



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

April 22, 1964

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of April 3, 1964, requesting further information concerning expressions by President Kennedy regarding the placement of Secret Service agents on or near his car during the motorcade, I am attaching herewith statements from the following bearing on this subject:

Special Agent in Charge Behn

Assistant Special Agent in Charge Boring

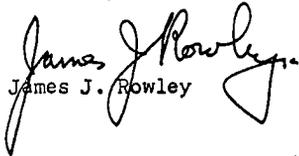
Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge Roberts

Special Agent Ready

Special Agent Hill

I think the five statements taken together fairly reflect the understanding of the Secret Service concerning the President's views and the obligations of the Service in this respect.

Sincerely,


James J. Rowley

Honorable J. Lee Rankin
General Counsel
President's Commission on the
Assassination of President Kennedy
200 Maryland Avenue, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20002

Enclosures (5)

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025

April 16, 1964

Statement of Gerald A. Behn, Special Agent in Charge,
White House Detail

The policy of special agents covering the presidential vehicle is flexible and is based on the speed of the motorcade; the amount and type of accompanying escort; the number, enthusiasm, and character of the people watching the motorcade and how well-controlled they are by the police; and finally, but certainly not least but perhaps the dominant factor, the desire or instructions of the President.

There is always an experienced agent riding in the front seat of the presidential vehicle and there is an experienced agent either riding in the front seat of our follow-up car or standing on the front right running board. Either one or both of these agents have the authority, if it becomes necessary, to either motion or tell the agents in the follow-up car to take their positions around the presidential car at any time.

As stated in the first paragraph the desires and instructions of the President were a major factor in this policy. On numerous occasions during motorcades where the pace was slow and crowds were fairly well-controlled by the police, but the agents were none the less in position around the presidential car, the President would either tell me to tell the agents, or he would attempt to tell the agents on his side of the car, to get back.

In Mexico City in June, 1962, an individual who had the appearance of a typical beatnik worked his way out into the middle of the street during the welcoming motorcade and attempted to stop the President's car. When he found out the driver would not stop, he came around the car on the President's side and I hit him and knocked him down. The President immediately told me I should not have done this. This individual was arrested by the Mexican police, questioned and it was discovered he was an American citizen who had overstayed his visa and who had a police record in this country.

In West Berlin last June the pace of the motorcade was, for the most of the route, between 10 and 12 miles per hour and the West Berlin police did a remarkable job of controlling the huge crowds. However, there were occasions when individuals would break away from the police lines, evade the motorcycle escort and stand out near the middle of the street waiting for the President's car to reach them.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued

On these occasions the agents on the running boards of the follow-up car would leap off, run forward and push the West Berliners away from the car. Practically every time this happened, the President would either tell me to tell the agents or would attempt to tell the agents themselves not to do this. His feeling was that these people only wanted to shake his hand and should not be pushed away from him.

Shortly after I was promoted to Special Agent in Charge of the White House Detail, and I believe this occurred during the late President's trip in November, 1961, to Seattle, Phoenix, Bonham, Texas, and other stops, he told me that he did not want agents riding on the back of his car. As late as November 18, of last year, he told ASAC Boring the same thing. He gave me no reason for this.



Gerald A. Behn
Special Agent in Charge

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued

April 8, 1964

Statement of Floyd M. Boring, Assistant Special Agent in Charge,
White House Detail

I was on duty in Tampa, Florida, November 18, 1963, and was riding in the right front seat of the presidential limousine. The presidential party departed Lopez Field and was motorcading through downtown Tampa towards the Armory. Special Agents Lawton and Zboril were working, on the ground on either side of the limousine, as the crowds were heavy. As the crowds thinned out and the motorcade increased in speed, the agents jumped onto the rear steps of the limousine. Shortly thereafter the President requested the agents return to the follow-up car. I transmitted this information by radio to ATSAIC Roberts in the follow-up car. The agents dismounted about three minutes later or as soon as our speed allowed.

A similar request was made by President Kennedy to me on July 2, 1963, when the presidential party was returning to the U. S. Embassy residence from the Vatican in Rome, Italy.

It was the understanding among the agents on the White House Detail assigned to the President that they should not jump onto the rear steps of the presidential limousine when the crowds along the route were sparse unless it was absolutely necessary.



Floyd M. Boring

Assistant Special Agent in Charge

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

April 10, 1964.

STATEMENT OF EMORY P. ROBERTS, ASSISTANT TO THE SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE, WHITE HOUSE DETAIL, U. S. SECRET SERVICE.

On November 18, 1963 during Presidential motorcade in Tampa, Florida, ASAIC Boring, who was riding in right front seat of the Presidential car, contacted me by radio, to get the men off the back of the President's car.

I was in charge of the Special Agents working the Secret Service follow-up car, which was immediately behind the Presidential car.

Special Agent Donald Lawton was on the right rear step and Special Agent Charles Zboril was on the left rear step of the President's car.

As the motorcade was going too fast at the time ASAIC Floyd Boring radioed me, for the men to get off, I had them crouch on the steps and they got off the President's car, when it slowed down enough for them to jump off.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emory P. Roberts".

Emory P. Roberts
ASAIC 1-16
The White House Detail.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued



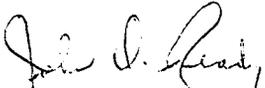
TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

April 11, 1966

Statement of John D. Ready, Special Agent, U.S. Secret Service,
White House Detail.

It was common knowledge among the majority of the White House Detail agents that President John F. Kennedy, on several occasions, had asked that agents not ride on the rear steps of the presidential limousine.

Although I was not in Tampa, Florida, Monday, November 18, 1963, it was known to me that President Kennedy requested, through Assistant Special Agent in Charge Floyd M. Boring, that two agents be removed from the rear steps of the presidential vehicle during a motorcade in that city.


John D. Ready
Special Agent
White House Detail



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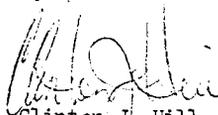
COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued

STATEMENT OF SPECIAL AGENT CLINTON J. HILL, UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE,
PERTAINING TO REQUESTS BY THE LATE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY THAT SPECIAL
AGENTS NOT RIDE ON THE REAR OF THE PRESIDENTIAL AUTOMOBILE.

Special Agent Clinton J. Hill, never personally was requested by President John F. Kennedy not to ride on the rear of the Presidential automobile. I did receive information passed verbally from the administrative offices of the White House Detail of the Secret Service Agents assigned to that Detail that President Kennedy had made such requests. I do not know from whom I received this information. It was general knowledge on the White House Detail, however, that President Kennedy had asked Special Agent in Charge Gerald A. Behn, not to have Special Agents ride on the rear of the Presidential Automobile. No written instructions regarding this were ever distributed.

I was informed that on November 18, 1963, in Tampa, Florida, President Kennedy had requested through Assistant Special Agent in Charge Floyd M. King, that Special Agents remove themselves from the rear of the Presidential automobile. I was not on this specific trip with the White House Detail and received this information after the President's return to Washington, D. C. This would have been between November 19, 1963 and November 21, 1963. I do not know specifically who advised me of this request by the President.

On November 22, 1963, during the Presidential motorcade in Dallas, Texas, prior to the assassination of President Kennedy, I did ride on the rear of the Presidential automobile on approximately four (4) separate instances. This was necessitated by the fact that motorcycles which were flanking the Presidential automobile on the left side were forced to drop back from their normal positions because of the closeness of the crowd on this side which did not allow sufficient room for the motorcycles to continue moving. I did on these specific instances, move from my position on the front portion of the left running board to the left rear step of the Presidential automobile. I was not requested by anyone to do so, and there was not sufficient time involved for such a request to be made, but rather did so at my own discretion. I considered this action necessary because of the proximity of the general public to the left side of the Presidential automobile.



Clinton J. Hill
Special Agent
United States Secret Service

COMMISSION EXHIBIT 1025—Continued