

'Automatic Weapon'

Washington

The Secret Service admitted yesterday that an automatic weapon was fired at a stolen Army helicopter when it approached the White House last weekend.

After the bizarre weekend flight by an Army mechanic early Sunday, authorities reported that shotgun fire

greeted the craft when it approached the White House.

Photographs taken later showed the UH-1B helicopter was riddled with bullet holes in a pattern unlike that which would be left by shotgun fire.

He would not give other details, but Secret Service agents assigned to the pro-

tection of President Nixon are known to be trained in the use of submachine guns. Such weapons are known to be carried by the agents during presidential motorcades and other public appearances.

Meanwhile, a White House spokesman said he expects government security agencies to 're-evaluate their

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Fired at Helicopter

procedures" in the wake of the incident.

Press secretary Ronald Ziegler declined to be specific. Nor would he relay President Nixon's views on the matter. Mr. Nixon was at Key Biscayne, Fla., when the helicopter escapade occurred.

Private First Class Robert

K. Preston, a helicopter mechanic identified by authorities as the man who stole the copter at nearby Ft. Meade, Md., and was superficially wounded in the wild finale at the White House, remained at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for continued psychiatric evaluation.

Associated Press