

Secret Service protection

Candidates gain benefits

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Democratic presidential campaigners are gaining valuable political fringe benefits along with their new Secret Service protection although the agency says its men won't "participate in the politics of the candidates."

Campaign aides say the Secret Service can't avoid helping a candidate when it sets out to guard him.

Agents are deploying to guard four candidates now or in the near future, with more to be covered later.

In the process, the government will help finance the candidates' campaign travels and take over much of the advance work that is essential to a presidential candidate.

The Secret Service has issued an eight-page, red, white and blue booklet describing what it will and won't do as it seeks "to insure a safe environment for your candidate."

The Secret Service refuses to say how many agents are assigned to a candidate on grounds that would breach security. But a Democratic campaign aide said as many as 20 were assigned to each candidate at the height of the 1972 presidential primary season. Another said he had been told that about 12 would be traveling with his candidate.

Stringent campaign spending limits have curtailed the use of chartered airplanes by the candidates this year, but with the Secret Service aboard, that may change.

For example, Rep. Morris K. Udall may switch from small planes to a faster, more comfortable, 20-seat turboprop when he uses chartered flights. Secret Service agents are expected to occupy up to 12 seats, meaning the government would pay more than half the charter expense.

Government advance work is an even bigger boon to the candidate. According to the Secret Service brochure, a day or two before a candidate visits a city, an agent will go there to check out and coordinate security arrangements.

"Other advance arrangements are made, including logistics, coordination of press identification and the designation of emergency sites. . . . the booklet says.

A Democratic politician put it in plain language. "The logistics of moving the candidate around suddenly are in their hands, and they do a first-class job," he said.

"That's a big advantage."

This allows the candidates' advance men to concentrate on political tasks and not the detail work of mapping routes and other logistics.

The Democrats due for protection now or soon are Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace, Udall, Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen of Texas and former Gov. Jimmy Carter of Georgia. Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington hasn't yet decided when he wants the Secret Service to join him, and former North Carolina Gov. Terry Sanford has declined protection.

The 1976 campaign is the third in which the Secret Service has guarded candidates, a practice begun on June 6, 1968, the day Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died of an assassin's bullets in Los Angeles.

The Secret Service booklet says that in 1968 the agency protected 11 candidates who made 700 separate campaign appearances. In 1972, the Secret Service was assigned to protect 13 candidates who made 6,100 appearances.

The box score in 1976 is sure to be considerably higher.

Marijuana use ups problem

WASHINGTON — Youths experimenting with marijuana at an earlier age are contributing to an alarming upswing in the nation's drug abuse problem, the government reported Wednesday.

Dr. Robert L. DuPont, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, told reporters he was quite alarmed about the growing use of marijuana among young people.

He speculated that use was increasing because marijuana is more readily available now and because of the "contagious phenomena" that challenges nonusers to follow their friends' example.

The institute released four new surveys costing \$2.2 million that indicated:

✓ Marijuana use among 12- to 17-year-olds almost doubled between 1972 and 1974.

✓ Fifty-five per cent of the three million high school seniors in the class of 1975 experimented with illegal drugs, and two-thirds thought marijuana use should be legal or only a minor violation.

✓ About 300,000 of the 19 million young men aged 20 to 30 years used heroin within the last year, another one to two million used other illegal drugs and seven million smoked marijuana.

DuPont, who once acknowledged that he tried marijuana himself out of ignorance of possible health consequences, said criminal penalties are not the

answer and he supports the growing trend among states to decriminalize marijuana use.

"Putting people in prison is not a good idea," he said. DuPont said, however, that "the steady increase in the use of illicit substances is of great concern to us."

"It is apparently inevitable that young people are going to experiment with cigarettes, alcohol and marijuana, and that this experience will lead too many young people to a regular pattern of undesirable use of these drugs."

On the bright side, DuPont told a news conference, the majority of those who experiment with drugs either stop or only use them occasionally, and the number of "hard core" heroin addicts has apparently stabilized at about 400,000 persons.

University of Michigan researchers who surveyed a random sampling of 16,000 seniors in 130 high school last spring found that 55 per cent had experimented with illegal drugs, 45 per cent had tried them within the previous year and 31 per cent within the previous month.

Only 14 per cent of the class of 1975 said they would use marijuana more often if it was legalized. Researchers said there was no indication that alcoholic beverages have displaced illicit drugs among high school youth.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

Circle K International will meet tonight at 6:15 p.m. in Room 220 of the Engineering Building.

The Laundry Committee will meet today at 12:15 p.m. in the Rudder Tower.

The Engineering Technology Society will meet Tuesday at 8 p.m. in Room 304 of Fermier Hall.

The Accounting Society will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 224 of the MSC.

The American Society for Mechanical Engineers will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Room 203 of the Zachry Engineering Center.

The Irving Hometown Club will meet Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in Room 140 of the MSC.

The Agricultural Economics Club will meet Tuesday at 6 p.m. at Bee Creek Park.

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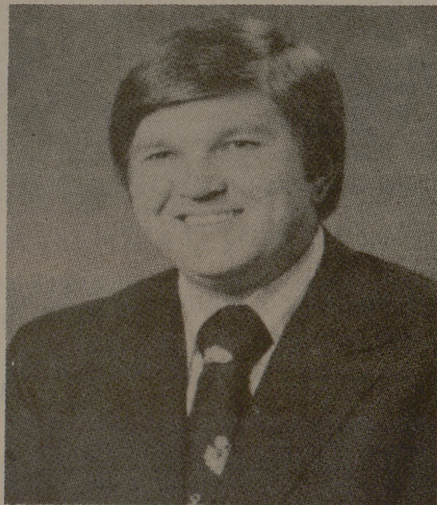
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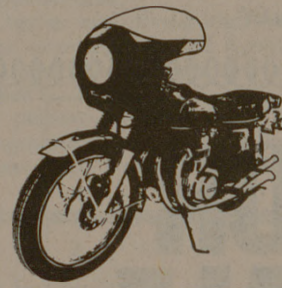
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