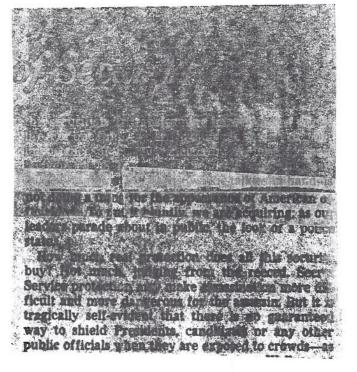
(Estident Kennedy, Martia Kennedy, Jean of the assession pitaklin His Phan al The Asia ALC: NO. THE REAL PROPERTY AND SECTION OF A VICTORIA A second second second second second of a second se most important and completions public figures. Until 1963, the Secret Service personal protection was accorded the President and the Vice President. And that was if. Today, by various acts of Congress. the Secret Service also protects former presidents and their wives for life, the widows of presidents for is unless they remarry; the minor children of formir presidents until age 16; all "major" candidates . the presidency; Secretary of State Henry A. Kismillecretary of the Treasury William Simon; visadads of state or government other foreign diglector designated for such protection by the Presi-The persons and families of the President President That is a large part of the reason id increase in the agency's budget in the indines the bragedy in Dallas. Each assassination miniation attempt has shred the same reflexapproved the second s in to the Secret Service; Do you need any more in a start to head runied vor authority? retingly enough, the initiative has not come Secret Service. On the contrary the Secret. the light has been concerned about the rate at with Congress has enpanded its alstenhients. The rivice is understandably worried about becoming a sensonal security agency, which it's subinary has not been, instead of a key suffer tenter. Senaty, 35 per cent of she cerned personal security: (5 104 went into, tracking down, counterfaile of government cheeks and bonds. 1 the Ligures are reversed, and the Second Second la herming to soury about its integs, the more is both like a per-sonal security agency, inseed of its investigative agency, the less able it may be in pure to altract the first-class law enforcess who helped to give the agency its reputation. The sepuration for crisp efficiency

at has increased the demand for the agency's proctive services. Mr. Kissinger, for one, had the choice of using the personnel of the State. Departiment after he became Secretary of State, but he elected to maintain the Secret Service coverage he hid received at the White House. That same factorafficiency-helps explain the popularity of the Seerer Service with presidential candidates last year. As any of those candidates will readily concede, a measure of order and an aura of importance were added to their campaigns when the Secret Service came aboard. One candidate noted that the advance work on his campaign left a great deal to be desired until the Secret Service brought its technology to bear. mong other things, the Secret Service makes certain, for its own reasons, that the campaign runs on ichedule. In effect, then, Secret Service coverage is a hidden, tax-supported subsidy for presidential candib dates,

The monetary costs aside, another price paid for all



witness Dallas, the disabling of George wanace, the more recent meanings attempts on the life President Ford. If Lynette Fromme had been more proficient with a 45 President Ford would have been in mortal danger before his protectors could have reacted. Sara Jane Moore's aim was spoiled by an aler citizen, not a Secret Service agent. Al Million trail To be fair about it, we have no way of measure how many possible attacks have been frustrated to the service, or deterred by public traperied agents are on guard. Even so, the issue is not some security precliptions are necessary. Obvio some protection is needed for some of our main ble and exposed officials. The question, however whether Secret Service protection is not being overdone. Without some serious thought; the the of the last decade is likely to continue, with the result that more and more officials will be travelling a in a phalanx of police officers. It is not just a prof for the President or for Congress, for it is not easy for either one to strip away protection that has become an accepted fact of life-unless high officials there selves are prepared to share the responsibility and accept some reasonable level of risk as an inevitable past of the price of participating in public life. -To hour Sector Scottice appears from becoming the mainstalis or solid the sides, it seems to us that a new set of guidalizes into order. Their share will to pland on the level of direct as it is beidelyed by the responsible leaders of Cohgress and the executive branch. For instance, A might be possible to eliminate, or at least reduce, the coverage of foreign dignitaries, as opposed to visiting heads of state; cabinet. officials, unless there is a substantial justification; and the minor children of former presidents, unlike there is exceptional evidence of danger. In the case of former presidents and their wives, it might be the tifiable to provide coverage for several years but not for life. We would not pretend to know exactly where to draw the line. Nor is it possible for us, or anybody not privy to the facts of a particular case, to know when situations call for extraordinary precautions. As a general rule, however, it seems to us that excessive, highly visible security measures may be as likely to challenge the psychopathic impulses of a potential assassin as to deter them.

It ought to be obvious by now that there is no such thing as guaranteed, foolproof security. It also seems obvious, at least to us, that the effort to achieve it—to put the best face on what now seems to be going on has gotten out of hand. To put the worst face on it, what may be happening is the creation of yet another status symbol for those who hold or have held power. To the extent that this is what, in fact, is going on, it is perhaps worth remembering, in this time of transition and rich promises of reform, that the personal security mission of the Secret Service is to provide protection, within reason, and not to adorn.

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