

# Secret Service Expands

When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, the Secret Service had fewer than 400 agents and a haphazard intelligence system that focused narrowly on its primary responsibility—protecting the President and Vice President.

Secret Service now has more than 1,000 agents, a uniformed division that will soon reach 850 and a computerized intelligence section. The service is asking, for fiscal year 1972, for a budget of \$56.3 million—about 10 times the \$5.7 million it received in 1963.

The impetus for the drastic expansion arose directly from the presidential assassination.

In 1964, the Warren Commission's investigation of the assassination included a recommendation that Secret Service develop a sophisticated liaison with other federal agencies to gather information that might bear, even indirectly, on protecting the President and Vice President.

## Threateners Identified

This led ultimately to the collection of threats to other public officials, including senators and congressmen. Similar intelligence comes from more than 60 Secret Service field offices, FBI, State Department, CIA, and the Capitol and Metropolitan police.

This intelligence is fed into a Secret Service computer that now holds the names of more than 100,000 persons whose words or actions have marked them for special attention as potential assassins.

During budget hearings in 1969, Secret Service officials testified they checked 6,000 names a month through the computer and expected the figure to double during the 1972 presidential election

campaign.

## Field Offices Emptied

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was murdered in Los Angeles and President Johnson immediately ordered Secret Service protection for all major presidential and vice presidential candidates. Congress quickly rammed through enabling legislation.

Secret Service emptied its field offices. Between June and election day, agents put in a total of 270,384 overtime hours protecting the remaining 12 candidates.

Secret Service estimated a need for an additional 528 agents to handle the new duties, and Congress authorized them in three increments for fiscal years 1970, '71 and '72.

Another major expansion of Secret Service duties came last summer when Congress permitted the expansion of the 250-man White House police unit into an 850-man Executive Protective Service. This unit now is charged with protecting the White House, Executive Office Building and the 111 diplomatic missions in the Washington area.

In the last few years other changes in the law have given the Secret Service protection duties for the unmarried widow and children of past Presidents, and former Presidents and their wives.

## LBJ Protected

President Nixon has also been authorized to provide Secret Service protection to visiting foreign heads of state and other "distinguished foreign visitors."

He also may order protection for Americans performing missions abroad for the government.

A team of eight agents, six special officers and a clerk are still assigned to former President Johnson. Eight agents are assigned to former President Truman.

The children of President Kennedy have eight agents to protect them until they reach age 16, but their mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, has no protection because she remarried.

A total of 14 agents and special officers are assigned to Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two more Secret Service agents are stationed in Gettysburg, near the family farm.