

CANDIDATES GET U.S. PROTECTION

Johnson Assigns Agents to Presidential Aspirants

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WASHINGTON, June 5—President Johnson placed all announced major Presidential candidates and their immediate families under the full-time protection of Federal law enforcement agencies.

The President acted in the predawn hours after learning of the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles. He telephoned the order to James J. Rowley, chief of the Secret Service.

Mr. Johnson's action set in motion the Federal Government's security and protection machinery. This includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue and Customs Service, with which the Secret Service maintains cooperative arrangements, as well as the state and municipal police.

The White House announced at 1 P.M. that six announced candidates had been assigned special Secret Service details. The seventh announced candidate, Vice President Humphrey, was already protected by virtue of his office.

Those gaining protection were Gov. Rockefeller of New York, former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, former Gov. Harold S. Stassen of Minnesota, Republican; Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota

and Senator Kennedy, Democrats, and former Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, an independent.

Gov. Ronald Reagan of California, a Republican, apparently was not qualified for the Secret Service protection as a "favorite son" candidate.

The White House press secretary, George Christian, said his understanding was that the new security arrangements applied only to "announced Presidential candidates," and Mr. Reagan has not announced.

While there appeared to be no intention of inflicting protection on candidates unwilling to have it, all of the avowed candidates had accepted it at the time of the White House announcement, at least for the immediate future.

The possibility that some candidates might later find that the security screen cramped their campaigning styles and might dispense with it is anticipated in the new authorizing legislation that was approved by the Senate Appropriations group soon after the White House announcement.

Figures on the number of agents assigned to each of the candidates was a closely held secret. But observers suggested that an eight-man detail working in eight-hour shifts would not be excessive.

Whatever the number, it is known to be part of the plan that each detail should include agents experienced in presidential protection.

Minutes after the Presidential order, Secret Service agents quietly took up positions in hotel corridors and, with the local uniformed and plain-clothes police, cordoned off areas where candidates were quartered.

Other details were rushed from Secret Service field offices to state capitals or outlying areas, wherever candidates were housed for the night.

Only after ordering these emergency precautions did the President consider the steps necessary to make his action legal. The Secret Service has no legal authority to protect any persons except the President and Vice President and their families, or former Presidents, their widows and families on request.

The Senate Democratic leader, Mike Mansfield of Montana, met with the President at 7 A.M. They were joined by the

Senate Republican leader, Everett McKinley Dirksen of Illinois; Senator A. S. Mike Monroney, Democrat of Oklahoma, and Representative Tom Steed, Democrat of Oklahoma.

The Oklahomans were there as chairmen of the Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees that handle funds for the Secret Service and other Treasury agencies.

A few hours after the White

House meeting, the full Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$2-million more for the Secret Service.

Senators Mansfield and Monroney predicted quick Senate passage of the total appropriation tomorrow. The House is expected to vote its approval and send the measure to the White House before the end of the week.

The Monroney panel recently

completed three weeks of secret hearings on President Johnson's proposal that the Secret Service be authorized to provide protection to Presidential candidates. The panel, however, did not take action.

The Senator explained today that the hearings had been closed "to avoid the suggestion of danger and potential threats to all candidates through publicity."

The new authority and funds will be offered in the Senate tomorrow as a rider to the regular Treasury-Post Office appropriation. It would make \$400,000 immediately available to cover expanded Secret Service operations and raise the agency's appropriation for the fiscal year 1969 beginning July 1 from \$19.3-million to \$20.8-million.