

Methods Reviewed By Agents

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The Secret Service may not have known about Lynette Alice Fromme's recent remarks sharply criticizing President Ford or may not have interpreted them as threats to the President.

The possibilities emerged from interviews yesterday as the likeliest explanations for the Secret Service's failure to include Fromme, a member of the violence-prone Charles Manson "family," among persons to watch during Mr. Ford's visit to Sacramento on Friday.

Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner said individuals are listed as potential dangers to the President when they make threatening remarks about him and "we know about them." He refused to say whether her statements were known to the service.

Fromme, who lived eight blocks from the state Capitol where she was arrested Friday on a charge of attempted assassination, was quoted by the Associated Press in July as saying that "our homes will be bloodier than the Tate-LaBianca houses and Mylai put together" if the President, whom she described as "Nixon's reality wearing a new Ford face," continued "to run the country against the law."

"Tate-LaBianca" refers to persons Manson and some of his followers were convicted of murdering, and Mylai was the scene of a massacre of Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers.

Fromme's statement was part of an AP interview in which she described how Manson, who is serving a life sentence for masterminding the murders of actress Sharon Tate and six other persons, was blaming his troubles on Nixon.

Manson's prosecutor, Vincent Bugliosi of Los Angeles
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les, said the Secret Service and other law enforcement officials should never have let the Manson disciple get within two feet of Mr. Ford.

Bugliosi, a candidate for Los Angeles district attorney, said officials "can't take any credit for the miraculous fact that the President is still alive." He said they should have realized that the Manson family would transfer its hostility from Nixon to the man he chose as Vice President.

Warner said the Secret Service would not engage in a dialogue with Bugliosi or any other critic. He said he felt presidential protection at Sacramento was adequate and "no major changes are anticipated at this time."

The service is "reviewing the incident," Warner said, adding, "We are constantly reviewing our procedures."

Mr. Ford, whose fondness for mingling with crowds made his bodyguards nervous long before Friday's episode, avoided further direct contact with spectators during the final portions of his Sacramento trip, but he appeared to have no extra guards yesterday when he golfed at the Burning Tree Club.

Warner said he had read published statements that threats to the President and other public officials were on the rise, "but I'm not sure that's accurate. I think they average out about the same from one administration to another."

Security officials have been criticized both for disregarding potential threats to the President and for maintaining too long a list of suspicious persons.

Faulting both the Secret Service and other federal agencies, the Warren Commission noted that the service's files in early November, 1963, contained the names of no individuals from the entire Dallas-Fort Worth area despite the fact that the late Adlai Stevenson, then ambassador to the United Nations, had been abused by pickets in Dallas only a month earlier.

Officials indicated then that the Stevenson incident was deemed too indirect to prefigure a threat to the President, but the commission said such an approach "seriously undermines the precautionary nature" of the service's work.

More recently, Rep. Bella Abzug (D-N.Y.) has charged that the service maintains far too many names in its

computerized list of more than 47,000 individuals posing a potential danger to the president.

Abzug, chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, said the list included names of individuals "who are merely political dissidents," including some who were antiwar demonstrators with no history of violence.

Assistant Secretary of the treasury David R. Macdonald acknowledged at subcommittee hearings in March that the Secret Service devotes some of its energies to checking out seating arrangements at public appearances to spare the President the embarrassment of becoming publicly linked "with organized crime figures or other figures, where he may be held up to hatred, ridicule or contempt."

Macdonald, who oversees the service, denied that political considerations were involved in maintaining the security file. He said every presidential assassin had some history of radical political activities.

In any event, said Macdonald, the service does not maintain surveillance on the 47,000 listed individuals but only on about 300 persons "who are considered extremely dangerous." The larger list numbered half a million persons only a few years ago, he added.

Supporters of tighter gun control legislation said they hoped the near-tragedy would aid their efforts in Congress, but President Ford appeared unwilling to join their cause.

Asked if Friday's events might change the President's opposition to stringent controls, press secretary Ron Nessen said, "I have no reason to believe that will."