

EB18

(540) SECRET SERVICE--HISTORY

BY MARTHA COLE

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, NOV. 25 (AP)-THE MANUAL OF THE SECRET SERVICE SAYS MEMBERS "MUST BE READY AND WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR OWN LIVES IF NECESSARY IN PROTECTING THE LIFE OF THE PRESIDENT . . . "

GLIMPSES OF THE HIGHLY SECRET AGENCY OCCURRED IN THE REPORT OF THE WARREN COMMISSION, WHICH PUBLISHED A LETTER FROM SECRET SERVICE CHIEF JAMES J. ROWLEY AND A SMALL PORTION OF THE SECRET SERVICE SCHOOL MANUAL.

ROWLEY SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF AGENTS NOW ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FAMILY IS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IN OCTOBER 1950, 33 SPECIAL AGENTS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL, PLUS TWO DRIVERS.

THE STAFF HAS GROWN FROM THE ORIGINAL DETAIL OF TWO OR THREE AGENTS WHO PROTECTED PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT

ROWLEY SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF AGENTS NOW ASSIGNED TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT AND HIS FAMILY IS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

HOWEVER, HE SAID THAT IN OCTOBER 1950, 33 SPECIAL AGENTS WERE ASSIGNED TO THE WHITE HOUSE DETAIL, PLUS TWO DRIVERS.

THE STAFF HAS GROWN FROM THE ORIGINAL DETAIL OF TWO OR THREE AGENTS WHO PROTECTED PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT IN THE EARLY 1900S TO ABOUT 10 DURING WORLD WAR I TO A KNOWN HIGH OF 37 DURING WORLD WAR II.

THREE AGENTS WERE WITH PRESIDENT WILLIAM MCKINLEY WHEN HE WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1901, ACCORDING TO THE MANUAL. BUT THEY MERELY ACTED AS GUARDS AND WERE NOT ALLOWED CONTROL OF THE CROWD IN SUCH A MANNER THAT THE ATTACK COULD HAVE BEEN PREVENTED, IT SAID.

AFTER MCKINLEY'S DEATH, THE MANUAL SAID, A REGULAR PRESIDENTIAL DETAIL WAS PROVIDED FOR PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT AND "IT HAS CONTINUED TO FULLY GUARD THE SAFETY OF EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE."

EB19

THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY PRINTED ALSO PORTIONS OF A SECRET SERVICE

REPORT ON PAST ATTACKS AND ASSASSINATIONS RELATING TO AMERICAN PRESIDENTS.

THE PORTIONS GIVE THESE GLIMPSES INTO HISTORY:

JOHN ADAMS, THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO LIVE OFFICIALLY IN WASHINGTON, RECEIVED THE USUAL ANNOYING AND THREATENING LETTERS.

THOMAS JEFFERSON, IT IS REPORTED, WALKED TO THE CAPITOL TO TAKE HIS OATH OF OFFICE WITHOUT BEING ACCOMPANIED BY A GUARD OF ANY KIND.

A COURT-MARTIALED ARMY SERGEANT, IT IS REPORTED, WALKED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE AND INFORMED PRESIDENT JOHN QUINCY ADAMS THAT HE COULD HAVE HIS CHOICE OF EITHER BEING ASSASSINATED OR ORDERING THE REINSTATEMENT. ADAMS PAID NO ATTENTION TO THE THREAT AND CONTINUED TO WALK AROUND UNGUARDED. THE SERGEANT LATER SAID IT WAS A JOKE AND ASKED THE PRESIDENT FOR MONEY TO PAY HIS WAY HOME. ADAMS GAVE HIM THE MONEY.

IN 1833, A YOUNG NAVAL LIEUTENANT AT A CORNERSTONE LAYING HIT PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON IN THE FACE WITH HIS FIST AND BYSTANDERS OVERPOWERED THE ATTACKER.

"IT IS A POINT OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST," THE REPORT SAID, "THAT AMONG JACKSON'S MANY THREATENING LETTERS WAS ONE SIGNED IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER OF THE ASSASSIN WHO WAS TO TAKE LINCOLN'S LIFE THREE DECADES LATER. THE LETTER, FROM PHILADELPHIA, SAID: "YOU DAM'D OLD SCOUNDREL IF YOU DON'T SIGN THE PARDON OF YOUR FELLOW MEN, NOW UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH, DE RUIZ (?) AND DE SOTO, I WILL CUT YOUR THROAT WHILST YOU ARE SLEEPING. I WROTE TO YOU REPEATED CAUTIONS, SO LOOK OUT OR DAMN YOU I'LL HAVE YOU BURNT AT THE STAKE IN THE CITY OF WASHINGTON. YOUR MASTER JUNIUS BRUTUS BOOTH."

RELATING THE ACCOUNT OF THE ATTEMPTED ATTACK ON THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT HARRY S. TRUMAN, THE SECRET SERVICE REPORT SAID THAT PVT. LESLIE COFFELT PROVED THAT A DYING MAN CAN MAKE WORDS COME ALIVE. KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY OF PROTECTING THE PRESIDENT, THE REPORT SAID THAT IN HIS DEATH COFFELT UNDERLINED THE KEY WORDS IN THE MANUAL'S COMMAND: "READY, WILLING, TO SACRIFICE, IF NECESSARY."

XZ459ACS