

Fear of Assassin to Doom Modern Campaign Style? 5-1 6-6-68

By WALTER R. MEARS
LOS ANGELES (AP)—In America, the men who would be president have walked freely among the people whose votes they sought.

But can they now, after Robert F. Kennedy was fatally shot by a gunman who lurked among cheering supporters?

The bullet which crashed into Kennedy's brain already has changed, and could doom, the free and open campaign style which has marked the politics of presidential year 1968.

KENNEDY BASED his campaign for the White House on the argument that the people,

not politicians, should choose the Democratic nominee. He walked through surging crowds, a friend and former FBI agent named Bill Barry often his only shield.

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, Kennedy's rival in the primaries, was not a security conscious man. There was never any evidence of bodyguards around him.

Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin said after the Kennedy shooting that the New Yorker's campaign forces had twice turned down offers of police protection for their candidate. Reddin said candidates do not normally want policemen around them,

for they want no barrier against the voter.

But now?

Even as Kennedy lay on the operating table in a Los Angeles hospital, President Johnson made a major change in the campaign security system.

HE ORDERED the Secret Service to assign a protective detail to each major candidate, borrowing from other federal law enforcement agencies as necessary.

And agents were swiftly deployed, to Good Samaritan Hospital where Kennedy was under care, and to join the other candidates.

The White House said the

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directive meant protection would be provided for McCarthy; Republicans Richard M. Nixon, New York Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Harold E. Stassen, and for third-party contender George C. Wallace as well.

VICE PRESIDENT Hubert H. Humphrey, because of his office, already had Secret Service bodyguards.

The managers of those candidates may be reluctant to dispatch their men into crowds where danger might hide. Their newly assigned Secret Service agents may feel the same way.

Television, heretofore a valued campaign tool for its reach to the voters, may come to be valued more, for it provides a candidate with safety and an audience at once.