

Search Yields Bullets; Gun Is Identified

By Jules Witcover
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SACRAMENTO, Sept. 6—A search of Lynette Alice Fromme's apartment has found a partially empty packet of ammunition for a .45-cal. semi-automatic pistol of the kind taken from her in Friday's assassination attempt on President Ford, U.S. Attorney Dwayne Keyes reported today.

Letters from Charles Manson, the convicted mass murderer, also were found in the apartment, but nothing in them or other letters indicated "at this time" that Manson was involved in a conspiracy to kill President Ford, Keyes said.

Keyes told a press conference that ownership of the handgun has been traced to a man who will "probably not" be charged with any offense because the gun itself "doesn't have a criminal history" that would involve him. Keyes said the man, whom he declined to identify, had been interviewed and knew Fromme had the weapon. The gun had not been stolen, the U.S. attorney said.

Keyes further identified the weapon as a 1914 model. He said it was being taken to FBI headquarters in Washington today for further testing and for fingerprinting and other identification. He said it had not been test-fired yet, because that is the last step in the examination.

Keyes said also that Fromme carried the pistol used in the assassination attempt in a leg holster beneath her long, flowing red dress.

He said authorities first

thought she had carried the gun in her purse.

He said it still had not been established whether the Secret Service agent who cut his hand in grabbing the gun from Fromme, Larry Buendorf, had blocked the trigger mechanism, preventing firing, as Buendorf had suggested Friday.

And the question remained, since there was no bullet found in the firing chamber, whether it could have been discharged at all. Nor was there any more information about Fromme's familiarity with the weapon, he said, to determine whether she erred in trying to fire it by not pulling back the slide to put one of the four bullets in the gun into the chamber, or never intended to actually fire a bullet.

In any event, Keyes said, "I do not believe there is a legal problem" for the prosecution making its case because no bullet was found in the firing chamber itself. Fromme has been charged with violating the presidential assassination, kidnap

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and assault act, which carries a penalty on conviction of more than a year up to life imprisonment. Keyes said Friday he expected to ask for the maximum sentence.

Also found in the apartment Fromme shared with her fellow member of the Manson "family" of followers, Sandra Good, were letters from the young women, to executives of various companies on ecological matters," Keyes said.

Keyes said there were no plans to bring Manson, convicted of murder in the celebrated Tate-LaBianca case, from San Quentin prison to Sacramento for next Wednesday's presentation of the case to a federal grand jury.

However, he said, "I certainly assume" federal investigators will talk to Manson in prison about the epi-

sode. Manson was convicted in the 1969 murders of actress Sharon Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Leno LaBianca and four others.

There were no references to assassination of Mr. Ford or anyone else in any of the letters read so far, Keyes said. However, in an interview today at her Sacramento apartment with a Los Angeles television reporter, Good said:

"The people who are polluting the environment, who are killing the air, and the water, and the trees, if they don't stop, they are going to die."

Good said that "many people will be assassinated in the near future" and mentioned executives of Georgia Pacific Corp., Dow Chemical Co., and E. I. duPont de Nemours & Co., MCA, Inc., major lumber companies

and major auto companies. "They're all set up for assassination," she said.

"There is a wave of assassinations moving throughout the world and these people better stop their destruction of earth. Either these people stop doing it or they die."

Keyes said the search, begun Friday night, found no drugs at the apartment. Medical tests of Fromme have not been completed, he said, and he did not know the result of her psychiatric tests.

Asked what he would do if someone offered to put up the \$1 million bail set for Fromme, Keyes said in that case he would ask the court to require cash and he did not believe any banking in-

stitution would cooperate in producing it.

Keyes said there are 75 to 90 FBI agents in the Sacramento area and he assumed all were working on the Fromme investigation. He said he saw no reason now why a trial could not be started in four to six months, or well before the 1976 presidential election. He said he did not believe the prosecution would need to call Mr. Ford as a witness, but could not say whether the defense might want to call him.

Keyes was asked about reports that Fromme distributed to news agencies about two months ago a statement saying that "if Nixon's reality wearing a new face con-

tinues to run this country against the law, your homes will be bloodier than the Tate-LaBianca houses and Mylai put together."

He said that to his knowledge the remarks were never brought to the attention of the Secret Service and hence Fromme was not on the list of Sacramento suspicious persons to be monitored by the Secret Service.

In the absence of such knowledge, Keyes said, the Secret Service had no basis for considering Fromme a threat to the President. City police officials usually convey such information to the Secret Service, he said, but have no legal responsibility to do so.



DWAYNE KEYES
...tells of gun findings