

See - 55

Improvements Since Assassination

Protecting the President

Washington

The Secret Service and the FBI have already instituted many procedures recommended by the Warren Commission to increase the protection of the President.

The commission criticized both agencies in its report on the assassination of President Kennedy.

Some time ago both agencies reviewed their procedures and took steps to tighten the President's security.

For example, the Lincoln limousine in which President Kennedy was shot has been completely rearmored. Jump seats were installed so that agents face the President, enabling them to look to the rear—a deficiency noted by the Warren Commission.

PHYSICIANS

A follow-up car in presidential motorcades now is provided for agents whose main task is to look up to survey high buildings.

The Warren Commission recommended that the President's physician be near him at all times. Now, two physicians are available—at least one with the President at all times—and both have their own medical bags and oxygen supplies.

The Secret Service now surveys buildings along a presidential route, also recommended by the commission. During a recent three-block trip to the Statler Hotel by President Johnson, agents inspected nearly every building on 16th street for several blocks.

EXCHANGE

The Warren Commission criticized the lack of adequate exchange of information be-



A. P. Wirephoto

Fire in the Motorcade

Photographers leapt from a car in President Johnson's motorcade through downtown Providence as another vehicle caught fire. A fireman grabbed an extinguisher and quietly doused

the flame that had started in the limousine's overheated engine. In the burning car — two behind the President's — were Mr. Johnson's doctor, one of his aides, and photographers.

tween the FBI and the Secret Service before the assassination. But the commission report also cited the vastly increased flow of information from the FBI to the Secret Service since then.

By Mid-June, 1964, the FBI had sent 9000 reports on Communist party members to the Secret Service. In December, 1963, the FBI expanded the list of persons on which information should be sent to the service — including "subversives, ultra rightists, racists and Fascists." In the first four months of 1964, the FBI sent the service the names of 5000 persons.

The Secret Service also has increased its manpower, ordered modern data processing equipment and improved in detail its directives to local police departments upon which it depends so much. All these steps were recommended by the Warren Commission.

COMMITTEE

The commission also recommended a committee of cabinet officers to review and oversee programs of the Secret Service and the appointment of a special assistant to the secretary of the Treasury to supervise the service.

Agents of the FBI concerned with the protection of

the President questioned whether they had the legal authority to keep the thousands of persons listed as "threats" in their files away from presidential parades and motorcades.

The modern mobility of the President, whereby he can travel coast to coast in a day, also complicates security, they said.

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