

# Kennedy Among Those Who'll Receive Protection

## Washington

About ten declared presidential hopefuls and prominent non-candidate Edward M. Kennedy will be eligible for around-the-clock Secret Service protection beginning March 20, a bipartisan congressional committee decreed yesterday.

The committee, charged by law with determining which candidates should get bodyguards prior to the nominating conventions, devised a formula to allow the findings of pollsters Louis Harris and George Gallup make the final decision.

The formula provides that any announced candidate who is the preference of at least 5 per cent of those surveyed in either poll is entitled to protection. Anyone who received 20 per cent would also be eligible, even if they had not declared their candidacy.

## KENNEDY

A spokesman for the five-member commission — the leaders of the House and Senate and one public member — indicated polls taken closest to March 20 would be used in the final decisions, which would be made by Treasury Secretary John B. Connally.

Senator Kennedy seemed

assured of eligibility on the basis of his 27 per cent showing in a January 16 Gallup poll. Only Senator Edmund S. Muskie's 32 per cent topped Kennedy in that poll, despite the Massachusetts lawmaker's repeated assertions that he will not be a candidate.

Anyone could reject protection offered under the bill which was approved in June, 1968, almost immediately after the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, in Los Angeles after his victory in the California presidential primary.

Kennedy was not available for immediate comment, but his aides indicated he likely would accept protection. They said he planned to campaign extensively for Democratic candidates this year and his family was concerned about his safety in light of the murders of his brothers.

## PROTECTION

Based on the latest polls, Democrats who will be offered protection include Senators Muskie, Kennedy, Hubert H. Humphrey, George S. McGovern, and Henry M. Jackson, former Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, Mayor John V. Lindsay of New York and Alabama Governor George Wallace.

President Nixon already is guarded by the Secret Service, of course. Of his two announced GOP challengers, Representative Paul N. McCloskey of California would appear eligible based on his 13 per cent showing in the Gallup Poll in September.

Representative John M. Ashbrook of Ohio, the other GOP candidate, entered the race only recently and his name has not shown up yet in any polls.

## SHOWING

Announced Democrats Representatives Shirley A. Chisholm (Dem-N.Y.) and Patsy T. Mink (Dem-Hawaii), Senator Vance Hartke (Dem-Ind.) and Mayor Sam Yorty would not be eligible unless they improve their showing in the polls in the next couple of months.

With so many candidates, congressional testimony has indicated that protection costs could run as high as \$20 million. The Secret Service spent \$5.45 million in 1968 protecting candidates prior to the conventions and the Treasury Department, which administers the Secret Service, asked to hire 526 new agents this year, but Congress cut the figure to 360 new men.

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