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\$325,000 Voted for New Johnson Limousine--Most in House Unaware

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WASHINGTON — The House recently voted \$325,000 to build a new armored limousine for President Johnson. It was disclosed Wednesday, even though most members were unaware of it. Some \$197,000 also was provided for a Secret Service follow-up car.

The new Presidential "bubbletop," embodying the latest in protective devices, is part of an extensive Secret Service program designed to provide greater Presidential safety in the wake of John F. Kennedy's assassination.

Part of the program, which may include new electronic devices on the White House grounds, is secret. This accounts for hush-hush

handling of some of the funds in Congress.

Money for the two new limousines was included in a \$6.6 billion Treasury-Post Office Department appropriations bill passed by the House Monday on a 344-7 vote. There was no hint of the auto program in a lengthy report issued four days earlier by the House Appropriations Committee.

But the new limousine money was part of an extra \$3,877,000 for Presidential protection that was added to the bill at the request of former Treasury Secretary Douglas Dillon, head of an advisory committee that studied the Warren Commission report on the Kennedy assassination.

Rep. Tom Steed (D-Okla.), chairman of a House appro-

priations subcommittee that handled the bill, said the subcommittee was advised by letter about plans to build the autos after hearings had been completed.

Robert Carswell, special assistant to the Treasury secretary, wrote the appropriations subcommittee that the new vehicles would be equipped with "the very latest in protective devices," including new lightweight bulletproof material for the transparent bubbletop.

The Warren Commission was told last fall it was possible new Presidential cars would be equipped with glass and armor being developed by the Defense Department for American helicopters in Vietnam.

Carswell said plans for the limousine were discussed with research and engineering officials in the Defense Department and with the President's Office of Science and Technology.

Since existence of a new Presidential limousine could scarcely be kept secret, it was believed that funds for more secret projects dealing with it and other programs were hidden in the appropriations bill.

Mr. Johnson now uses an armored car provided by the Ford Motor Co. for an annual \$500 maintenance charge. It was developed by the firm following Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

But the Secret Service said another car was needed because the present limousine cannot be moved on the Presidential plans when, for example, Mr. Johnson visits two cities in one day.

The Ford company offered to build the second Presidential car for \$325,000 and the follow-up Secret Service vehicle for \$197,000. However, competitive bids will be sought if Congress provides the requested funds.

The President had no part in seeking additional funds for his protection. In fact, Carswell wrote the House subcommittee that Mr. Johnson refused to request money for the new limousine.