

GUN INQUIRY FINDS NO PLOT EVIDENCE IN THREAT TO FORD

Prosecutor Says Pistol Was
Owned by Man Who Knew
That Woman Had It

WEAPON TEST PLANNED

Manson Follower Is Held in
Strict Security—Move to
Indict Due Wednesday

By WALLACE TURNER

Special to The New York Times

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Sept. 6—The Government has turned up no evidence "thus far" of a conspiracy to assassinate President Ford, Dwayne Keyes, United States attorney, said today.

However, he also said that the owner of a .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol that was pointed at Mr. Ford yesterday had been aware that Lynette Fromme, 26 years old, had possession of it. Miss Fromme was formally charged yesterday with attempting to assassinate the President.

Mr. Keyes, the Federal prosecutor, would not identify the owner of the gun, a man, or explain fully how the woman had come to have the gun, that she pointed at Mr. Ford as he walked from his hotel to the Capitol to address the California Legislature.

Mr. Keyes said that Miss Fromme had carried the pistol in a holster strapped to her leg beneath her long red robe. Witnesses said earlier that she had withdrawn the pistol from her bag.

Letters Being Studied

Mr. Keyes also said that officers used a search warrant last night to go through the apartment house where Miss Fromme lived in a converted old house on a quiet tree-shaded street about eight blocks from the entrance to the state Capitol grounds, where she pointed the

loaded gun at President Ford.

The prosecutor said "letters and correspondence" of the three women who lived there were being reviewed by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Some letters were from Charles M. Manson, the convicted murderer to whose clan Miss Fromme belonged.

A partly filled box of bullets for the pistol was also found in the house, he said.

"There is nothing at this time to indicate a conspiracy," said Mr. Keyes, who is the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California.

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He said searchers had found several unmailed letters addressed to companies that had been accused of damaging the environment.

In his cryptic answers about the gun that Miss Fromme carried, Mr. Keyes said that he understood it was manufactured about 1914, but he said he might have been confused. He said the weapon had not been involved in any criminal investigation before this one. It will be taken to Washington for close examination including a firing test.

"The owner has not been charged," Mr. Keyes said. "I believe he will not be charged."

Mr. Keyes said he did not know if knives or other weapons had been taken from the apartment. He did not know if drugs had been found there. No results have been received from blood and urine tests given to Miss Fromme, he said.

He said that 75 to 90 F.B.I. agents here were working on the case.

"At this time we have no evidence that any other person had prior knowledge," Mr. Keyes said of Miss Fromme's acts.

He said he saw no reason for Mr. Ford to be called as a witness against Miss Fromme. He also said he expected the trial would be within four to six months.

In an interview last night, Sandra Good, 30, who lived with Miss Fromme, said they were members of the "International People's Court" which she also called "the Court of Retribution," and the "court" had an objective of "killing polluters of air and water."

Miss Good said, "I'm warning these people they'd better stop polluting or they're going to die."

For most of the time since Mr. Manson entered prison in

April, 1971, he has not been permitted to correspond with Miss Fromme and Miss Good, although they have campaigned steadily for this privilege and for visiting rights at San Quentin, Folsom and Vacaville prisons, where he has been held at different times.

Within the last few months, correspondence rights have been given, however, and at San Quentin prison today Sgt. N. L. Shoemaker, in charge of the prison mail room, made remarks that raised the question that Mr. Manson might have been passing coded instructions to his followers. Sergeant Shoemaker said he had read the Manson mail and added, "The stuff was meaningless to the average person but it is possible it had messages to one another. It was real murky stuff."

Letters passed from Miss Fromme and Miss Good to Mr. Manson three or four times a week, the authorities said.

F.B.I. agents went to San Quentin today to interview prison staff members about Mr. Manson.

Mr. Keyes said he intended to ask a grand jury on Wednesday to indict Miss Fromme. She was held overnight in the Sacramento County Jail under what Sheriff Duane Lowe said was "strictest security." She is in a steel-barred single cell, under close watch of a woman deputy. There are about 10 other women in the jail.

Miss Fromme will be permitted visitors on schedules followed for all prisoners, the sheriff said. She can talk to the visitors by telephone and will be separated by bullet-proof glass.

Miss Good said as she talked in the attic apartment where she lived with Miss Fromme and Susan Katherine Murphy, who was not further identified:

"I don't know what state of mind Lyn was in, but I do know she was concerned that nobody is doing anything for the country. This act was a culmination of many, many problems. She apparently was moved by the disaster facing the country from air and water pollution. Nixon lied to the people and Ford is continuing to lie to the people. He is not doing anything to help the people."

Miss Good said she had not known that Miss Fromme planned to try to shoot Mr. Ford and did not know where the gun came from. She also said Miss Fromme left their rooms Friday while Miss Good was still asleep.

Witnesses said that Miss Fromme had wandered around the area where Mr. Ford was to pass between the Senator Hotel and the State Capitol. The

President's plan to address the joint legislative session was widely advertised.

President Ford said later that as he moved along shaking hands in the crowd, "I saw a hand coming up behind several others in the front row, and obviously, there was a gun in that hand."

There was no indication from the authorities today as to whether Miss Fromme pulled the trigger of the pistol. Larry M. Buendorf, a Secret Service agent, grabbed the gun and forced it to the ground. The White House said Mr. Buendorf had cut his hand in the process, possibly on the cocked hammer.

This morning a dispute over the efficiency of local police agencies in providing presidential security broke out in the newspapers here. Unidentified police sources were quoted as criticizing the California state police for not providing officers to protect Mr. Ford once he had entered the Capitol grounds. Guy Oates, the state police chief, said the criticism was not justified, and Sacra-



Associated Press

Sandra Good, who lived with Lynette Fromme, as she talked to reporters yesterday at her apartment in Sacramento.

mento' police chief, William J. Kinney, agreed with him.

Miss Fromme was not among the thousands of persons listed in the F.B.I. and Secret Service files as potential threats to Presidential security, although

on July 9, The Associated Press distributed from here an account of an interview with her in which Miss Fromme was quoted as saying that "if Nixon's possessive reality, wearing a new Ford face, continues to run the country against the law, our homes will be bloodier than the Tate-LaBianca houses and My Lai put together."

Mr. Manson and three other women followers Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie Van Houton, were convicted of murdering the actress Sharon Tate and six others in August, 1969.

Despite this statement, no attempt seems to have been made by the Federal or local authorities to keep her under surveillance while the President was here.

Douglas Duncan, agent in charge of the Secret Service office here, said he had had no printed file on Miss Fromme until after her confrontation with President Ford. He said he had not previously been aware she was living in Sacramento.

Prompted by Kennedy's Death

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6 (AP) —The assassination of President Kennedy in 1963 prompted passage of the Federal law under which Miss Fromme was charged yesterday.

The law, Title 18, Section 1751 of the United States Code, makes it a Federal crime to kill or attempt to kill a President, President-elect, Vice President or other official next in line for the Presidency.

President Johnson signed the measure as Public Law 89-141 on Aug. 28, 1965. Before that, there was no Federal statute covering Presidential assassination.