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Secret Service Director Says Files May Include Protesters

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WASHINGTON, March 13, (AP)—Leaders of political demonstrations may be included in files kept on 47,000 persons who are considered potential threats to the President and other high-ranking officials, the director of the Secret Service said today.

However, David R. MacDonald, head of the service and an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, assured members of a House Government Operations subcommittee that Secret Service files "are not created to list political dissidents nor are political dissidents included in it simply because they are political dissidents."

Only "people who come to our attention as a result of some disruptive activity" are included in the so-called protective intelligence files, assistant director Thomas J. Kelley added.

Asked by Representative Bella S. Abzug, Democrat of Manhattan, if Quakers who had practiced civil disobedience in protests against the Vietnam war would be included in the files, Mr. Kelley replied that "the leaders of that demonstration might well be on the list."

According to Mrs. Abzug, the subcommittee staff submitted a list of 20 randomly selected "household names" associated with the antiwar movement and found that the Secret Service maintained files on each of them.

Mr. MacDonald said that only 300 of the 47,000 persons were kept under surveillance as active threats to the safety of the President. The remainder, he said, are considered to be capable of interfering with the normal functions of the President's office.

In addition to the President and his family, the Secret Service protects the Vice President, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, major political candidates and visiting heads of state.

In another development today, the Federal Bureau of Investigation acknowledged that it had wiretapped five conversations involving members of a national antiwar group on orders from a President.

The F.B.I. also said that agents had wiretapped conversations involving a Philadelphia black activist, inspected a black student organization's bank records, and searched through the group's discarded mail.

The disclosures were discovered in a review of documents filed by the Justice Department in United States District Court in Philadelphia. The court has required the department to answer questions raised by the individuals and organizations in their suit alleging Government harassment.

In the documents filed Feb. 27, the bureau acknowledged that it eavesdropped on five conversations involving members of the War Resisters League "during the course of national security electronic surveillance authorized by the President" to gather foreign intelligence information.

The department declined to identify the President or to list the dates and targets of the wiretaps.

The league members were not the wiretap targets and their conversations "were incidentally overheard," the Government said. "Such electronic surveillances were and are lawful," it added.