

Secret Service, FBI Criticized

Times-Post Service

Washington

Both the Secret Service and the FBI viewed "too narrowly" their responsibilities as presidential bodyguards at the time President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, the Warren Commission's report on the tragedy concluded.

The Secret Service has the primary responsibility for the protection of the President.

However, as the report brings out, the FBI also has some responsibility in this area. Since 1910, the FBI appropriation has included an item for the "protection of the person of the President of the United States."

FILE

The FBI opened a file on Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President Kennedy, in October, 1959, after reports that he had defected to the Soviet Union. FBI agents first interviewed him after he came back from Russia, in June, 1962, in Fort Worth, Tex., and found him "arrogant."

FBI agent James P. Hosty Jr., according to the report, knew that Oswald was in Dallas in November, knew that he was working in the Texas School Book Depository building from which Mr. Kennedy was ambushed, but he did not pass on this information to the Secret Service.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the FBI, defended Agent Hosty before the Warren Commission. Hoover said: "There was nothing up to the time of the assassination that gave any indication that this man (Oswald) was a dangerous character who might do harm to the President or the Vice President."

WALKER

Hoover said that the first indication of Oswald's capacity for violence was his attempt on the life of former Major General Edwin A. Walker, a right-wing leader in Texas. This was in April, 1963, but Hoover said that this did not become known to the FBI until after Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

After agreeing with the FBI's contention that Oswald

had not shown any potential for violence (except for his attempt on the life of General Walker, which the FBI knew nothing about until after Nov. 22), the report said.

"The commission believes, however, that the FBI took an unduly restrictive view of its responsibilities in preventive intelligence work, prior to the assassination.

CRITERIA

"The commission appre-



UPI Telephoto

OFFICER J. D. TIPPIT
Oswald killed him

ciates the large volume of cases handled by the FBI (636,371 investigative matters during fiscal year 1963). There were no Secret Service criteria which specifically required the referral of Oswald's case to the Secret Service; nor was there any requirement to report the names of defectors.

"However, there was much material in the hands of the FBI about Oswald: the knowledge of his defection,

Soviet authorities, his presence in the School Book Depository job and its location along the route of the motorcade.

"All this does seem to amount to enough to have induced an alert agency such as the FBI, possessed of this information, to list Oswald as a potential threat to the safety of the President."

OVERHAUL

The commission recommended that the Secret Service "completely overhaul" its advance detection facilities and develop "more useful and precise criteria" for defining potential threats to the President. It added that other agencies of government should tell the Secret Service about "all returned defectors."

The commission looked into reports that some Secret Service agents traveling with President Kennedy did some drinking at the Fort Worth Press Club and remained up late in the Cellar Coffee House on the night of November 21.

The report said that Chief James J. Rowley did not condone this behavior, but was satisfied that all the agents carried out their duties satisfactorily. Indeed, the report said that the conduct of some of the agents at the time of the assassination was "in the finest tradition of government service."

The Warren Commission, in concluding this part of its report, said that in a democracy like this there could never be "absolute security" for a President.

missing lines, checked with WR, 443/2: his arrogance and hostility to the United States, his pro-Castro tendencies, his lies when interrogated by the FBI, his trip to Mexico where he was in contact with