

Secret Service Agent Quits, Carried Tale on McGovern

By Jim Mann

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The Secret Service announced yesterday that an agent who helped provide information to the White House about Sen. George McGovern's presidential campaigning activities has resigned.

The Secret Service said the agent, James C. Bolton Jr., who was assigned to guard the South Dakota senator during last year's campaign, resigned after an "extensive investigation" revealed the "matter was an isolated incident."

A spokesman for the Secret Service said the agency began investigating the incident following an Aug. 10 report in The Washington Post that detailed White House use of the secret Service, the FBI, the Internal Revenue Service and other government departments to gather potentially damaging information on Democratic presidential candidates and their staffs.

According to one of 24 classified White House memos obtained by The Post, Bolton told his father about a weekend meeting the Democratic presidential candidate had with an alleged subversive in Massachusetts. The agent's father, James Bolton Sr., is the administrative assistant to Rep. Glenn Davis (R-Wis.). According to the memo, Bolton Sr. passed the information along to the White House.

The memo also said that Bolton Jr. "has promised to keep his dad informed of these and other kinds of activities," and that more information would be provided to the White House.

(A later memo disclosed that the information concerning the weekend meeting was false.)

The Secret Service, in a prepared statement issued

through a spokesman yesterday, said it has made "an extensive investigation" into this reported misconduct and has determined that this matter is an isolated incident which occurred through a family relationship of the Service employee.

"The Secret Service has also determined that the one intelligence item referred to in press reports was evidently obtained from the agent by his father during family conversations at a

time when the agent visited his parents between campaign trips.

"The investigation established that the agent was unaware his father passed this information on to any third party. However, the disclosure of such information, even under these circumstances is a violation of Secret Service policy."

The Secret Service spokesman said that any information obtained by agents "relative to a protectee or an investigation is not to be discussed with unauthorized persons."

Bolton Jr., 26 and an employee of the Secret Service

for two years, was on assignment in Milwaukee yesterday and could not be located for comment. His brother, David, and his father said they were not aware of his resignation.

Bolton Sr. had previously confirmed passing on the information about the McGovern meeting to the White House and said he could not "recall passing along anything else."

Informed by a reporter yesterday of his son's resignation, he said: "I've been over this all that I'm going to. No comment. I accept the full responsibility for it. That's all I'm going to say."