

Agent Says Moore Threw Him Off Guard

By Joseph Albright
Chronicle Correspondent

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A Secret Service agent who questioned Sara Jane Moore the night before she allegedly took a shot at President Ford testified yesterday that Miss Moore was so believable that it was decided "she was just one less person we had to be concerned about the next day."

Agent Gary S. Yauger, 38, said, "With the facts I had, I definitely do not think I was wrong. I would do the same thing again with those facts. I don't know what happened. I don't know if our interview triggered her."

Yauger was testifying before a Senate subcommittee in the second day of hearings into Secret Service procedures after the gun incidents involving the President September 5 in Sacramento and September 22 in San Francisco.

San Francisco police inspector John O'Shea told the subcommittee

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mittee that he gave agents from three federal agencies warnings that Miss Moore "could be another Squeaky Fromme." He was referring to the Manson cultist who pointed a .45-caliber automatic pistol at Mr. Ford in Sacramento.

O'Shea said he had known Miss Moore since June, when she approached police with an offer to provide information on the slaying of Wilbert (Popeye) Jackson, head of the United Prisoners Union.

The information was useless, O'Shea said. But the woman approached police again September 17, offering to introduce them to a Danville gun dealer who, Miss Moore claimed, was selling illegal munitions.

O'Shea said a meeting was set up between the dealer, Miss Moore and Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Tobacco agent Charles W. Galyan for September 21, the day President Ford gave a speech at Stanford University. O'Shea said Miss Moore told him that after the meeting that she intended to go to Stanford "to test

the system."

The inspector said he regarded this as a threat on the President's life and informed Galyan of his belief. Then, said O'Shea, he conveyed warnings to FBI agent Terry D. Hulse and Secret Service agents Yauger and Martin Haskell.

O'Shea quoted Yauger as saying, "We probably ought to pick her up," and remarking at another point, "I guess this will blow your gun deal." O'Shea said after the meeting with the gun dealer, he telephoned Haskell.

"He said she had to be picked up. I said all right and I called the Mission station and told them to pick her up and gave them her address and license number and this is exactly what happened," O'Shea said. A .44-caliber revolver was confiscated from Miss Moore but, although she was cited for carrying a concealed weapon, she was not taken into custody.

Yauger and Haskell testified that they assumed Miss Moore would be safely behind bars and were surprised to find that she was free. The agents picked the woman up and took her to the Federal building for questioning.

"At no time in the interview did she display any sign of mental instability. She felt like she was doing something big by being an undercover agent for the police department," Yauger said. "In my opinion, she was not a danger to the president, or to the public or to herself."

The two agents telephoned O'Shea toward the close of the interview with Miss Moore, but their account differs with O'Shea's as to what was said. Referring to Yauger, O'Shea said, "He said, is there any more? I said no."

But Yauger said he asked O'Shea: "Do we need anything else? Do we have a problem? He said, 'No.'"

At another point in the testimony, O'Shea said, at the request of the Secret Service men, he had six enlarged photographs of Miss Moore printed on Sunday. But they were never picked up.

The following morning, on the day that Miss Moore allegedly fired a shot at the President outside the St. Francis Hotel, the



SECRET SERVICE AGENTS YAUGER AND HASKELL
They questioned Sara Moore and let her go

agents acknowledged that Miss Moore telephoned the Secret Service three times and the FBI once in an effort to talk to Yauger and Haskell. Yauger heard of only one of the calls and couldn't reach Miss Moore when he called back.

Yauger was outside the hotel surveying the crowd when Mr. Ford emerged. "I was ten to 15 feet from Miss Moore when the incident occurred. I assume I passed several times within eyesight of her," the agent said.

Yauger said that if he had spotted Mrs. Moore in the crowd, at the very least he would have searched her purse. Miss Moore, who is undergoing psychiatric testing in San Diego, said after the attempt that if she'd had the .44 taken from her the day before by San Francisco police, she would have hit Mr. Ford.

Yauger said it was the first time that a person who had been determined not to be a threat to the president actually turned out to be one. "We have to make decisions that trained psychologists can't make," he said.



S.F. OFFICER JOHN O'SHEA
He gave warnings