

SECRET SERVICE IS READY TO HIRE 75 NEW AGENTS

First Step in \$3 Million Plan
to Bolster the Strength
of Presidential Guard

\$650,000 FUND SOUGHT

Over-All Program Calls for
205 More Men and Latest
Equipment for Detection

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 27 — The Secret Service plans to begin strengthening its system of Presidential protection by adding 75 agents to its present force, Secretary of the Treasury Douglas Dillon announced today.

As chairman of a special Cabinet committee studying means of tightening Presidential security, Mr. Dillon said the move would be a "first step" in a \$3 million program.

The program calls for 205 additional agents plus supporting personnel and the most modern electronic and other scientific detection equipment, he said.

To finance the initial manpower increase, a supplemental appropriation of \$650,000 will be asked of the new Congress in January. The full "master plan" of tighter security for the President will require 15 months to implement.

'Basic Emphasis'

Mr. Dillon said of the interim plan that "the basic emphasis will be on more effective advancement and preventive work by the service in connection with Presidential travel, as well as the use of more sophisticated equipment."

The special Cabinet committee was created on the recommendation of the Warren Commission, headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren, which investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

One purpose of today's announcement was to serve notice that the Cabinet committee was determined to maintain the Secret Service as "an elite corps" responsible for the safety of the President and that the ser-

vice's function of preventive investigation would not be transferred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other agency.

The Warren Commission, in its report, took notice of a proposal that the investigative work of the Secret Service be turned over to the F.B.I. as the agency already having the skilled manpower and equipment to do the job.

The commission decided, however, that a decision on this must be left to the executive branch and to Congress. The announcement by Mr. Dillon, already approved by President Johnson, signaled a decision by the Administration to reject the proposal.

The F.B.I. itself notified the Cabinet group that it preferred to work informally with the Secret Service rather than be required to assume the additional investigative responsibility.

Only about 60 Secret Service agents are now assigned to the White House detail, which has primary responsibility for Presidential security. The 355 other agents are assigned to the 65 field offices in some 60 large cities.

Congress's View

Heretofore, Presidential protection has been regarded by Congress as the exclusive function of the White House detail. Over the years, Congress has resisted requests for personnel increases in the field offices because it thought that such offices were responsible only for fighting counterfeiting and the forgery or theft of Federal checks.

However, all agents receive intensive training in the techniques and strategy of Presidential protection and are expected to function in that capacity whenever the President travels in their area.

Beginning with his appointment as Chief of the Secret Service in September 1961, James J. Rowley sought to persuade Congressional appropriations groups that in these days of fast travel the ordinary work of the field offices and the task of Presidential protection could not be strictly separated because the President might decide to visit any area on short notice. He had no success.

A Demand for Action

Thus, one purpose of Mr. Dillon's announcement today was to confront Congress with the Rowley thesis and to demand that it act or risk the consequences of opposing the Warren Commission's recommendation for expanded and intensified Presidential protection.

The plan includes more than doubling the 15-member staff of the Protective Research Section on hand at the time of the Kennedy assassination on Nov. 22, 1963. This section is responsible for keeping track of persons potentially dangerous to the safety of the President. Under the plan the expanded files of the section would be more quickly translated into vital in-

formation through automatic data processing.

Seventy-five is the maximum number of new Secret Service agents that could be fully trained by June 30, the end of the current fiscal year. Authorization for the 130 additional new agents will be sought in the regular budget request for the next fiscal year, to be sent to Congress by the President in January.

Devices Planned

In addition to trained agents, the Secret Service will be asking at that time for funds to acquire the most modern scientific detection devices. These plans include equipping the fence around the White House with the latest "intrusion detection" gear.

Also planned for the White House are a special "radar fence," a television scanning system for the grounds and a system for automatically floodlighting all areas upon intrusion of an unwelcome visitor.

The plan also provides for at least one additional bulletproof limousine for the President or visiting dignitaries and protective garments for agents on hazardous details.

In presenting the master plan to the Warren Commission, Mr. Dillon stressed the importance of more effective liaison between Federal intelligence agencies. He described as "inadequate" the liaison that existed prior to the Kennedy assassination.

Mr. Dillon asked for five men who would be specially trained in this work. He said he was doing so "not only because we are doubtful that the present flow of information is complete, but also because it is the only way we can hope to get information or follow-up material quickly."

"Quick results are absolutely essential for information required with respect to Presidential trips," he said. "The use of liaison officers is the system generally followed in the intelligence community by other agencies."