

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 27, 1964

BY COURIER SERVICE

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

Reference is made to my letter of May 14, 1964, relating to appropriation language dealing with the protection of the President and H. R. 4158 introduced on February 25, 1963, by Congressman Emanuel Celler which will codify the laws relating to the organization of the U. S. 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, and the Treasury Department, in their analysis of this bill, objected to this item being included in that portion dealing with this Bureau and recommended that it be stricken from the bill.

As you were orally advised by Mr. Malley on May 26, 1964, this language in the appropriation was a safety valve to enable the Federal Bureau of Investigation to render assistance to the Secret Service as we have done since the assassination. If the language is removed it will preclude assistance to the Secret Service on the part of the FBI in the protection of the President and we would not be able to give manpower or assistance to protect the President.

By letter dated May 21, 1964, Deputy Attorney General Nicholas de B. Katzenbach advised that the Department of Justice will advise the Budget Bureau that the Department of Justice would prefer to have the language carried in the appropriation as it is now or amended to read, "to assist in protecting the person of the President."

In view of your interest in this matter and your conversation with Mr. Malley on May 26, 1964, I thought you should be advised of the foregoing.

Sincerely yours,

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2552



TREASURY DEPARTMENT
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

June 8, 1964

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

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

Dear Mr. Rankin:

In response to your letter of June 1, we find that many of the old records which might have revealed reliable information about the complement of agents in the past years have been destroyed in accordance with the Retirement and Disposition of Records Program of the Federal Government.

Based on recollections of older members of the Secret Service, we estimate that the first White House Detail, protecting President Theodore Roosevelt, consisted of two or three agents. Apparently they did not work on regularly scheduled shifts, but remained close to the President until he retired for the night. When the President traveled, the number of agents was increased to five or six.

The number of agents of the Detail increased to about ten during World War I.

It cannot be definitely determined when regularly scheduled shifts were established for the Detail, but they were in effect during the administration of President Calvin Coolidge. At that time there were twelve agents on the Detail, one of whom was assigned to Mrs. Coolidge and another to one of the President's sons.

The Detail gradually grew in size through the administrations of President Hoover and President Franklin D. Roosevelt. In 1939, for example, there were sixteen agents and two supervisors, working seven days a week with no days off. In 1940 arrangements were made to provide days off, and the Detail was increased to about twenty-two.

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2553