

Hearings Set On Policies of Secret Service

By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

Senate hearings have been scheduled for next week on ways to tighten Secret Service protection after the second attempt on President Ford's life.

Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.), said his Appropriations subcommittee in charge of the Secret Service budget will hear on Tuesday and perhaps Wednesday from Secret Service Director H. Stuart Knight and former presidential candidates.

Montoya acted after learning that Sara Jane Moore, who allegedly fired a shot at President Ford in San Francisco Monday, had asked police there on Sunday to take her into custody because she might "test the system." Police took a pistol from her and relayed the information to Secret Service agents who interviewed and released her Sunday evening.

"It appears to me that this would have been enough of a warning to have warranted steps for keeping an eye on this woman until the President left the city," said Montoya.

Montoya said he also wanted to know why Moore and Lynette (Squeaky) Fromme, who pointed a gun at the President 17 days earlier in Sacramento, were not on the Secret Service's list of 47,000 persons considered potentially dangerous to the President. Both women were known to be active in radical groups.

Meanwhile, the Secret Service was defended yesterday at a House Judiciary subcommittee hearing by David R. MacDonald, assistant Treasury secretary in charge of the Secret Service.

He said each year the agency screens 200,000 items of information concerning

possible danger to the President, interviews 4,000 suspects, locates about 300 persons in the area considered possible threats to the President whenever he makes a trip, and arrests about 60 suspects. Assassination attempts that are averted are not reported, he said.

The two recent assassination attempts have produced new calls for tighter gun control legislation, which the Judiciary subcommittee headed by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) has been considering during several months of hearings.

Rep. Robert McClory (Ill.), senior Republican on the subcommittee, urged Conyers to start writing a bill within the next two weeks and try to pass it this year. McClory favors legislation requiring registration of handguns.

Conyers, who favors an outright ban on possession of handguns by civilians, said the subcommittee must first invite testimony from the Justice Department and National Rifle Association.

In other reaction to the latest assassination attempts:

- Former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, who may oppose Mr. Ford for the Republican nomination, proposed in Tuscaloosa, Ala., that party leaders set ground rules for fewer appearances by presidential candidates in order to reduce the chance for assassination.

- The campaign manager for Eugene J. McCarthy formally requested Secret Service protection. As an independent presidential candidate, the former Minnesota senator is not eligible for matching federal campaign aid and thus could not meet the qualifications for protection announced by a congressional advisory committee Tuesday.

First Lady Would Like Ford to Cut Mingling

By Helen Thomas

United Press International

Betty Ford said yesterday she wants her husband to continue traveling but wishes he would be more cautious and "just stay away from the people."

Mrs. Ford, her eyes flashing at some of the questions from reporters during a meeting with members of the Women's Stockbroker Association, said that "perhaps there should be some curtailment" of her husband's handshaking and closeness to crowds in view of the second assassination attempt against him in California.

"Of course I want him to travel," she told reporters. "No, I don't think he's in danger."

Asked if she had discussed with President Ford the harrowing episode of Monday when Sara Jane Moore, 45, fired a shot at him as he left a downtown San Francisco hotel, she said:

"Well, of course I've talked to him about it. I'm his wife."

Asked exactly what she had advised him, she

replied: "Just stay away from the people—keep going."

When reporters said many people felt there should be a cooling-off period and Mr. Ford should remain at the White House until tensions ease, Mrs. Ford said, "A lot of people might take that position but I think that it is important for the President, any candidate, to get out and meet the people."

"Perhaps there should be some curtailment," she said. "I think he should be more cautious and perhaps not do as much hand-shaking."

Mrs. Ford also said she thought "the less publicity, the less would be happening."

At that point the 20 or so women stockbrokers burst into applause.

Mrs. Ford also said she agreed with her husband's position on gun control. Mr. Ford opposes gun registration. "I think if you have gun control, people are going to get them anyway," she said.

Mrs. Ford made it clear there had been family talks about the President's safety.

President Heeded Caution

Secret Service Urged He Shun Crowd Monday

By Austin Scott
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford obeyed a Secret Service request not to go over and shake hands in a crowd outside the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco Monday, moments before a woman in the crowd fired a shot at him, the White House said yesterday.

The small crowd in which Sara Jane Moore, who was immediately arrested, stood with her pistol was "one of the crowds the Secret Service suggested the President might pass up," said White House press secretary Ron Nessen. "The President passed it up."

Nessen did not say that advice might have saved the President from being hit by the bullet which, experts have said, bounced off the pavement a few yards in front of him.

But he stressed that Mr. Ford is satisfied with his Secret Service protection, and will continue to shake hands in public.

"I think anyone who suggests the President is insensitive to the dangers is wrong," Nessen said. He added that Mr. Ford "always" obeys such on-the-spot security suggestions from the Secret Service.

Pressed to give a reason why the President so often risks the exposure that plunging into crowds brings, Nessen said it is one method he uses to pressure Congress into supporting administration positions.

"The President has worked

to persuade Congress to join him in passing some legislation which he believes is important to the country and is the right approach to various problems," Nessen said.

"I think it's reasonably clear by this time the Congress has not acted in the vital areas . . . He wants to get over to people his concerns in these areas . . . with the hope that when the public understands, the public will then transmit their concerns to members of Congress," Nessen said.

He said such contact cannot be made in what the President calls the "sterile atmosphere" of the White House.

Nessen said the President will go to Chicago Tuesday as scheduled. No details of the trip have been released, but Mr. Ford is expected to speak

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PRESIDENT, From A1

at a Republican fund-raising dinner Tuesday night and take part in a student news conference at Northwestern University in Evanston the following day.

He also may visit other areas in the Midwest, although the White House has not confirmed that. But Mr. Ford told White House visitors from Omaha yesterday that he will be in that city next Wednesday for a regional conference on domestic policy.

Mr. Ford's travel schedule does taper off toward the end of the year, Nessen said, adding that the tapering off was scheduled long before the recent assassination attempt, so that he would have time to prepare his State of the Union message as well as other year-end business.

Mr. Ford, Vice President Rockefeller, and Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger met with 20 Republican congressional leaders yesterday morning.

Reporting on the two-hour meeting afterward, Senate Minority Leader Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) said they were told the fiscal 1977 budget deficit would be at least \$50 billion, and could go as high as \$75 billion if the tax cut is extended.

Scott said Federal Energy

Administrator Frank G. Zarb told them the energy legislation passed by the House Tuesday was "a very bad bill." Scott said he hoped congressional leaders would work out a compromise with the President.

Sen. Clifford P. Case (R-N.J.) of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee told the President he expects the committee to approve the Israeli-Egyptian agreement worked out with the help of Kissinger earlier this month, Scott said.

House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said that while he doesn't think a congressional investigation of the Secret Service is warranted, he feels Secret Service procedures can be improved.

He noted that Lynette Alice Fromme, who pointed a loaded gun at the President in Sacramento Sept. 5, was wearing a bright red long dress that did not blend in with the crowd, and was "a person whose activities were known by all law enforcement agencies."

The Secret Service could have "probably done something about removing her from the crowd," Rhodes said.

He suggested beefing up the Secret Service contingent that circulates in crowds, and "perhaps some better method of evaluation should be employed."

The Weather

Today — Rain, high in upper 70s, low in mid 60s. Chance of rain is 60 per cent today, 50 per cent tonight. Friday—Rain, high in upper 70s. Yesterday—3 p.m. Air Index, 9; Temp. range: 71-63. Details on B8.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER

Moore May Have Gotten Gun

By Stephen D. Isaacs
Washington Post Staff Writer

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 24—Sara Jane Moore, accused of shooting at President Ford Monday, was actively involved with law enforcement authorities investigating possible illegal gun sales in this area and the gun she fired may have been acquired in connection with this role, it was learned today.

Moore was providing information regularly to the San Francisco Police Department, the FBI and the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau of the Treasury Department.

The FBI has claimed that it stopped using Moore as an informer in June. Moore, 45, reportedly was buying

firearms and relaying information about the purchases to the San Francisco police, sources said.

She bought two guns from Mark Fernwood in nearby Danville where she used to live. When she bought a .44-caliber Charter Arms pistol three weeks ago, Fernwood said, she also admired a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson that he had.

Police took the .44-caliber pistol from Moore Sunday and she returned Monday to Fernwood to buy the Smith & Wesson, the gun which she is accused of firing at President Ford.

Neither the San Francisco police nor the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms officials would confirm that they were paying Moore for her help but she ap-

parently has no other means of support.

Chief of Detectives Charles Barca did confirm, however, that Moore was an active informer for the San Francisco Police Department.

The notification to the Secret Service that Moore might be a security problem for President Ford's visit came from Sgt. Jack O'Shea.

O'Shea was one of Moore's two regular contacts within a special six-member detail of the police department here that is investigating illegal gun trafficking, according to Barca.

That investigation is being conducted jointly with the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Bureau.

Lt. Ray White, head of the Sex

ton Post

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in Police Probe

Crimes and Missing Persons Unit, of which O'Shea's detail is a part, told a reporter today that the investigation has been under way for six months and that "Sara Jane is a key figure, but not the suspect in the case."

Three weeks ago, Moore bought the .44-caliber pistol and some ammunition for \$125 from Fernwood, 26, a gun collector.

Fernwood adamantly denied today that he was dealing in illegal guns, saying: "As far as I know, I've never been a suspect of anything before."

He said that he is a collector whose principal business is the manufacture and sale of kits of replicas of 19th Century guns.

"I'm a legal collector" he said. "It's a

hobby. I don't have any connection with illegal weapons.

"I'm strongly opposed to communism, socialism or left-wing organizations. I don't want to make any statement about any organization I'm a member of." He did not explain further.

He then added: "I'm a strong believer in basic American and constitutional government. Today our Constitution is constantly being ignored, unfortunately. He describes his political views as "the traditional views of a conservative."

Moore's purchase of the .44-caliber pistol three weeks ago was well-known to her police contact, O'Shea, but she

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MARK FERNWOOD
... sold Moore two pistols

Moore May Have Gotten

INFORMER, From A1

had not bought it in connection with her work.

O'Shea used her possession of it to have her detained for several hours on Sunday when President Ford was scheduled to address an audience at nearby Stanford University. O'Shea was worried, Barca has said, because Moore had indicated she might go to Stanford "to test the system."

O'Shea, who did not return Washington Post reporters' calls today, told local reporters that when Moore made that statement he alerted the Secret Service and the FBI.

On Sunday, Barca said, O'Shea continued to be worried about Moore's statement.

At 12:30 p.m., he called the Secret Service "and asked them whether they wanted him to pick her up. They said, 'Yes.' He asked on what charges, and they suggested that maybe she had some outstanding traffic warrants they could arrest her on.

"He said, 'No,' she didn't but we could pick her up on something. Well, I'd better not say that. He said, 'She may have a gun in her possession.' He knew she carried a gun for self-protection," Barca said.

At about that same time, according to Fernwood's account, Moore and "Chuck," who had accompanied Moore Sunday, had just left his house in Danville. Moore—without "Chuck" and accompanied by her 9-year-old son and a female friend—then went to visit a couple Moore knew in Danville. At one point Moore left alone to go and see Fernwood.

When she returned half an hour later, the woman said, Moore told her that she had visited Fernwood "with a friend. He wanted to buy a gun, too."

San Francisco police deny that the man, "Chuck," was one of their men.

The Danville couple said that Moore, her son and the woman friend stayed for several hours.

Meanwhile, O'Shea alerted his supervisor, Lt. White, to the fact that Moore was still not locked up and still had a gun. White told O'Shea to call the Mission District police station, 10 blocks from Moore's house, and have officers stake out her house and arrest her.

At 2:30, Barca says, Moore drove up and an officer "asked her, 'Do you have a gun?' and she said 'Yes, it's in my purse' and handed it to them."

They took her to the Mission station, confiscating the .44 caliber gun and ammunition and issuing her a citation. They released her at 4 p.m., too late for her to attend President Ford's speech at Stanford.

Immediately thereafter, says Barca, she telephoned O'Shea at home from a nearby public phone and said, "You did this to me. You got me arrested so I couldn't go down to Stanford."

At 9:45 that night, sources said, a Secret Service agent called Moore to ask if she would be willing to come to the federal building in downtown San Francisco to talk with agents. She said she was, and the agents sent a car to pick her up.

At 10:15 they began interviewing her, and found her somewhat uncooperative. They offered to call O'Shea, her local police contact and let her talk to him in hopes that might make her more cooperative.

O'Shea told local reporters that the Secret Service called him at about 11 p.m. and put her on the phone. He is reported to have quoted her as saying, "I guess I'm in a fine kettle of fish."

O'Shea said he told Moore to "tell them what you told me and you'll be alright."

He also reportedly said that the Secret Service again called him later

to ask for more information about Moore and "I just told them again what I knew about her."

O'Shea's superior, White, adamantly denied reports that what O'Shea told the Secret Service was in effect vouching for her at the same time," he asked.

Fernwood says that at 11 a.m. Monday, Moore came to his house again and brought the .38 and some ammunition, giving him a check, drawn on San Francisco's Crocker National Bank, for \$145 in payment. He says the police now have that check.

She was alone, Fernwood says, and was there for 15 minutes.

Barca said this evening that by 11:30 a.m. Monday, Moore's Toyota was parked in a lot at Union Square, where four hours later she allegedly shot at the President as he left the St. Francis Hotel to get into his car.

Barca said that the police had nothing to do with the purchase three weeks ago of the .44 caliber gun, confiscated on Sunday.

"She came to us," he said, "and said, 'This guy's dealing. I'll set it up for you,' or words to that effect."

Asked if the man accompanying her to Fernwood's on Sunday was a policeman, Barca said, "I have no comment. I will tell you that she purchase the .44 on her own.

Asked if she purchased the .38 for the police, he said that "we never knew she went back there Monday morning" He and White both said that the department was aware that she went there on Sunday.

"Possibly," Barca said, "she was trying to help us, to set this guy up."

Earlier today, Barca at first tried to deny knowing anything about Moore's activities in Danville on Sunday and, when told The Washington Post knew about two visits there, he said, "Well I just tried to get away with a little lie."

Gun as Police Informant



United Press International

Suspect Sara Jane Moore, right, is brought into federal court for arraignment Tuesday by U.S. marshals.