

Warning on Assassinations

Commission Report Urges Precautions

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence has warned that domestic turbulence has increased the danger of assassination so much that the President and every other political leader should avoid personal contact with the mass public.

It favored television appearances instead as the most promising vehicle for reaching large audiences and ensuring the safety of political candidates.

It urged provision of enough free television time toward the end of presidential election campaigns to change the present pattern of extending secret service

protection to any federal office holders or candidates whose lives are considered temporarily imperiled. It urged state and local governments to review their protection, particularly for governors and mayors, and renewed its call for restrictions on sale of handguns.

ESCALATING RISK

"Present trends warn of an escalating risk of assassination, not only for Presidents but for other officeholders at every level of government, as well as leaders of civil rights and political interest groups," the commission said in the sixth report since its creation after the June 6, 1968, assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Citing several factors which could increase the

Portrait of Potential Assassin

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Who are the potential assassins in America?

The national violence commission drew a composite portrait of men who have killed or tried to kill eight Presidents and one presidential candidate.

Before the slaying of Robert F. Kennedy last year, the commission said, "it might have been hypothesized in 1968 that the next assassin to strike at a President — or presidential candidate, as it turned out — would have most of the following attributes:

- "From a broken home, with the father absent or unresponsive to the child.

- "Withdrawn, a loner, no girlfriends, either unmarried or a failure at marriage.

- "Unable to work steadily in the last year or so before the assassination.

- "White, male, foreign-born or with parents foreign-born, short, slight build.

- "Zealot for a political, religious or other cause, but not a member of an organized movement.

- "Assassinates in the name of a specific issue which is related to the principles or philosophy of his cause.

- "Chooses a handgun as his weapon.

- "Selects a moment when the President is appearing amid crowds."

The commission drew its composite from the life histories of Richard Lawrence, who attempted to kill President Andrew Jackson; John Wilkes Booth, assassin of Abraham Lincoln; Charles Guiteau, assassin of James E. Garfield, Leon Czolgosz, assassin of William McKinley; John Schrank who attacked Theodore Roosevelt; Giuseppe Zangara, who tried to kill Franklin D. Roosevelt and mistakenly killed the Mayor of Chicago; a Puerto Rican group who conspired to kill Harry S. Truman and Lee Harvey Oswald, slayer of John F. Kennedy.

number of political assassinations in the United States and turn them from individual acts of the deranged to conspiracy, the commission said:

"The precautions we are urging are worth while whether or not this nation faces a new outbreak of political assassinations. We do not predict that such an outbreak will occur.

CONDITIONS PRESENT

"But we feel compelled to note that some of the conditions for such an outbreak are present or may be developing. These conditions add urgency to the need to develop effective protection against assassination."

The conditions listed were:

- "Political violence in the United States today is probably more intense than

it has been since the turn of the century. If civil strife continues to become more violent, political assassinations may well occur.

- "There is much talk today of revolution and urban guerrilla warfare by extremists, and there have been outbreaks of violence with aspects of guerrilla warfare . . . if extremists carry out their threats, we can expect political assassinations.

- "Even if the rhetoric of revolution and vilification of governmental authority is never translated into deed, the constant excoriation of America's institutions and leaders may destroy their legitimacy in the eyes of other segments of society."

- The increasing number of Negroes holding public office and politically prominent

positions run the risks of assassination both from white terrorist murderers who have historically victimized them and from the radical wing of the black protest movement.

- "Racial tensions have been at a high level throughout the 1960s. If violent racial confrontations increase, the level of political violence in the United States could approach that of countries in which political assassinations typically occur.

- "The United States may in the next few years undergo even more rapid socio-economic change than it has in the recent past. Rapid change is another characteristic that correlates with high levels of conspiratorial assassination."

Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower, chairman of the commission and brother of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower, said the major recommendation was "that presidential candidates not expose themselves to situations which provide maximum opportunity for the assassin."