

Kennedy Accepts Offer Of Secret Service Guard

NYTimes By BEN A. FRANKLIN MAY 16 1972
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WASHINGTON, May 15 — Shortly after Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama was shot today, President Nixon offered Secret Service protection to Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts and Representative Shirley Chisholm of Brooklyn.

Senator Kennedy, who has said repeatedly he is not a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President, accepted the offer, according to the White House. Mrs. Chisholm, who is a candidate for the nomination could not be reached immediately for comment.

Last March, Secret Service protection was assigned to Governor Wallace, Senators Edmund Muskie of Maine, Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, George McGovern of South Dakota and Henry M. Jackson of Washington, who were considered at that time to be the leading Democratic candidates.

Tight Security Screen

Ironically, the security screen that failed Governor Wallace today was regarded as one of the tightest and most thorough in recent political history.

Yet it was constantly defeated by the exuberance and the handclapping, exulting adoration of the crowds that greeted Mr. Wallace in his campaign for the Democratic Presidential nomination.

Surrounded by an unswervingly loyal and seemingly tireless personal bodyguard of two and sometimes three Alabama state troopers—and his 1968

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AID IS EXTENDED TO MRS. CHISHOLM

U.S. Guards Proposed After the Shooting of Wallace—Tight Security Described

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and 1972 Presidential campaign travels also by several Secret Service agents—Governor Wallace, nonetheless, seemed to newsmen who traveled with him, to be in nonstop conflict with himself.

He could show fear. Despite his anxiety over possible injury or assassination, however, he showed an almost physical need to immerse himself in the throngs that he allowed to press in on him.

The state troopers, with their .38-caliber and .357 Magnum revolvers bulging under jackets that looked too small, frequently grasped the back of Mr. Wallace's belt to keep him from falling off the edge of a stage.

It was this situation that existed today in Laurel, Md., according to witnesses.

George Magnum, a Wallace aide, said that at about 4 P.M. he had just urged Mr. Wallace from the speaking stand toward his car, "and the Governor started shaking hands." After a moment he moved on to his car, but then turned back again when someone from the crowd shouted, "George, come back!"

As he returned to shake some more hands, the shots were fired.

According to Lieut. Lloyd Jemison, a burly, crew-cut Alabama state trooper who has been one of Mr. Wallace's bodyguards since the early sixties: "We always tried to keep the security on the tight side. But the Governor, he's on the friendly side, you know. He'd spend 50 minutes talking behind the bullet-proof podium and then an hour out in front of it, shaking hands."

Moved by Automobile

Interviewed by telephone at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery, where he had been today on temporary, detached duty from the Wallace

party, Lieutenant Jemison said that the massive, 800-pound, armor-plate podium had become a hallmark and a logistic burden in the Wallace entourage.

There were times in the early stages of Mr. Wallace's presidential campaign four years ago when the bullet-proof speaking stand, which protected all except the top half of Mr. Wallace's head had to be moved from city to city by automobile. The small aircraft that Mr. Wallace used in his tightly financed 1968 campaign were of inadequate payload capacity to carry the speaking stand, Lieutenant Jemison said.

Lieutenant Jemison, who has shared the state trooper bodyguard detail with Capt. E. C. Dothard—one of those shot today—and Cpl. Meady L. Hillyer, said that Mr. Wallace had been fitted for a bulletproof vest "but he would never wear it—he didn't like it."

As he prepared to fly to Washington from Montgomery this afternoon with his family "to be with the Governor," Lieutenant Jemison recalled that the armored vest was "outside in the trunk of my car."

Governor Wallace's strong appeal to many policemen was observable in the suburban Maryland shopping center where he was shot this afternoon.

Guarded by 50 Policemen

One witness, Barry Bragg, manager of the Equitable Trust Company branch at the shopping center, estimated at least 50 county and state policemen had ringed the platform from which Mr. Wallace spoke.

In addition, an unknown number of plainclothes policemen and Secret Service agents—Lieutenant Jemison said today that he "never did know how many Secret Service men we have"—stood near the candidate.

The shopping center rally was a new concept in the Wallace campaign, only recently added to his itinerary.

The Governor complained to his staff that the stop-and-fly airport rallies that had become a tradition in his campaign placed a burden on people who wanted to see him. Airports were far removed from cities, often at the end of narrow access roads that resulted in mammoth traffic jams.

"You ought to bring the candidate to where the people are," Mr. Wallace said to a newsman last week on his small jet while flying to Marquette, Mich., where the first of his shopping center rallies was staged. The turnout seemed to confirm the Govern-

nor's judgment that the shopping center rallies would bring him closer to the people. He was obviously pleased.

Lieutenant Jemison said cooperation between Mr. Wallace's state trooper bodyguard and the Secret Service detail had been "real fine—just no problem at all."

He added that the Governor, who had often remarked privately that he was "the most-threatened candidate in the country," had received "no threats at all lately—you know, not anything you could pin down."

"Our local people would get nervous before coming in sometimes," Lieutenant Jemison conceded. "But there's been nothing we could check out, nothing."

One of Mr. Wallace's theories about political violence, expressed privately when he mingled with reporters, was that the assassinations of President Kennedy, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Senator Robert F. Kennedy tended to mark political murder in the United States as an aberration of the right.

"Since you boys have all been writing me up as such a big right-winger," he remarked during a campaign flight in 1968, "I reckon ain't no one's gonna shoot at us—but they might."