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Cost of 'Guarding' JFK at Races

Boston

A visit by President John F. Kennedy and his family to the America's Cup yacht race in Newport, R.I., in 1962 cost the government \$600,000, a General Services Administration official said yesterday.

Albert A. Gamal, Jr., GSA regional administrator, said he was told by an official at the Newport Naval Base that the money was spent "for those couple days on security, the refurbishing; getting ready for the President.

"I see nothing wrong with that. We've only got one President and it seems to me that this is a pitifully small amount to spend to protect him and his family,"

Gamal said in an interview.

Gamal also said more than \$1 million was spent on "two very beautiful homes called the Kennedy compound" at Otis Air Force Base on Cape Cod where the late President landed when he visited the family home in nearby Hyannisport.

Gamal said most of the money was spent on communications equipment "just for a few minutes that the President might be there, because he had to be in contact."

The issue of spending for presidential security has become a matter of national interest following reports of government spending for so-called security improvements at President Nixon's homes in Florida and California. *United Press*