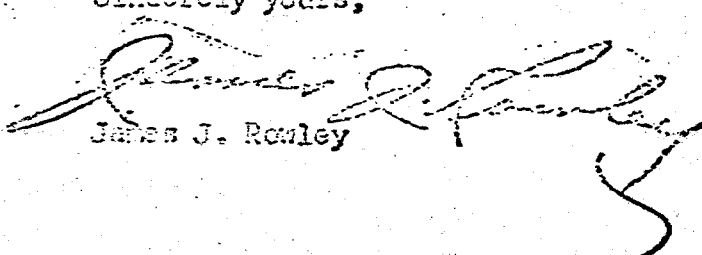
| <u>Year</u> | <u>No. of Positions in Appropriations</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>No. of Positions in Appropriations</u> |
|---|---|-------------|---|
| 1940 | 60 | 1944 | 163 |
| 1941 | 80 | 1944 | 145 |
| 1942 | 101 | 1945 | 142 |
| 1943 | 94 | 1945 * | 133 |
| 1944 | 93 | 1945 * | 156 |
| 1945 | 99 | 1945 * | 151 |
| 1946 | 102 | 1946 | 156 |
| 1947 | 106 | 1947 | 155 |
| 1948 | 99 | 1948 | 154 |
| 1949 | 102 | 1949 | 153 |
| 1950 | 104 | 1949 * | 164 |
| 1951 | 106 | 1950 | 164 |
| 2-1-51 (Result of Blair House Shooting) | 170 | 1950 * | 163 |
| 1952 | 170 | 1961 | 162 |
| 1953 | 166 | 1962 | 162 |
| | | 1963 | 213 |

(* Represents adjustments made during year due to changes in law.)

Public Law 221, passed in May 1930, placed the White House Police under the direct supervision of the Chief of the Secret Service.

Public Law 67-481, passed in June 1962, placed the White House Police under the control and supervision of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury then delegated the authority for the control and supervision of the White House Police to the Chief of the Secret Service.

Sincerely yours,


James J. Rowley

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