

CRITIC OF JOHNSON REPORTS INQUIRY

Secret Service Questioned
Him, T.V.A. Aide Says

son, Secret Service public information officer in Washington.

Mr. Ferriss said that in answer to the agent's questions, he stated that he was not a member of the John Birch Society and that he had never called Mr. Johnson a Communist.

CHATTANOOGA, Dec. 27 (UPI)—An employe of the Tennessee Valley Authority said today that a Secret Service agent recently interrogated him because of a report that he had made "strong statements" concerning President Johnson.

C. Jack Ferriss Jr., the employe, said he recalled describing President Johnson to someone as "tyrannical, dictatorial, domineering and overbearing.

He said the interrogation lasted about an hour Dec. 6 in the late evening. The Secret Service office in Nashville confirmed that Mr. Ferriss had been spoken to but declined any comment.

Mr. Ferriss is an honorably discharged Air Force veteran, and at one time was cleared for security to work on the hydrogen bomb.

Mr. Ferriss, who said he did not belong to a political party, added that he could not recall having made some of the statements attributed to him.

Referring to the interrogation, Mr. Ferriss said: "Is this the sort of intimidation that a private citizen should have to put up with? Must we fear knocks on our doors late at night?"

Mr. Ferriss recalled that the agent had refused to divulge any information about the person who had involved him, saying "our informer did not report that you threatened the President, but only that you made strong remarks and accusations against him."

Mr. Ferriss quoted the agent as saying also, "If our informer had reported that you had threatened the President, I would have to arrest you now."

Questioned on Birch Link

CHATTANOOGA, Dec. 27 (AP)—Mr. Ferriss said the Secret Service agent had asked whether he had called the President a Communist. Mr. Ferriss also said he had been asked whether he was a member of the John Birch Society.

Paul Doster, of Nashville, a Secret Service agent, said Mr. Ferriss "was contacted by us regarding certain remarks he made, or, to put it another way, for certain remarks allegedly attributed to him."

"So far as we were concerned, the case was closed."

He said further comment must be made by Burrill Peter-