

# Kennedy One of 10 Eligible for Guards

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About 10 declared presidential hopefuls and prominent non-candidate Edward M. Kennedy will be eligible for around-the-clock Secret Service protection beginning March 20, a bipartisan congressional committee decreed yesterday.

The committee, charged by law with determining which candidates should get bodyguards prior to the nominating conventions, devised a formula to allow the findings of pollsters Louis Harris and George Gallup to make the final decision.

The formula provides that any announced candidate who is the preference of at least five per cent of those surveyed in either poll is entitled to protection. Anyone who received 20 per cent would also be eligible, even if they had not declared their candidacy.

A spokesman for the five-member commission—the leaders of the House and Senate and one public member—indicated polls taken closest to March 20 would be used in the final decisions, which would be made by Treasury Secretary John B. Connally.

Kennedy seemed assured of eligibility on the basis of his 27 per cent showing in a Jan. 16 Gallup poll. Only Sen. Edmund S. Muskie's 32 per cent topped Kennedy in that poll, despite the Massachusetts lawmaker's repeated assertions that he will not be a candidate.

Anyone could reject protection offered under the bill approved in June, 1968, almost immediately after the assassination of Kennedy's brother, Robert, in Los Angeles after his victory in the California presidential primary.

Kennedy was not available for comment, but his aides indicated he likely would accept protection. They said he planned to campaign extensively for Democratic candi-

Alabama Gov. George Wallace.

President Nixon already is guarded by the Secret Service, of course. Of his two announced GOP challengers, Rep. Paul N. McCloskey of California would appear eligible based on his 13 per cent showing in the Gallup poll in September.

Rep. John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, the other GOP candidate, entered the race recently and his name has not shown up yet in any polls.

Announced Democrats Reps. Shirley A. Chisholm (D-N.Y.), and Patsy T. Mink (D-Hawaii), Sen. Vance Hartke (D-Ind.) and Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles would not be eligible unless they improve their showing in the polls.

With so many candidates, congressional testimony has indicated that protection costs could run as high as \$20 million. The Treasury Department which administers the Secret Service, asked to hire 526 new agents this year, but congress cut the figure to 360 men.

dates this year and his family was concerned about his safety in light of the murders of his two brothers.

Based on the latest polls, Democrats who will be offered protection include Sens. Muskie (D-Maine), Kennedy (D-Mass.), Hubert H. Humphrey (D-Minn.), George McGovern (D-S.D.), and Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash.), former Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York and