

Elaborate Security for Kennedy

Dallas

11/23/63

Tragedy struck in Dallas yesterday despite extensive and painstaking precautions made by President Kennedy's Secret Service protectors.

Agents had checked minutely into all aspects of Mr. Kennedy's Dallas visit—the food he would eat, the flowers he would sniff, the roads he would travel, the buildings he would enter.

The Secret Service men had made a strong impression on local law enforcement officers as they went about their task.

RELUCTANCE

The Secret Service was reluctant to permit the President to speak in the Trade Mart, which had tiers of balconies around its main court.

The Secret Service finally agreed to let the local sponsors have their way but only after intensive investigation.

A list of known agitators in Dallas — anyone who might conceivably stir up trouble—was obtained. The Secret Service men made themselves familiar with these people and their patterns of behavior.

The motorcade route was thoroughly checked out. Trouble spots—where traffic or crowd situations might get out of line — were carefully noted.

All employees of the Trade Mart were given a once-over, along with those in the greeting area at Dallas' Love Field.

ROSES

The 5000 yellow roses flown in for the luncheon were checked to ensure no bombs or damaging material was included.

An order was issued that the President would receive the same steak as the 2500 guests. And his would be selected at random. Only by poisoning the entire crowd could anyone succeed in poisoning the President.

All this planning and checking was done well in advance of Mr. Kennedy's arrival. The mechanics of guarding him in Dallas were the job of 350 uniformed officers of the Dallas Police Department, the Sheriff's office, and the Department of Public Safety.

Associated Press

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