

Secret Service

Quick Action on Candidates' Safety

Washington

Congress yesterday approved, and President Johnson signed into law, legislation to put Secret Service guards around major contenders for the Presidency.

The measure would cover major contenders for their parties' nominations for the Presidency and the ultimate tickets selected.

The Senate Appropriations Committee made it clear that Alabama Governor George Wallace, seeking the presidency as a third party candidate, would be included.

CONTENDERS

Mr. Johnson, who sought the legislation hours after Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot Wednesday morning in Los Angeles, already has extended protection to all of the contenders for the Democratic and Republican nominations, including Harold Stassen, who seeks the Republican presidential nomination. All have accepted.

Under the legislation, the Treasury Secretary, after consultation with a biparti-

san Congressional advisory committee established by the measure, would decide who qualifies for protection. A candidate could decline protection if he chose to.

The legislation legalized Mr. Johnson's action in sending Secret Service agents to current contender and provided \$400,000 to finance protection of candidates through June 30. Next week, a bill was expected to be passed providing \$2 million for the next fiscal year.

AGENTS

Senator A. S. Mike Monroney (Dem-Okla.) told the Senate that while the Secret Service might not have been able to prevent Robert Kennedy's death, "there was a great chance that his security would have been enormously increased."

There are now 575 trained Secret Service agents on the payroll of the Treasury Department. Besides protecting the President and Vice President, they are assigned to enfeiting and forgery of Government checks and bonds.

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