

## Service Not So Secret, Man Finds

Secret Service radio communications can be overheard just like those of police departments, but the agency is careful not to reveal secrets on the air, a spokesman said yesterday.

The presidential protectors have "long been aware of the fact that our frequencies can be monitored," said John W. Warner.

"As a matter of fact," he said, "police departments across the nation recognize that their frequencies can be monitored. Because we know this, the Secret Service is careful as to what it transmits over its frequencies and does not transmit a communication that should be protected in this fashion."

Warner was asked about the problem after a Hartford, Conn., private detective said he had overheard Secret Service communications during President Ford's trip to Hartford where Ford's armor-protected limousine was involved in a collision with another car.

Richard Sulman said he was "troubled and surprised" to find the agency's level of communications sophistication "mundane."

Sulman, a security consultant who specializes in advanced surveillance equipment, said he casually came upon the Secret Service agents' walkie-talkie and mobile unit communications and easily interpreted their messages.

"My hope is that someone at a high level will recognize the breach here and step in and repair it," he said. "I realize that this is a potentially serious flaw in the President's overall protection."

Experts noted, however, that the air waves are open to all those approved by the Federal Communications Commission. It is possible to make certain bands more secure than others, but not to protect them completely from sophisticated monitoring equipment, they said.