

EA63WX

MRS. KENNEDY-SECRET SERVICE 160

WASHINGTON, MARCH 13 (AP)-REP. TOM STEED SAID TODAY HE FAVORS CONTINUING SECRET SERVICE PROTECTION FOR MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY IN THE WAKE OF CONTROVERSIES SURROUNDING THE LATE PRESIDENT'S FAMILY.

STEED, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE THAT CONSIDERS THE SECRET SERVICE BUDGET, NOTED MRS. KENNEDY IS SLATED IN NOVEMBER TO LOSE THE PROTECTION OF TWO AGENTS ASSIGNED TO HER SINCE HER HUSBAND'S ASSASSINATION IN NOVEMBER 1963.

THE OKLAHOMA DEMOCRAT SAID MRS. KENNEDY HAS BEEN INVOLVED RECENTLY IN CONTROVERSY GENERATED BY WILLIAM MANCHESTER'S BOOK ABOUT THE ASSASSINATION AND THE INVESTIGATION IN NEW ORLEANS OF AN ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO KILL KENNEDY.

"ANY TIME YOU KEEP THE SPOTLIGHT ON PEOPLE LIKE THIS, YOU INVITE CRACKPOT MOLESTATION," STEED SAID IN AN INTERVIEW. "MRS. KENNEDY IS THE WIDOW OF A PRESIDENT...AND UNFORTUNATELY, THIS COUNTRY HAS CRACKPOTS. SHE IS ENTITLED TO PROTECTION."

STEED SAID HIS SUBCOMMITTEE APPEARS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF PROVIDING THE \$25,000 A YEAR NEEDED TO KEEP THE AGENTS GUARDING MRS. KENNEDY. HE SAID HE ISN'T SURE, HOWEVER, WHETHER THE MONEY SIMPLY CAN BE APPROPRIATED OR WHETHER CONGRESS WOULD HAVE TO ENACT NEW LEGISLATION.

CZ518AES

EA64;