

Cliff

# Nixon Ordered Spy Placed in

By George Lardner Jr.  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Richard M. Nixon ordered the planting of a spy or two in a Secret Service detail assigned to protect Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) during the 1972 campaign, according to White House tape recordings now available at the National Archives. "We just might get lucky and catch this son of a bitch. Ruin him for '76," Nixon said at a meeting in the Oval Office on the evening of Sept. 7, 1972. "It's going to be fun."

Former White House aide Alexander M. Butterfield said in a telephone interview that periodic reports about Kennedy's activities went to White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman, but Butterfield said he did not think anything compromising ever turned up.

"I kept hearing they were batting zero," Butterfield said.

Asked for comment, a Secret Service spokesman took strenuous exception to the thought that Nixon's orders were carried out. "It's our contention that it was not done," said spokesman Arnette Heintze. "We have zero tolerance for any indiscretions by an agent."

Although Kennedy was not a presidential candidate in 1972, Nixon had assigned a Secret Service detail to the senator following the attempted assassination of Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace (D). That was in May. He later told a campaign chronicler that Kennedy probably got more threatening mail than anyone in the country but Nixon himself.

Kennedy kept the detail for three weeks but then notified the Secret Service that he did not need it any more "because of my substantially reduced travel schedule." It was dropped June 5.

"My family and I are very grateful for their services and particularly for your thoughtfulness which made them available," the senator told Nixon in a June 9 note.

Butterfield said he thinks Kennedy

THE WASHINGTON POST

## Sen. Kennedy's Secret

### Service Detail

gave it up "because he suspected he was being watched." Asked for comment, the senator expressed no such apprehensions.

"Senator Kennedy has always had the highest regard for the Secret Service and has full confidence they would not compromise their professionalism," a spokesperson said on the senator's behalf. "He has only great appreciation and deep respect for the agents who have been assigned to him over the years."

After the protection was lifted, Kennedy's mother, Rose, kept worrying

## '71 Tapes Show President Wanting 'More' Wiretapping Against Foes

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 7—Thirteen months before the Watergate break-in, President Richard M. Nixon directed his top aide to expand an intelligence-gathering effort against leading Democrats, including "more use of wiretapping," the San Francisco Examiner reported today, quoting recently released tape recordings.

"Keep after 'em," Nixon told White House Chief of Staff H.R. Haldeman in an Oval Office conversation on May 28, 1971. "Maybe we can get a scandal on any, any of the leading Democrats."

The conversation was among more than 200 hours of White House tapes of the Nixon presidency now available at the National Archives.

In "The Haldeman Diaries," Haldeman's published account of his years in the Nixon White House, the former chief of staff recalls a conversation on May 28, 1971, in which Nixon thought "we should put permanent tails and coverage" on Democratic rivals Edward M. Kennedy, Edmund S. Muskie and Hubert H. Humphrey to dig up information on their families and finances.

The audio tapes show that Haldeman's memoirs do not include the rest of that conversation, in which he tells Nixon that somebody already had been hired to tail the targeted Democrats.

"I don't know. Maybe it's the wrong thing to do," Nixon responds on the tapes, "but I have a feeling if you're gonna start, you got to start now."

and at some point, Nixon has said, she called him up to express her concerns. The senator was preparing to campaign that fall for Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern (D-S.D.).

Nixon first raised the subject of reassigning the Secret Service detail Sept. 7 at a morning meeting with Haldeman and White House domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman. Nixon said he wanted Kennedy covered "on the basis that we pick the Secret Service men . . . and not that son of a bitch Rowley." The director of the Secret Service at the time was James J. Rowley.

The president wanted to know if there was "anyone [in the Secret Service] we can rely upon."

"Yeah, yeah," Ehrlichman replied. "We got several."

"Plant one, plant two guys on him," Nixon said. "This would be very useful."

At that point, there is a 22-second deletion on the tape, possibly because some other individuals' names were discussed. The only reason given in the archives index for the deletion is "agency policy." When the recording picks up again, Haldeman is saying that the detail should be ordered "that they are never, at any hour of the day or night, to let him [Kennedy] out of their sight."

"Right," Nixon said. "Protecting a

candidate requires total coverage. . . . That's it. That's the way to do it."

Haldeman said he'd have "Alex" handle the matter, referring to Butterfield, the designated liaison with the Secret Service. "Alex will understand the details," Haldeman said.

By evening, according to the tapes, the arrangements had been made. Nixon was meeting with Haldeman when Butterfield walked in.

"Have you assigned a man to him?" the president asked.

"Yes, it's all taken care of, sir," Butterfield assured him. After a 30-second deletion because of "agency policy," Butterfield is speaking of the entire detail: "It'll be a full force . . . 40 men . . . a big detail," he said.

"Right, one that can cover him around the clock, every place he goes," Nixon said, touching off a round of laughter. Seconds later, Haldeman brings up the name of one of Kennedy's reputed girlfriends at the time, Amanda Burden. "She's fine," Butterfield said.

The president said he wanted it made "damn clear" that Kennedy requested the coverage "because of threats." In anticipatory tones, Nixon then spoke of getting lucky and ruining Kennedy for '76.

"He doesn't know what he's really getting into," Nixon said. "We're going to cover him, and we're not going to



FILE PHOTO/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nearly two years after Watergate break-in, President Nixon announces he'll surrender tape transcripts to Congress.

take no for an answer. He can't say no to the Secret Service."

Nixon's memoirs show he regarded Kennedy as "the most formidable Democratic nominee" he could have faced in 1972. They also suggest that Nixon was determined to do what he could to keep Kennedy from taking over the Democratic Party after McGovern's almost certain loss in November. Following a conversation on Sept. 22, 1972, with former Texas governor John Connally, the head of Democrats for Nixon, Nixon wrote:

"I told Connally . . . it is vitally important that Teddy Kennedy not pick up the pieces after this election. It is important that people like John Connally pick them up because the country simply can't afford to have the likes of Kennedy and McGovern as even possible presidents in the years ahead."

Contacted in California where he is writing a book, Butterfield acknowledged he was in the Oval Office at the time the records show, but does not recall "being in on any plan to spy on Teddy Kennedy" at the outset. "But I do remember hearing there was such a plan, and I do remember hearing about it after it was implemented,"

Butterfield said. "It was bandied about the office to some degree."

The Secret Service resumed round-the-clock protection of Kennedy on Sept. 8, 1972, and kept it up until Nov. 8, the day after Nixon's landslide victory over McGovern.

On the afternoon of Sept. 8, Haldeman's secretary typed out a note saying Butterfield "needs to see you as soon as possible regarding Senator Kennedy" with the last three words underlined. Beneath that, Haldeman wrote:

"Newbrand—48 hours. detail picked up this aft. lvs 3:30 on 5-day trip & pick up piece-meal. Clint Hill—know [sic] what will happen. Geo Dalton—K's pers aide."

Clint Hill, the Secret Service agent who jumped onto the back of President John F. Kennedy's limousine when Kennedy was killed in Dallas in 1963 and who long blamed himself for not having taken the third shot, was assistant director in charge of all protective details in 1972. Dalton was Kennedy's aide at his residence in McLean and the man who would have served as a Secret Service contact there.

Newbrand was probably the late Robert Newbrand, then a retired Secret Service agent who had worked in

Nixon's detail when Nixon was vice president and who was what Butterfield called "sort of a utility man" who worked out of Haldeman's office, "always doing some odd job or other." Asked if Newbrand might have been a conduit for reports from the Secret Service detail on Kennedy's activities, Butterfield declined to comment.

Haldeman's phone records show he talked to "Bob Newbrand" in Miami at 3:15 p.m. on Sept. 8, 1972. Asked about Haldeman's handwritten note, Secret Service spokesman Heintze said: "This specific note means nothing to me. I don't think it provides any insight into anything. . . . I would take exception to anybody's questioning our integrity."

Unaware of any spy scheme, Rose Kennedy was just happy to see her son being guarded again. "Dear Mr. President," she wrote Nixon on Sept. 9, 1972, "I am relieved to hear from my son, Ted, that he will again have Secret Service protection. I realize this privilege was made possible by your own personal direction, and I want to extend to you my deep-felt appreciation and gratitude."

Special correspondent Gerri Marmar contributed to this report.