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Security for Susan Ford

By Maxine Cheshire

Vice President Gerald Ford's 16-year-old daughter, Susan, now considered a possible "Patty Hearst type target" by the Secret Service, has been assigned security protection.

The assignment of agents to guard her around-the-clock was confirmed by the Secret Service this week.

President Nixon signed the authorization, quietly inserted in a supplemental appropriations bill, into law June 8.

The Secret Service is now legally authorized to provide for any or all members of the Vice President's family. But Miss Ford, a student at Holton Arms, is the only one getting it currently.

The other Ford children are Mike, 24, Jack, 22, and Steve, 18.

There has been considerable anxiety about Miss Ford's safety recently among members of the Vice President's staff. For awhile, she drove herself from her home in Virginia to her school in Maryland every day on the Beltway.

Secret Service agents, concerned that she might be forced off the road, gave her instructions in driving techniques for eluding would-be pursuers.

Although the Secret Service is reluctant to discuss it, there is another factor in their decision to provide protection to the Vice President's daughter.

There has been a rapist operating in the Fords' neighborhood for the past year. Victims have included women living only a few doors from the Ford house.

Capt. Norman E. Grimm of the Alexandria Police, who have been investigating the attacks since July, 1973, said this week that they have so far turned up no suspects. There have been organized protests and pressure from various citizens groups in the community.

"We are aware of this situation," a Secret Service spokesman says. "It was a factor in our decision to provide protection to Miss Ford, but only one factor."

A Supreme Lottery

The Supreme Court—besieged by lawyers who want to be present for the history-making hearings on executive privilege on July 8—has found it necessary to award the available seats by lottery.

Attorneys requesting admittance are being asked to submit their requests in writing. There will be a drawing next Thursday from among those applicants of the Supreme Court Bar to determine who gets in.

The courtroom holds only about 250 persons, and some of that space will be allotted to the media, also requesting admission in record numbers.

Only five times in history has there been such an emergency summer hearing and those occasions, too, were moments of national crisis.