



By JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — Immediately after Gov. George Wallace was gunned down at a suburban Maryland shopping center, the Secret Service whirred through its computerized file.

The name of the prime suspect, 21-year-old Arthur Herman Bremer of Milwaukee, was not in the data bank of potential assassins.

The computer file constitutes the heart of the Secret Service's intelligence operation. Theoretically, the most basic descriptive information about a potential assassin can be fed into the machine, and a list of suspects will come pouring out.

A Secret Service spokesman has explained that the computer contains "a very large file of characteristics." These characteristics, he said, "may be addressed on an individual or combinatorial basis. So, if information of a general nature comes to our attention, we may search the file to synthesize it and condense it to the rather small number of suspects."

In other words, the data bank was supposed to pinpoint potential assassins by the freckles on his cheeks or the moles on his nose.

But insiders tell us the computer operation doesn't work the way he explained it. The entire system is actually based on the premise that persons who write threatening letters, participate in demonstrations, make inflammatory "oral statements" or engage in "subversive" activities are most likely to attempt an assassination.

The names of such persons, as well as names from the FBI's National Crime Information Center, are dumped into the computer. The Secret Service's sophisticated data bank, in other words, is really nothing more than a personnel file of known or suspected nuts, criminals and subversives.

The President and other "protéctees," as the Secret Service calls them, are not only followed but also preceded by their federal bodyguards. The agents comb hotel registries, convention guest lists and similar sources, and then wire the names back to Washington.

All names are checked against

the computerized list. If the machine registers a "hit," the agents locate the potential assassin and initiate surveillance until they are satisfied there is no threat.

The Secret Service computer is also programmed to cough up names of "dangerous" suspects by geographical location. Only about 300 of the 180,000 names listed in the data bank, however, are considered dangerous enough to warrant regular surveillance.

The agency also has its computer set up to keep track of the whereabouts of its "protéctees." At the push of a button, therefore, the Secret Service could have learned that George Wallace was in Laurel, Md., on May 15. Or that Vice President Agnew was in Japan.

Despite reports to the contrary, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., has explicitly ordered his campaign organization to avoid attacks on his Democratic presidential rival, Sen. George McGovern, D-S.D.

Indeed, Humphrey has suggested to his top campaign aides that McGovern might be his choice for vice president, should Humphrey win the Democratic presidential nomination.

The orders to lay off McGovern were given three days prior to published reports that Humphrey's California organization planned a bare-knuckled attack on McGovern's positions on a variety of controversial issues, including abortion, amnesty and aid to parochial schools.

They came in a private memo, dated May 12, from the senator to Jack Chestnut, his campaign manager.

"I must insist," Humphrey wrote, "that you issue strict instructions throughout the campaign organization that there are to be no attacks against George McGovern."

"He and I have been good friends for many years, and I am proud of his success. I helped bring him to Washington and we were next door neighbors."

"Muriel and I are terribly fond of him, Eleanor and their children. I will not let politics get in the way of that."

Humphrey makes clear, however, that he expects McGovern's positions on a number of issues to hurt the South Dakota senator as the public becomes more familiar with them.

"You can be sure that I have read the same materials that you have and that I know one of the reasons George is getting as many votes is that many who vote for him don't know anything about his record or his statements."

"Enough will be written by the press about his earlier statements . . . There is no need for me personally or for us as a campaign to get involved in the attack. . . ."

Humphrey's memo notes that McGovern supported him in 1968. "He's a good man, and I will want his support again at the Miami convention and I will want the support as well of his voters."

"Furthermore," Humphrey says, "there are many people talking to me about him as a vice presidential candidate."