

WASHINGTON

Merry-Go-Round

by Jack Anderson



Secret Service vs. the Kennedys

WASHINGTON — The recent kidnap scare against the children of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy nearly precipitated a rebellion within the ranks of the Secret Service. Some 60 agents were flown in from all over the country to cover the Kennedys — a move they regarded as illegal.

Indeed, Secret Service Director Stuart Knight himself recommended against extending protection, but he was overruled by his boss, Treasury Secretary William Simon.

Then the agents learned they were not responding to a "threat" at all. They had been ordered on emergency duty as a result of a third-hand tip from a police informant in the Boston area. The agents were furious.

Covering the Kennedys is a chore the Secret Service largely regards as abhorrent anyway. Much of the ill feeling results from the agency's experience with Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

The law requires the Secret Service to protect the later President Kennedy's children until they turn 16. Thus they are still looking after young John. But Mrs. Onassis is extremely particular about the way the agency does its job. One insider describes her as "persnickety." She doesn't want John to feel oppressed by his protectors, so she demands the agents stay out of sight as much as possible.

Nor does young John himself like the protective details following him around. A few months ago, he slipped out of Jackie's New York apartment, hopped on his bike, and sped into Central Park to play tennis. A drug addict assaulted him and made off with the expensive bike.

Through some extraordinary detective work, the police tracked down the assailant. But Mrs. Onassis refused to prosecute.

Secret Service inspectors were fl...

are thinking of laying down the law to Jackie: Either she lets them do their job the way they want, or her protective detail will be lifted.

Economic Battle Plan: White House sources say President Ford has all but made up his mind on change in economic policy.

The President received a lot of free and conflicting advice at the recent economic summit conference. But in private meetings with his closest advisors, he had little trouble mapping out a battle plan.

First, the President plans to ask for a tax cut to ease the impact of inflation on the poor. He also is seriously considering giving industry some incentives to expand production.

Next, he plans a whopping 10-cent-per-gallon increase in the gasoline tax. Ford plans to use the money for a public jobs program. This will ease the unemployment caused by his continuing tight money policy.

The President also hopes that the increase in gasoline prices will help drive down consumption. This would give him a stronger bargaining position with the oil-rich Arab nations of the Middle East.

The Arabs were unimpressed, our sources say, by Ford's recent sword-rattling. The President obliquely threatened economic sanctions against the oil-producing nations if prices continued to rise.

The Arabs know that they literally have us over the barrel. And they feel confident that the United States will not dare to take action against them.

It all boils down to higher gas prices for consumers, along with higher food prices. Only industry, and the very poor, can hope for some relief from inflation.

Cub...

Pell, D-R.I., and Jacob Javits, R-N.Y., predicted that relations between Cuba and the United States would soon improve. Already, say our sources, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger is quietly guiding the United States toward a detente with Fidel Castro.

The probability that normal relations will be restored with Havana has outraged the million Cubans who fled to this country to escape Castro. Many of them lost their fortunes; others have friends and relatives in Castro's prisons.

For years, the Central Intelligence Agency has trained exiled Cubans to do battle with Dastro. Many more risked their lives on commando raids. Now the government that encouraged them to fight is preparing to befriend the Communist leader.

We have had detailed discussions with Cuban underground leaders. Although they have a tendency to exaggerate, there is no question about their boiling anger. They are threatening to mount a terror campaign inside the United States against the politicians and businessmen who support Castro. These Cuban leaders have told us if they can't fight Castro in Cuba, they will fight him here.

Intelligence analysts are predicting, therefore, that at least a few extremists, in imitation of the Palestinian and Irish rebels, will carry out acts of terror in the United States.

Footnote: Castro's relations with the Soviet Union are not as rosy as the Communist press make them appear. According to reliable sources in the Cuban underground, two Russian sailors were jailed last year for stabbing to death a Cuban youth. The sailors had been selling...

youth's hefty bankroll, killed him for it, and tossed him into the sea. The Soviet sailors were thrown into El Morro prison and are now doing time at the Bacuranao work camp for criminals, near Havana.

Washington Whirl: Some people see Henry Kissinger as a steely Prussian, but in truth he's not above telling a joke on himself. Recently, he told friends that during the Kennedy Administration, he had dinner at the White House with JFK, Robert Kennedy and Secretary of State Dean Rusk. Kissinger was so nervous that when he cut his lamb chop it scooted all the way over to Rusk's plate. That, said Kissinger, was the last time he was invited to the White House for 12 years...At one time, according to our sources in the intelligence community, the CIA had a grisly system for determining the money due its Laotian mercenaries. The agency instructed the troops to verify their claims by chopping off the ears of every enemy killed. The practice was terminated when the CIA realized there was no way to be certain that every pair of ears turned in had once been attached to a Communist head.

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