

Protecting President Is No. 1 Job of Secret Service



NOT SO SECRET - U.S. Secret Service Chief James J. Rowley says that his service isn't very secret. Shaking hands with President Kennedy, Rowley points out that protecting the president is No. 1 job with the Secret Service. Capturing counterfeiters and forgers of government checks and bonds are its big tasks. (UPI)

By ALVIN SPIVAK
United Press International
Washington - If there is one thing the chief of the U.S. Secret Service would like people to know, it is that his service really isn't very secret.

But with a wry grin, Chief James J. Rowley confessed he has had a tough time getting this point across - particularly to the Soviet Secret police.

"As much as I tried to convince those fellows that we are not a cloak and dagger operation, they did not believe it," Rowley recalled.

He said he made the attempt at Vienna in June, 1961, when he was head of

the White House detail assigned to protect President Kennedy at his summit meeting with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

"The Russian police with Khrushchev just looked at me with quizzical smiles as if to say, 'who are you spoofing?'" Rowley added.

Unfortunately, the chief said, similar misconceptions exist in other countries - and in the United States. He would like to clear these up.

Long Service
Rowley, an affable, square-jawed Irishman, is a 54-year-old native of New York City's Bronx. He has been with the Secret Service since 1938. He went with its White House

detail in 1939 and was placed in charge of it in 1947. On Aug. 31, 1961, he succeeded U. E. Baughman as chief of the service.

"He hasn't lost a president yet," was the biggest tribute paid Rowley when he took his new job. The accolade came from President Kennedy.

Protecting the President is the service's No. 1 job. Capturing counterfeiters and forgers of government checks and bonds are its other big tasks.

Some of the things the service does are secret, Rowley - and the 350 or so agents under him in Washington and 64 field offices - are as com-

municative about the first family's activities as the Central Intelligence agency is about its cloak-and-dagger work. An counterfeiters could not be trapped without frequent use of undercover agent and informers.

Works in Open
But in guarding the President and his family, or the vice president, and in a multitude of activities, including a persistent campaign to educate the public about counterfeiting, the service operates in the open. Quietly, but openly.

"We try to operate in a quiet and efficient manner, with a minimum of conspicuousness both in this country

and abroad," Rowley said. "This is a democracy, and therefore we cannot in any way be overbearing or arrogant."

He mused that neither he nor anyone else seems to know why the Secret Service was given its name when it was created 88 years ago. It might have been because titles of this sort were the vogue for European police groups or to serve some psychological purpose in the Civil War.

It was because counterfeiting was corrupting the Union's currency - about one-third of the greenbacks in circulation were bogus - that the service was formed. In 1901, after the assassination of President William McKinley, agents also were assigned as presidential bodyguards. This became their top job.

Counterfeiting
Rowley is much concerned these days about a steady increase in counterfeiting and an invasion of this criminal field by hardened racketeers who have formed nationwide rings for printing and passing phony bills.

"The old-time counterfeiter was a craftsman who painstakingly engraved, by hand, a steel plate," the chief said. "He took six months or more, and when he got to the printing stage, he couldn't run off anywhere near the extent of bills they can make today -

even if he had the best printing presses."

To show how times have changed, Rowley told of a recent case in the Midwest in which counterfeiters ran off more than \$800,000 in "funny money" in two nights after photographing genuine bills and transferring the images to "sensitized aluminum plates which you can get for nine cents each."

Rowley said the cause probably lies in the fact that to a large extent "the door is closed to them on gambling."

"They lost a lucrative field in Cuba, and also as a result of the anti-racketeering focus of the attorney general," he explained. "So they are turning attention to this activity."

Rowley's agent seized \$3.5 million in counterfeit bills at plants before the "money" could be circulated in the fiscal year that ended June 30, 1962. They picked up another \$867,898 from unlucky citizens who had accepted fake bills - to their personal loss.

The chief concedes that is "a drop in the bucket" percentage since legal bills totaling \$33 billion of all denominations are in circulation.

"But on the other hand, it's like the story we learned as children about plugging the hole in the dike," he said. "We can't grow lax, because counterfeiting degrades the

stability and integrity of our currency. We've got to stop it at the source, and keep at it."

Last year, Rowley asked Congress for 58 additional field offices because of a big backlog of counterfeiting and forgery cases. He got 30. He made a new appeal just last week.

GOP Grips
The theory that nothing succeeds like success can be thrown through a wringer when Rowley requests more agents which means spending more federal money. For, although he insisted last year that they would be for field office duty, his request aroused some Republican gripes that the Kennedy family's travels "were the real cause."

Indirectly, they had a point since the field office backlogs were a partial result of assigning agents to the first family's activities in this country and abroad. By law, the Secret Service also has expanded its protection for the vice president.

Rowley acknowledged in testimony before a House appropriations subcommittee last year that "we anticipate... we will be required to travel with the President to a greater extent than heretofore."

But he told United Press International this resulted from "stepped up transportation and communications," and that the pattern for today's travel trend was set by former President Dwight D. Eisenhower when he began using jet planes.

Eisenhower went to Europe several times, to South Amer-

ica, and to the Far East. Kennedy - though Rowley won't comment about him, or any other president personally - is on the way to exceeding Eisenhower's mileage record. But he has more advanced craft than Eisenhower had even when he left office.

Bogus Bills
Presidential trips are not the only problems broad. There also has been counterfeiting of U.S. currency in other countries - or passing of bogus U.S. bills abroad by persons cashing in on the acceptance of American legal tender just about anywhere.

A sorry sidelight of this has been the confiscation of some \$27,000 in phony \$100 and \$20 bills from Cuban refugees in this country. Most of the spurious currency was printed by a Midwestern ring and shipped to Cuba before the Communist Castro regime took over. The refugees, to have cash on hand in the United States, bought the counterfeit money on the Cuban black market.

Under Rowley, and earlier under his predecessor, the

Secret Service has added mechanization and electronics to its enforcement and protective techniques. It even uses a machine now to help trap forgers by analyzing their handwriting.

But with all this, there still is some simple logic in the art of detection. For example, what denomination of bills should agents - and the public - look for in hunting for counterfeiters?

"Five, ten or twenty dollar bills," Rowley advised. "Tens and twenties, generally. It goes with the economy. In the depression of the 1930s a man had a hard time cashing a twenty, and fives were popular. There were a lot of counterfeit coins, then too - quarters and halves. But we don't find many of those any more."

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SECTION D **MEDFORD TRIBUNE** PAGES 1 to 8
MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1963

Young American Girl Weds Sikkim Crown Prince in Buddhist Rites

By A. K. DAS
Gangtok, Sikkim - Hope Cooke, a 22-year-old American girl just out of college, today became crown princess of this exotic Himalayan principality in a solemn Buddhist wedding performed by 14 lamas.

The bridegroom, Crown Prince Palden Thondup Namgyal, smiled as he leaned over from his throne to help his diminutive bride unwind a long white silk scarf around her neck to complete the ancient ceremony in the royal palace.

He thus transformed Miss Cooke into Her Highness Princess Hope of Sikkim, "consort of the deities."

Princess Hope, an Episcopalian, watched with a faint smile as her second cousin, John H. Humpstone of New York, sealed the match by placing a similar white scarf around the neck of the 39-year-old crown prince.

Rates Yellow Umbrella
The young New York socialite, who graduated from Sarah Lawrence college, Bronxville, N. Y., last month, is the first U.S. citizen to marry into Asian royalty. She now rates the yellow-topped umbrella of Oriental royalty wherever she goes.

As crown princess of this

isolated mountain land the size of Yellowstone park, she is considered the social equal of another American princess, Grace of Monaco, and ahead of the Duchess of Windsor.

Princess Grace's Riviera domain is smaller than New York's Central Park.

The wedding in the royal palace monastery and accompanying festivities are expected to cost \$100,000. The expense, partly from state funds, coupled with the decision to marry a Westerner, had provoked some parliamentary opposition, but the ceremony went off without incident.

Descendant of Pilgrims
The bride, a descendant of Mayflower Pilgrims, appeared composed as she sat on a low throne during the ceremony, occasionally exchanging whispered comments and smiles with the groom, who sat cross-

legged on a throne next to her and slightly higher.

The groom's father, 70-year-old Maharaja Sir Tashi Namgyal, sat cross-legged on the highest throne.

After the marriage was completed and the crown prince had shown the bride how to sign a civil registration book recording the marriage, she spoke with his three children by his late wife, a Tibetan.

Giving Up Citizenship
The bride, who met her prince on a vacation trip to India in 1959, has announced she will give up her American citizenship and become a naturalized Sikkimese "as soon as possible."

"I love my husband's people," she said, "and I want to be one of them."

She has indicated she will not change her Episcopalian faith, however.

Princess Hope's family was represented at the wedding by Mrs. Selden Chapin, her guardian and wife of the former U. S. Ambassador to Iran; and her cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hanes of Winston Salem, N. C.; and Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Metz, now living in Saudi Arabia, and their daughters, Mary Helen and Grace.

Phoenix Grange
At the next meeting of the Phoenix Grange, March 26, Bert Wilcox, county extension agent, will speak on rural areas development, during the literary program. Entertainment will be from the Arthur Murray Dance Studio.

Master Lloyd Whiteside presided over the last meeting.

Several officers and members were absent because of illness.

Charles Hockersmith reported that there are fewer dairy cattle today than in the year, 1910. Mrs. George Hartley also mentioned items regarding agriculture.

Grange News

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