

Kin of RFK Protected After Threat

RFK (A)

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The Secret Service protected some of the children of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for one week this month as the result of threats made in the Boston area to kidnap one of them.

Treasury Department spokesmen said the protection squads, authorized by President Ford, began Sept. 13 for the three of Kennedy's 11 children and one nephew who are working or attending schools in the Boston area.

"It wasn't clear which of the kids was the target," said Treasury Under Secretary Edward Schults. The temporary protection ended on Sept. 20 and there are no plans for further action other than a continuing investigation of the threat, according to a Secret Service spokesman.

Published reports circulated yesterday that the children of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) were the targets of threats on Sunday, the day before he announced he would not seek the presidency in 1976, but both Schults and a spokesman for the senator said there were no threats Sunday.

"A lot of people are getting this badly garbled," Schults said.

Richard Drayne, Sen. Kennedy's press spokesman, said Kennedy's office was notified Sept. 12 "by the FBI of Boston that they had information there was a proposed conspiracy to kidnap one of the children in the Kennedy family."

Other sources said the threat was overheard by someone who then reported it to the FBI in Boston. The FBI refused to comment on any aspect of the case.

Drayne also flatly denied reports that the threats contributed to Sen. Kennedy's decision to remove himself from the presidential race in 1976.

"The senator made that de-

cision over Labor Day (Sept. 2)," Drayne said, two weeks before the FBI learned of the threats. Schults said the senator's three children were not among those guarded by the Secret Service.

Protection was extended to Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., 20, and David Anthony Kennedy, 19, both students at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., and to Mary Courtney Kennedy, 18, a teaching intern at Park School near Boston.

During the week that the protection was in effect spokesman for the schools confirmed that they were working with the Robert Kennedy family to make the security measures as unobtrusive as possible so that the young persons "could be able to live a normal life," as one of them put it.

It was the first time the children of Robert and Ethel Kennedy have had Secret Service protection since Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, according to the Secret Service.

The only Kennedy child normally receiving Secret Service protection is John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the late president. His sister Caroline stopped receiving the coverage when she reached the age of 16.

Sen. Kennedy has three children: Kara, 14, Edward M. Kennedy Jr., who was 13 yesterday, and Patrick Joseph, 7. Edward Jr.'s fight against bone cancer was among the family responsibilities the senator cited is his decision not to seek the Presidency.

Sen. Kennedy received Secret Service protection after George Wallace was gunned down in a Maryland shopping center during the 1972 presidential campaign, but has not had it since, the Secret Service said.

The 11 Robert Kennedy children, seven boys and four girls, range in age from 5 to 24 and are scattered among five schools and two jobs in five states.

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