

Secret Service And Dissidents

Washington

Leaders of political demonstrations may be included in files kept on about 47,000 persons considered a potential threat to the President and other high-ranking officials, the director of the Secret Service said yesterday.

However, David R. MacDonald, head of the service and an assistant secretary of the Treasury, assured members of a House government operations subcommittee that Secret Service files "are not created to list political dissidents nor are political dissidents included in it simply because they are political dissidents."

Only "people who come to our attention as a result of some disruptive activity" are included in the so-called protective intelligence files, assistant director Thomas J. Kelley added.

Asked by subcommittee chairman Bella Abzug (Dem-N.Y.) whether Quakers who had practiced civil disobedience in protest against the Vietnam war would be included in the files, Kelley replied, "The leaders of that demonstration might well be on the list."

According to Mrs. Abzug, the subcommittee staff had

submitted a list of 20 randomly selected "household names" associated with the anti-war movement and found that the Secret Service maintained files on each of them.

"Your criteria are loose and I think quite harmful to constitutional privacy rights," she told MacDonald.

MacDonald said only 300 of the 47,000 persons are kept under surveillance as active threats to the safety of the President. The remainder, he said, are considered to be capable of interfering with the normal functions of the President's office.

Other than the 300 thought to be active threats, MacDonald said that the only effect of being on the list is that "the individual will be screened from gatherings in which the President intends to be."

Testimony showed that the files contain information obtained from police, hospital, employment and educational records as well as from interviews with friends and relatives.

Most of the 47,000 also are questioned by Secret Service agents, Kelley said.

Associated Press

Longer story, NYT same date, filed Surv.