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Reporter finds security plan

ELKINS, W.Va. (AP) — A six-page security plan for President Ford's visit to Elkins last Saturday was found on the lawn of the Randolph County Courthouse three hours before the President's arrival.

The plan, found by this reporter prior to the security-conscious presidential visit, pinpointed places along Ford's route where he would probably alight from his bullet-proof car.

In fact, the President did stop at each of the three spots detailed on the plan.

The locations of four two-man West Virginia State Police sniper teams, assignments of all state and city police along the parade route, escape routes to be used by the presidential limousine in case of emergency and security plans for areas behind buildings along the parade route were also listed in the plan.

It included the assignments of state conservation officers and detailed the number of men involved in each assignment.

When an attempt was made to return the plan to a Secret Service agent assigned to the press credential room, the agent glanced at the material and said it was not important.

The reporter later showed the papers to Pappy Noel, a staff assistant to the President, and told him where they were found. Noel and other White House aides examined the plan and said they were alarmed at the apparent carelessness involved in its loss.