



ON CEREMONIAL DUTY: White House policemen participating in the welcome to Prime Minister Wilson of Britain, and wearing the new uniforms ordered by the President. United Press International

White House Police Don Dazzling New Uniforms

By NAN ROBERTSON JAN 28 1970
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27 — The Presidential police force sheepishly saluted Prime Minister Wilson of Britain in dazzling new opera-tta-like uniforms ordered by President Nixon and designed by a Washington tailor, Jimmie Muscatello, and the Secret Service.

The total look includes double-breasted white tunics trimmed with gold braid and gold buttons and stiff plastic shakos decorated with the White House crest. The headgear vividly resembles that worn by American drum majors and West German traffic policemen. The next boldest silhouette is the black-holstered pistol hung from a black belt.

White House spokesmen said the uniforms, to be worn only on ceremonial occasions, had been inspired by President Nixon's exposure

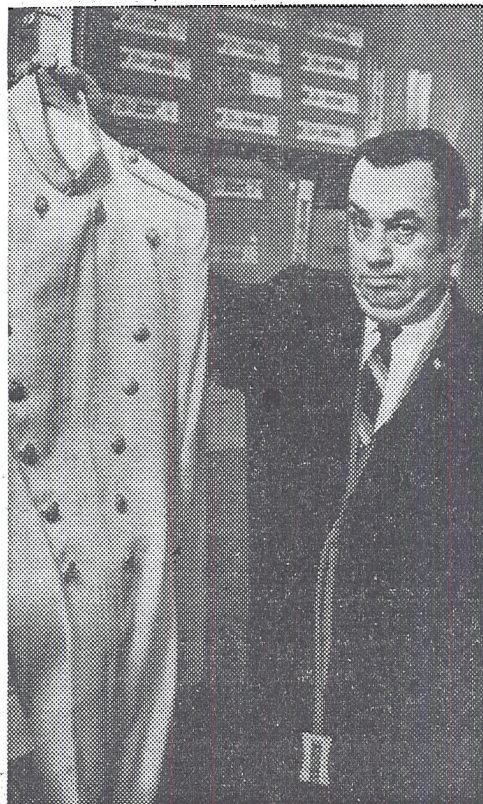
to foreign police dress during his European tour last winter. West Germany was one of the countries visited.

But Mr. Muscatello, whose downtown emporium bears the legend "Pants cuffed free while you wait" on the window, indicated strongly that the original idea was his. Besides, he said, "I've never been to Europe—I'm just a country fella" — from the coalfields of Gary, W. Va., "and proud of it." He has been a tailor in Washington since 1945.

Last summer, thinking to "make something fancy" for the White House gendarmes, he thumbed through books on uniforms and designed a bright red model with "double-breasted coat overlap."

"I took it to the man in charge of police there," Mr.

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From "The White House and Its 33 Families"

WORKADAY uniforms worn by White House policemen in Theodore Roosevelt's

SPECIAL uniform for ceremonious occasions shown by Jimmie Muscatello, tailor.

White House Police Don Dazzling New Uniforms

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4 all over the city.

Muscatello said, "And he looked at me real funny. But I made up a sample anyway and took it back up there to the White House."

After several meetings with the Secret Service, during which the red was rejected as too flamboyant, he got the order for 150 uniforms. Neither he nor the White House would say how much they cost.

The belted white tunic, which bears the Presidential seal on the buckle and one sleeve, is worn with the policeman's everyday black

trousers, which have a gold stripe down each leg.

When ceremonies are over, such as today's welcome to Prime Minister Wilson on the south lawn, the police don their modern black jackets and visored caps.

This morning, the White House guardians displayed nervousness mixed with a hint of pride as they sidled over to observers and muttered: "What do you think of it?"

Discussing the Shako later, Mr. Muscatello snickered and said: "I guess you thought it was funny looking. You bet-

ter go up and talk to those fellas that's wearing them."

Today's fashion parade was something of a historical breakthrough. James Ketchum, the White House curator, said research indicates that the mansion's policemen, at least back to Abraham Lincoln's Administration, have always worn contemporary uniforms like those of the Washington police force and police in other American cities.

Mr. Muscatello commented that maybe the officers' new clothes would make life "more interesting for them" and "help law enforcement