



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

May 14, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
The President's Commission
200 Maryland Avenue, Northeast
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Rankin:

With reference to the testimony this morning concerning appropriation language dealing with the protection of the President, I wish to advise that this language has appeared in Department of Justice appropriation acts since the Act of June 25, 1910, which made appropriations for the fiscal year 1911. At the present time, the words "protection of the person of the President of the United States" are contained in Public Law 88-245, which provides appropriations for fiscal year 1964 for the Department of Justice, and other agencies. It is set forth in this public law under the caption "Federal Bureau of Investigation."

This Bureau, however, recognizes the primary jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service to protect the President notwithstanding the language contained in our appropriation acts. In this regard it should be pointed out that no funds are specifically set forth in our annual budget requests to implement this language.

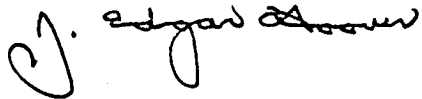
The Treasury Department through the years has maintained that the United States Secret Service is primarily responsible for the protection of the President. Of interest on

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this point is that on February 25, 1963, Congressman Celler introduced H. R. 4158 which would codify the laws relating to the organization of the United States Government and its employees. The portion of this bill dealing with the Federal Bureau of Investigation includes a provision concerning the protection of the President. In their analysis of this bill the Treasury Department objected to this item being included in that portion dealing with this Bureau and recommended that it be stricken from the bill. We advised the Department of Justice by letter September 27, 1963, that we recognized the primary jurisdiction of the United States Secret Service in this regard. Thereafter, by letter November 6, 1963, the Department of Justice advised the Bureau of the Budget that they would not object to the deletion of this language.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Edgar Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.