

Security Policy At White House

Washington

The man who crashed his car through a wrought-iron gate in front of the White House yesterday morning was the second intruder this year into that enclave, but Secret Service officials maintained yesterday that security is adequate.

"In effect, we are protecting an empty house, and we have a different policy when the President is gone," George Cospers, a Secret Service spokesman, told reporters in front of the White House.

"Had the President or any of his family been here, we would have taken more authoritative action," he said. But since President Ford and his family were vacationing in Vail, Colorado, and it was Christmas morning, he added, "We wanted to be as compassionate as we could be."

Another Secret Service official noted that in yesterday's incident and in the one last February 17, when a soldier landed a stolen Army helicopter in a hail of buckshot on the south lawn of the

White House at 2 o'clock on a Sunday morning, neither intruder penetrated the White House itself.

At the time of the February incident former President Nixon and his family were in Florida.

But the soldier had flown the helicopter near the White House grounds before he actually landed and had thus alerted the Secret Service and the Executive Protective Service who guard the White House and who were waiting for him.

Yesterday's incident apparently happened without warning.

One Secret Service official said that when intruders enter the White House grounds "total security is not breached."

The official declined to give details, such as the number of guards on duty when the incident happened, but he noted that there are "sophisticated communications and alert systems," as well as what he called "secondary perimeters of security" within the White House



AP Wirephoto

As the intruder talked with police, a White House aide watched from a window

grounds.

Another man, Doyle Allen Hicks, a plumber from Waynesville, N.C., rammed his way through a White House gate on Sept. 27, 1963, when John F. Kennedy was President.

Shouting, "I just have to see President Kennedy," the driver was halted about 25 feet from the White House door.

Mr. Kennedy was not there.

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