

FORD WON'T STOP SEEING THE PUBLIC

**Tells Son of Determination
to Continue Mingling—
Is Described as Calm**

After the latest apparent attempt on his life yesterday, President Ford told his youngest son, Steven, that he was still undeterred from making public appearances.

"We're not going to let a couple of people stop the American people from seeing the President," Mr. Ford told his son as he was flying back to Washington from San Francisco.

Steven Ford, who is in Logan, Utah, where he is entering Utah State University today, said in a telephone interview that his father had telephoned him from Air Force One to discuss the incident in San Francisco.

Steven's report was the first indication of what the President was telling his own family after eyewitnesses had described him as shaken by the gun episode. A White House spokesman, however, had later called him "calm" and "relaxed" after boarding his plane for Washington.

The incident appeared likely to increase concern over the ability of President Ford and other Presidential candidates to make public appearances and mingle among crowds where the Secret Service and the local authorities have difficulty protecting them.

The San Francisco episode, as the President emerged from the St. Francis Hotel, came despite stepped-up security measures. The President was to continue his public travels in spite of a threat against him 17 days ago.

- Correspondents traveling with Mr. Ford noticed an increased

Continued on Page 28, Column 3

Ford Tells His Son He Won't Stop Seeing the Public

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

security guard around him during his three-day trip to California, though it was unclear whether he was still wearing the bulletproof vest that he had worn in public shortly after a gun was aimed at him by a woman during his visit to Sacramento, Calif., on Sept. 5.

A spokesman for the Secret Service declined last night to say whether Mr. Ford was wearing the vest when a shot was fired in his direction yesterday as he stepped from a San Francisco hotel and moved toward his limousine.

"We never discuss any protective measures taken by the Secret Service in the President's behalf," said the spokesman, John Warner, shortly after a woman, identified as Sara Jane Moore, was taken into custody on suspicion of attempted murder.

That traditional tight-lipped attitude toward its job of safeguarding the President has been considered one of the Secret Service's most effective counterweapons against potential assassins who, it has been assumed up to now, might be deterred by a fear that what they did not know could hurt them.

But Yesterday's apparent attempt to kill Mr. Ford is the second within the last month. He was menaced during a visit to Sacramento Sept. 5 by Lynette Alice Fromme, a member of the Charles M. Manson family, with a .45-caliber automatic pistol that did not go off.

Mr. Ford apparently first used the vest under his shirt during a political visit to New Hampshire the week after the Sacramento incident.

Such protective garments stocked by the Secret Service, made of a recently developed

artificial fiber, are capable of stopping a bullet from the largest pistol at close range, although not a slug from a high-powered rifle.

But the vest seemed to have been put aside during a subsequent Presidential trip to St. Louis, where Mr. Ford expressed his wish, as President and candidate, "to meet with the people, shake hands with them, to get their questions."

St. Louis Remark Dropped

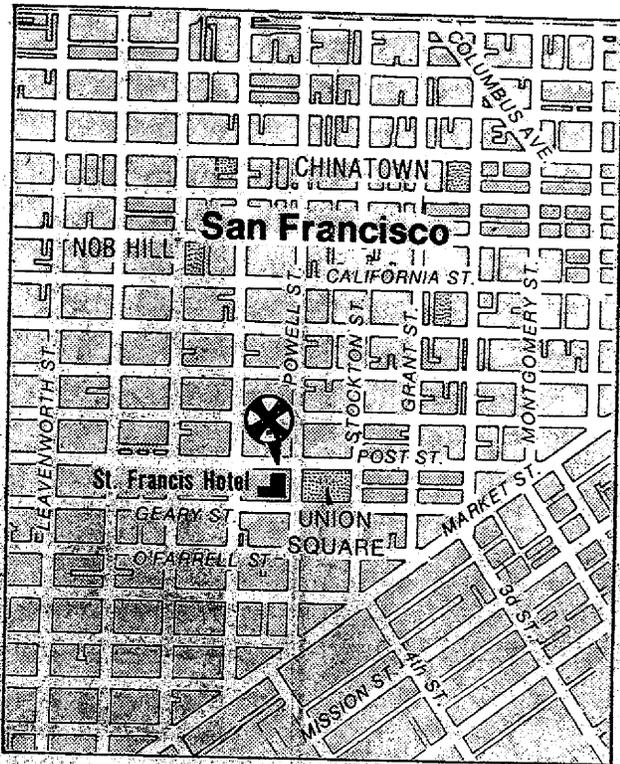
Those accompanying Mr. Ford on his recent trips have not noticed any restriction of either his movements or contacts with the public. Mr. Ford's prepared text of his St. Louis speech said that he had "no intention of allowing the Government of the people to be held hostage at the point of a gun," but at the last minute he decided not to make the remark.

It was not known whether the President was wearing the vest today, which, although it weighs four pounds, is designed to be worn in warm weather.

Secret Service agents and local policemen—who try to watch hands, not faces, and look for flashes of metal that might be knives or gun barrels, during Presidential surveillance—have seemed even more intense than usual.

A Secret Service agent seized Miss Fromme's gun in Sacramento, without its being discharged. Agents spotted a man with a pistol at a St. Louis auditorium where Mr. Ford was about to speak. They chased, but did not catch, a second apparent assailant.

Today, according to observers at the scene, the revolver held by Mrs. Moore was deflected by a San Francisco policeman just as she pulled the trigger, and the bullet ricocheted harmlessly off the sidewalk.



The New York Times/Sept. 23, 1975
Arrow points to area in downtown San Francisco where a shot was fired near President Ford.

Despite Mr. Ford's past statements, there was immediate speculation about what the effect of the latest incident would be regarding the President's mingling with crowds.

Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona, a candidate for the Democratic Presidential nomination, said tonight that he would take "another look" at the question of campaign security.

Wife Shows Concern

"My wife is concerned about it," Mr. Udall said. "With these continued things, you have to weigh them."

Secret Service protection has not yet gone into effect for any Presidential candidate other than Mr. Ford.

"I'd hoped we'd have a few more months without it," Mr. Udall said.

'Bad Period Ahead'

Senator Henry M. Jackson of Washington, another Democratic Presidential candidate, said in a telephone interview from a fund-raising dinner in Philadelphia: "Well, it's getting to be madness. What do you say or do? It looks like a bad period ahead."

In his own campaigning, Mr. Jackson expected that the latest episode "won't change anything. I'm fatalistic. I'd ques-

tion whether it's going to change Ford's style either."

At the same time, Mr. Jackson thought that "the volume of this activity may have to be cut down."

No modern President has made himself vulnerable to crowds the way Mr. Ford has recently, Mr. Jackson said—"not even Jack Kennedy. There's a mathematical equation to it—the more often you do it, the greater the risk."

Jimmy Carter, the former Governor of Georgia who was campaigning for the Democratic Presidential nomination in Rochester, N.Y., commented in a radio interview: "I'm afraid the threat of violence will always be part of our political system. Generally there is less tendency toward violence in the whole than there was four or five years ago, but the possibility of this sort of thing is something you just accept if you're involved in public life. You can't let it keep you from doing the things you ought to do."

The problem that has confronted the Secret Service from the time that the Treasury Department, of which it is an arm, was given the task of guarding the President's life, is how it

C-23-75
NYF

can best fulfill that responsibility in a relatively open society in which the electorate seems to like, and politicians seem to cherish, a high degree of direct physical contact.

The procedures that the Secret Service has developed to aid its task are still imperfect. One of these, the advance security check on individuals who have previously threatened a President's life or who have demonstrated violent tendencies, failed to reveal Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of President Kennedy; Arthur Bremer, who seriously wounded Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama in 1972, or Miss Fromme, whose presence in Sacramento and past association with the Manson "family" was reportedly known to the authorities there.

Further questions about the security check procedures undoubtedly will be raised in view of the assertion last night by Capt. William Conroy of the San Francisco Police, that Mrs. Moore had been on the Secret Service's "questionable list" and had been interviewed Sunday in front of her San Francisco home by law enforcement officers who searched the woman and found a gun, which they confiscated.