

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.

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When the United States entered World War II it was considered advisable to assign extra men to the protection of the President, and the Detail operated with ten men on each of three shifts, with three supervisors and four drivers, for a total of 37 men.

In October of 1950, thirty-three special agents were assigned to the White House Detail, plus two drivers (Special Employees).

The force level of the White House Detail since 1950 is classified information which we will supply in a separate communication.

There is listed below the legislation which brought about the growth of the White House Police from thirty-three men at the time of its inception in 1922 to a present ceiling of 250 authorized positions.

<u>Public Law</u>	<u>Congress</u>	<u>Date Approved</u>	<u>Authorized Ceilings</u>
300	67th	9-14-22	33
292	68th	12-5-24	39
221	71st	5-14-30	48
80	74th	5-28-35	60
476	76th	4-22-40	80
463	77th	2-21-42	140
90	80th	6-9-47	110
693	81st	8-15-50	133
418	82nd	6-28-52	170
481	87th	6-8-62	250

The number of positions established by the authorized ceilings imposed by the Congress does not necessarily reflect the number of positions for which Congress grants appropriations each year. For instance, the present authorized ceiling for the White House Police is 250 men. The increase in the ceiling provided by Public Law 481 was requested and authorized by Congress to extend protection to the Executive Office Building and permit protection for future buildings as such need is required. The Congress appropriated funds for 213 officers for fiscal year 1964.

There follows a list of the number of positions for which appropriations were granted from the year 1940 through 1964 (prior to 1940 appropriations generally were granted for the authorized ceilings).

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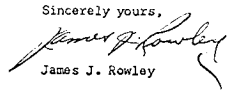
<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Positions in Appropriations</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Positions in Appropriations</u>
1940	60	1954	163
1941	80	1954	145
1942	101	1955	142
1943	94	1955 *	138
1944	93	1955 *	156
1945	99	1955 *	151
1946	102	1956	156
1947	106	1957	155
1948	99	1958	154
1949	102	1958	153
1950	104	1959 *	164
1951	106	1960	164
2-1-51 (Result of Blow House Shooting)	170	1960 *	163
1952	170	1961	162
1953	166	1962	162
		1963	213

(* Represents adjustments made during year due to changes in law.)

Public Law 221, passed in May 1930, placed the White House Police under the direct supervision of the Chief of the Secret Service.

Public Law 87-481, passed in June 1962, placed the White House Police under the control and supervision of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury then delegated the authority for the control and supervision of the White House Police to the Chief of the Secret Service.

Sincerely yours,


James J. Rowley

COMMISSION EXHIBIT No. 2553—Continued