

Post 10/3/68

Secret Service Cautioned Candidates

By Jean M. White

The chief of the Secret Service has personally visited each presidential candidate to brief him on the hazards of crowd campaigning.

James J. Rowley, the director, told the President's Commission on Violence yesterday that the campaigners have been warned they can be protected only to the extent that they follow the advice of the Secret Service.

His prepared statement was released as he testified in closed session for Commission members. Another witness was Thomas J. Kelley, who heads the service's protective intelligence division. His testimony was classified.

Assigned by President

President Johnson assigned Secret Service agents to protect major candidates immediately after the assassination of

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June.

Among the hazards listed by Rowley were:

- Riding in an open car over a previously announced route through a built-up area.

- Moving into an enclosed area from which no path of evacuation can be kept secure.

- Making spur-of-the-moment changes in schedules and itinerary without informing the Secret Service.

- Diving into crowds without keeping an "interval of space" for protection.

With tactful discretion Rowley did not mention whether the candidates were heeding his advice. Both Vice President Humphrey and his Republican rival, Richard M. Nixon, have ridden in motorcades. In Pittsburgh, Humphrey impulsively joined a parade that was passing by.

At its morning session, the

Commission steered away from any comment on the assassinations of Sen. Kennedy or the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as a professor discussed his national profiles on political violence and assassination.

Since both cases are expected still to be in the courts, the Commission's report, due by the end of year, probably will avoid specifics on the two recent assassinations.

Some Findings Disputed

Several Commission members took issue with some of the generalizations drawn in a study by Ivo K. Fierabend, political science professor at San Diego State College.

The professor placed the United States in the middle of a 6-point violence scale for 84 nations, and observed it is among the highest in assassinations.

His national profiles—based mainly on material from year-books and newspapers—were viewed with some skepticism by several Commission members. They also questioned his classification of presidential assassinations in the United States as political acts.