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FORD NONPLUSSED ON PISTOL EPISODE

Didn't Have Time to React,
He Says at Rockefeller's

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7—President and Mrs. Ford, smiling and apparently relaxed, talked briefly at a party tonight about an episode in which a woman pointed a loaded gun at Mr. Ford Friday.

The Fords were guests of honor at the first of nine "house warming" parties given by Vice President and Mrs. Rockefeller at their official residence.

Mr. Ford, as he tried to move through the crowd under a striped yellow and white tent, was asked by reporters about the episode in California. "I saw a girl in a red dress," he said. "It happened so fast you don't have time to react."

Mrs. Ford said, "Somehow I felt stronger the day before yesterday [Friday] than I did yesterday," she said. Of her husband she said, "He went right on. I'm sure if he'd had more stops to make he would have made them."

She said that he had called her from Air Force One, the Presidential plane, to tell her about the situation. Asked whether the episode would make any change in his travel-

ing style, she said, "He's been traveling all his life and I wouldn't change him. It's just one of those incidents—something you live with."

Mrs. Ford said that among the callers who telephoned her husband after he returned to Washington Friday were Senators Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, two of whose brothers were assassinated, and Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

Gun Sold as Surplus

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 (UPI)—The .45-caliber semi-automatic pistol that Lynette Fromme pointed at President Ford in California Friday was sold as Government surplus more than 60 years ago, a Treasury Department official said today.

It was made for the Government by the Colt Firearms Company in 1911, the year the Colt 45—which became one of America's most popular sidearms—was developed, he said.

"It was used in the Army for a period of time," said Rex D. Davis, director of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The gun was sold as Army surplus in 1913.

Mr. Davis said the National Firearms Tracing Center had not been able to trace the gun's history after that.

An Army spokesman said that the Army had determined that the gun had not been stolen from its supplies.

United States Attorney D. Dwayne Keyes told reporters in Sacramento, Calif., yesterday that the gun's owner, a man whom he would not identify, was aware that Miss Fromme had it in her possession.

"We do not believe it has a criminal history," Mr. Keyes said. He did not elaborate.