



F Post
9/30/74



Washington Merry-Go-Round by JACK ANDERSON

WASHINGTON — The public has yet to learn the full story behind the kidnaping scare that brought more than 60 Secret Service agents racing from all points of the country two weeks ago to protect the late Sen. Robert Kennedy's children. Here are the exclusive details:

The Secret Service's duties are strictly defined by law and do not include guarding the progeny of deceased Senators.

Yet for one full week, on orders from the White House, the agents provided emergency, round-the-clock protection for the Kennedy kids. Before the affair was over, the bodyguard service was also extended to a nephew, Christopher Lawford, son of actor Peter Lawford and Patricia Kennedy.

One agent, standing watch outside a Harvard University blowout attended by one of the Kennedy boys, even suffered the indignity of having to duck a urinary sprinkle. A raucous party raged inside, and one of the partygoers urinated out the window.

The same agent later stood by in astonishment as local police descended upon the scene and barged past him into the building to quiet the reveling students.

The kidnaping threat, based upon a third-hand tip from a police informant in the Boston area, turned out to be bogus. By conservative estimate, the false alarm cost the taxpayers about \$126,000.

The bizarre affair began on unlucky Friday, September 13. Some shady characters, according to the tip, had been talking about kidnaping David and Robert Kennedy, Jr., both of whom attend Harvard.

The information was relayed to the FBI, which immediately launched an investigation. Meanwhile, Ethel Kennedy, the anxious mother, was alerted. Her first thought, of course, was to protect her children. She knew from experience that the Secret Service has the world's best bodyguards, so she made an urgent request for federal protection.

Secret Service Director Stuart Knight, knowing he had no authority to protect the Kennedy children, agonized with his associates over the request. He personally drove out to the Kennedy estate in McLean, Va.,

to explain to Ethel how his hands were tied.

But he was overruled by his boss, Treasury Secretary William Simon, who took up the kidnaping threat with the White House. Back came word from presidential counselor Phil Buchen: protect the Kennedy kids.

Simon ordered the Secret Service into action on Saturday, September 14. Then he phoned Ethel Kennedy to reassure her.

My associate Joe Spear spoke with Simon, who said he had frequently been threatened with physical harm and, therefore, had "empathy for people in public life." Considering the suffering the Kennedy family has been through, he said, "this was one of the easier decisions I have ever made."

Word was received on Wednesday, September 18, that the supposed kidnapers really had their eye on Ethel Kennedy's nephew, Christopher Lawford, who attends Tufts University in Medford, Mass. So a protective detail was dispatched to cover the Lawford boy.

The intensive FBI investigation, meanwhile, turned up no substantial leads. So about 4:30 p.m. on Friday, September 20, the Secret Service protection was lifted.

Watergate Tactics: — A holdover from ex-President Nixon's infamous "Attack Group" is using Watergate

tactics to destroy a white civil servant who has sought to help the most downtrodden ghetto blacks.

The holdover is Edward Failor, now in charge of the Commerce Department's statistics, who controls a \$100-million operation and 7,000 employees.

This was his reward for undeviating loyalty to the "Attack Group," headed by convicted White House aide Charles Colson. The group's purpose was to discredit 1972 Democratic presidential candidate George McGovern by unscrupulous but legal means.

Failor was first installed in a federal mine safety job which, according to the General Accounting Office, he fouled up. He was quietly moved over to the Commerce Department over the objections of professionals who considered him totally unqualified.

Internal memos show he is now using salami-style tactics to cut up a Census Bureau official, John Casserly, who has been seeking ways to get 1.8 million "missing Americans" to take part in the 1980 census.

These are the most depressed ghetto blacks who were not counted in 1970. Because they

represent 7.7 per cent of all blacks, the entire black community lost millions in federal and state aid based on census statistics.

The memos show that Casserly took steps to get these "missing Americans" on the census rolls. For his efforts, he was summoned before Failor and was told his proposal was "stupid."

His voice rising, Failor said the proposal was a "huge mistake" and demanded to know whether Casserly had "any problems."

"I have no problems," replied Casserly.

"You may well have in the future," shot back Failor.

This turned out to be prophetic. Failor and his census chief, Vincent Barabba, a Nixon campaign pollster in 1972, began giving Casserly a bad time. His staff was slashed, and he came under sudden investigation.

FOOTNOTE: Failor conceded he called the Casserly proposal "stupid," but only because it was full of false statements. He admitted Casserly is in trouble because of his proposal, but said this is purely because it shows "bad judgment." Both Failor and Barabba defended their policies toward the blacks.—United Feature Syndicate