

# Buendorf 'Always Put Others Before Himself'

By John P. MacKenzie  
Washington Post Staff Writer

To Ruby Hass, 61-year-old mother of Secret Service agent Larry M. Buendorf, his swift move to protect the President seemed typical of the son she raised.

"He always put others before himself," Mrs. Hass recalled after hearing that her son had forestalled an apparent attempt to assassinate President Ford. "He's very capable and conscientious about his work."

Mrs. Hass heard the news while working at her job as a checkout clerk in a supermarket in Wells, Minn., where Buendorf was born 37 years ago.

It was the most exciting event in a long time for the town of 2,700 near the Iowa border. Friends and neighbors paraded to Schulenberg's Super Valu Store to congratulate Mrs. Hass.

"At first there was a flutter. Then I was reassured that he was all right, and now I just feel very, very proud," Mrs. Hass said, trying to recall her feelings as details of the incident reached her.

Mrs. Hass said Larry, the third of four children, "sort of took over for the family" after his father died in 1954. "He put himself through college," she said, graduating from the state university at nearby Mankato. His mother remarried in 1960.

Buendorf spent the next four years after graduation in the Navy, primarily as a pilot stationed aboard the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk.

A three-letter high school athlete and a football player at Mankato State, Buendorf briefly taught business education and coached high school sports in Blue Earth, Minn., before becoming a civilian employee in naval intelligence.

Buendorf joined the Secret Service in 1970, working first in the Chicago office. After guarding Democratic vice presidential candidate Thomas F. Eagleton and Sargent Shriver during

the 1972 campaign, he joined the select Presidential Protective Division at the White House.

Because of his skiing ability, Buendorf has frequently been assigned to guard President Ford on skis during his Colorado vacations.

Marie Johnson, Buendorf's aunt and godmother, was one of Mrs. Hass' callers during the afternoon. She told a reporter that Buendorf rarely talks about his work and hardly looked like a Secret Service agent during a recent two-week vacation there.

When her godson wore his cutoff bluejeans, "you'd never think he had that sort of a job," said Mrs. Johnson.

Buendorf, who is divorced, accompanied President Ford last month on his two-day speaking trip in three midwestern states, then stayed behind when Mr. Ford returned to Vail, Colo. His 10-year-old daughter, Kimberly, joined him in Minnesota.

Earlier in the summer, Kimberly and her father had their pictures taken with President Ford at the White House. Press aides, citing Secret Service policy against identifying agents, refused to release the picture.

Kimberly spends most of the year with her mother, who has remarried and lives in Chicago. Buendorf, who lives in Springfield, Va., also remarried recently but is separated from his second wife.

Another proud family member was Buendorf's brother, William, 41, vice president of the Minnesota Savings League. Only a few weeks ago, William said, his brother was talking about the constant strain on those who guard the President.

"He was saying he wondered how he would react if President Ford's life were directly threatened," William said. "He asked himself whether he would throw his body in front of a bullet or just how quickly he would react. Evidently his reaction today was just as fast as it needed to be."

# Subtle Differences Are Nag

By Richard M. Cohen  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Despite the confusion, drama and terror surrounding the incident yesterday in which a woman pulled a gun on President Ford, most of the eyewitnesses to the event agree on the significant details.

Reporters on the scene in Sacramento generally received the same version of events over and over again—that the woman had a gun, that she was very close to the President, that seeing the gun visibly upset the President, that the woman first denounced the President as "no public servant" and later admonished the Secret Service to handle her gently as they made

the arrest and hustled her into a police car.

But, as usual, there were discrepancies. Some witnesses thought Mr. Ford was about to shake hands with the woman. Others said the President was about two feet away. Some said the President saw the gun first. Others credited Secret Service agent Larry M. Buendorf with seeing it first.

The differences might seem insignificant. But in similar—but far more tragic—incidents, such as the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the varying recollections of witnesses have fed the continuing controversies about the killings and have

aided those calling for a reopening of the investigations.

In yesterday's incident for instance, there seemed to be some discrepancy about what the woman, Lynette Alice Fromme, 26, said and when she said it. Linda Worlow, 27, a witness to the incident, said that Fromme said, "The country is in a mess. The man is not your President."

Other witnesses, said Fromme repeatedly shouted, "He is not a public servant."

One witness, Roy Miller, said that as Fromme was seized she cried, "Don't worry, it didn't go off." Other witnesses heard somewhat the same thing but as Fromme was led away by

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## giving in Eyewitness Accounts

police, these witnesses said she said, "Easy guys, don't batter me. The gun didn't go off. Easy guys, I'm still. The gun didn't go off."

Another witness was quoted by a news service as saying that Fromme shouted that "People weren't getting what they were working for." The news service said she made the remark as she aimed the gun at Mr. Ford.

All of the witnesses quoted by reporters agreed that Fromme appeared calm throughout the incident, but that President Ford was visibly shaken.

"He saw her gun and he made a motion to deflect it," said witness Miller. "He looked alarmed and had the look of fright." Miller, in a different

dispatch, was quoted as saying that Mr. Ford "looked alarmed, frightened, and he hunched over."

A presidential aide said Mr. Ford's face "went blank with shock or surprise." It was exactly the same phrase used by UPI's Sacramento's bureau manager in his first-person report of the incident—"the President's face went blank with shock or surprise. He didn't seem to comprehend what was going on.

"The President seemed to stumble as if his knees buckled from the crush of the Secret Service agents."

Other witnesses said the President seemed to turn white. Karen Skelton, 14, of Sacramento, who was standing next to Fromme, said of the President,

"The color went out of his face."

As for Fromme, she was described by witnesses as the model of serenity. Witnesses recalled seeing her in the crowd, wading through onlookers as she moved closer to the President. Even after her gun had been seen and she was in the grasp of Secret Service agents, her demeanor was still described by reporters as "calm."

The witnesses agreed also that the Secret Service detail with the President moved swiftly to protect Mr. Ford. No witness reported seeing any agent draw a gun, and all of them said that Buendorf and his fellow agents moved quickly to wrestle the gun away and throw a protective cordon around Mr. Ford.



## **Security:** President Says Incident Won't Bar Appearances

By Carroll Kilpatrick  
Washington Post Staff Writer

President Ford is the most relaxed and least security-conscious President in many years, and he presents a special problem for the men assigned to protect him. He can never resist the temptation to plunge into a crowd.

The Secret Service was successful yesterday in protecting him against an apparent assassination attempt, but, as the incident amply demonstrates, there is no sure way to guard against attacks on public figures.

A presidential aide said that there probably will be no fundamental change in Mr. Ford's approach to public events.

Mr. Ford would be the last person to isolate himself from the public despite his experience as a member of the Warren Commission that investigated the assassination of President Kennedy.

And he emphasized that fact by saying, before leaving Sacramento, that the incident "under no circum-

stances" would prevent him from traveling to meet the people.

"I am going to have that personal contact and relationship with the American people," the President said. "I think it is vital, and I intend to carry it out."

"It is not a question you can deal with by being less visible" another aide said. "It is all or nothing." In other words, meet the public or lock yourself in the White House.

The aide said that neither the nation nor this President in particular would tolerate a situation in which the President would be barred from public contact.

When Mr. Ford is in public, he regularly shakes hands with crowds of people lined up at airports, near his hotel, in auditoriums or elsewhere. Secret Service agents move ahead of him and just behind him, but they cannot see everything or guard against every eventuality.

There is always a matter of chance and luck in guarding the life of a Pres-

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## SECURITY, From A1

ident, and the number of unbalanced persons who are attracted by his presence is always a matter of concern.

A few attempts by persons to break through the iron gates at the White House have been well publicized. But there are hundreds of other attempts by individuals to push through the gates in their desire to see the President.

Mr. Ford was acting yesterday in the way that seems normal and natural to him. He walked the block from the Senate Hotel in Sacramento to the Capitol, shaking hands en route.

Secret Service agent Larry M. Buendorf acted with astonishing speed and self-possession in overpowering Lynette Alice Fromme and grabbing her gun as Mr. Ford walked near her. Buendorf has been rigorously trained for that kind of threat.

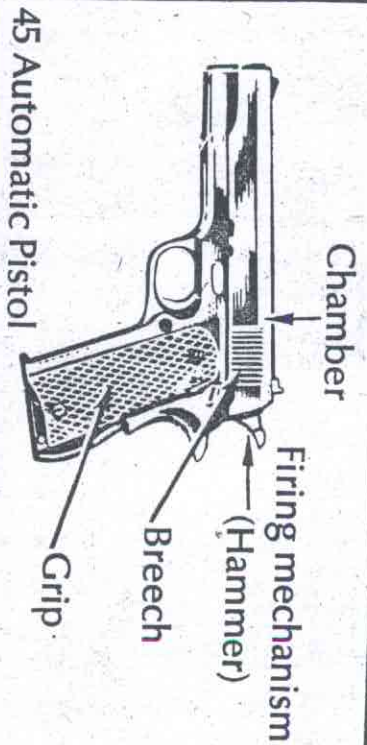
After Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot at close range by a man in a crowd in Laurel, Md., in 1972, the Secret Service conducted extensive training on how to deal with similar situations.

Split-second timing is enormously important as yesterday's incident demonstrated. Restraint also is required to prevent wild shots by an excited agent whose first object is to protect the President.

The movement of a man's arm or a woman's purse might have obscured Buendorf's vision as the President moved down the line shaking hands.

President William McKinley was killed by a man who reached with his left hand to shake the President's hand. The assassin's right hand held a gun covered by a handkerchief.

Scores of threats are made against a President every year, but there were no special warnings that would have alerted the Secret Service to possible trouble on this week's trips, officials said.



Drawing of a .45-cal. semi-automatic pistol.

The Washington Post

But yesterday questions began being raised as to why surveillance was not put on Fromme, who was known as an associate of Charles Manson and was living in Sacramento.

She is reported to have made threats as recently as two months ago against

the President, both to the Sacramento Bee and to the Los Angeles bureau of United Press International.

They were vague, rambling threats linking Mr. Ford to former President Nixon and blaming Nixon for Manson's incarceration.

Fromme's name was not on a 1972 computerized Secret Service list of potential threats to the President, but Manson's was. It could not be learned whether her name has been added since the 1972 list of thousands of names was publicized.

Telephone threats against the President have been made recently in New York and in Dallas. Next week, Mr. Ford is scheduled to visit Dallas and St. Louis as well as to make a campaign swing in New Hampshire.

Ninety-nine per cent of the threats against the President turn out to be false alarms, an official said yesterday.

The danger to Mr. Ford has appeared to be far less than to Presidents Johnson and Nixon. Violent demonstrations against Mr. Ford have been mild by comparison.

Frequently the crowds are overwhelmingly friendly toward him and he has enjoyed the receptions and the hand-shaking.

In Warwick, R.I., last week, however, the crowd was excessively exuberant at one point, and Mr. Ford seemed to be somewhat perturbed.

"Take it easy," he kept saying amid the crush of well-wishers. "Take it easy, take it easy."



## The Weather

Today—Rain, high in the 80s, low in the 60s. Chance of rain 60 per cent today, 20 per cent tonight. Sunday—Partly cloudy, high in 80s. Yesterday—Temp. range, 81-84, 3 p.m. Air Index, 110. Details on Page B2.

# The Wash

98th Year

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SATURDAY,

# Assassination

By Jules Witcover

Washington Post Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 5—An alert Secret Service agent today foiled an apparent assassination attempt on President Ford by a woman member of the Charles Manson mass-murder "family" who drew a .45-cal. pistol on Mr. Ford as he walked to the California state Capitol.

The agent seized the gun and the woman as the President, two feet away, was swiftly hustled off unharmed by other agents into the Capitol building. The incident occurred at 10:08 a.m. Pacific Daylight Time (1:08 p.m. EDT), and a little more than an hour later the President addressed the state legislature as scheduled, as if nothing had happened. His subject was the need to crack down on violent crime.

Later, in describing the incident, the President said:

"I saw a hand coming up behind several others in the front row and obviously there was a gun in that hand. And then I saw almost immediately very quick and very effective action by the Secret Service in taking care of the matter."

From just a few feet behind and to the right of the President, this reporter saw the President pause momentarily, looking back and down to his left as he stood facing the roped-off crowd. Then he turned forward as the agents converged on him. One agent held Mr. Ford firmly by his arms and led him 40 yards ahead into the Capitol. As he walked, the President stood erect, grim-faced but showing no sign of panic. Agents swarmed around him, looking into the perplexed crowd.

Afterward, Mr. Ford thanked the Se-



**LARRY M. BUENDORF**  
... agent who disarmed woman

# ington Post

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# of Ford Foiled

cret Service and other security agents for a "superb job" and said the incident "under no circumstances will prevent me or preclude me from contacting the American people as I travel from one state to another.

"I'm going to continue to have that personal contact with the American people," he said. "In my judgment it's vital for an American President to see the American people and I intend to carry it on."

The agent who broke up the apparent attempt on Mr. Ford's life, Larry M. Buendorf of the White House Secret Service detail, was walking close behind the President as Mr. Ford, in bright sunshine, shook hands with a long line of well-wishers. Buendorf spied the gun in the woman's hand, grabbed it and shoved her away.

Buendorf, aided by a Sacramento police officer, placed the officer's hand-

cuffs on the woman, who was wearing a red bandana and a long red dress.

Police identified her as Lynette Alice Fromme, 27, a follower of Charles Manson. Manson, along with accomplices, was convicted of murdering seven persons in 1969. Among the victims was the film actress Sharon Tate. Fromme was not charged in that case.

Fromme had come to Sacramento about a year ago to be near Manson when he was imprisoned for life in nearby Folsom federal penitentiary. Manson since has been moved to San Quentin, near San Francisco.

Fromme was taken to Sacramento City Jail and arraigned before a U.S. magistrate on federal charges that she "did knowingly and willfully attempt to kill the President of the United States of America, Gerald R. Ford." Bail was recommended at \$1 million for the first woman to be arraigned for

trying to assassinate an American president.

Local police reported they had brought in two of Fromme's roommates for questioning. They made no identification. And Sacramento Police Chief William Kinney requested that "no information about the case whatsoever be given out by anybody in the police department. Any information should be released by federal authorities only."

The FBI assumed control of the investigation.

But it was learned that Sandra Goode was the name of one of the roommates who was taken into custody at her roominghouse about six blocks from the Capitol. The other person taken into custody, a man, was arrested in front of the house.

An FBI spokesman said there was

See FORD, A7, Col. 1





Agents and officers handcuff Lynette Alice Fromme, left photo,



after she aimed a .45-cal. pistol at President Ford. At center, agents form a protective cordon around





United Press International and Associated Press  
the President. Fromme, right, shouts as she is led away.

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## FORD, From A1

no reason at this time to suspect that there was a conspiracy, according to the Associated Press.

On July 7, someone identifying herself as Sandra Good called the Los Angeles bureau of United Press International and said she and Fromme were living together and in constant touch with Manson. And she reportedly said, "Our lives were broken to put Manson in prison. He is living in a closet because of what Nixon taught his children. If Nixon's reality, wearing a Ford face, continues to run this country against the law, your homes will be bloodier than the Tate-La-Bianca home and Mylai put together."

Despite this communication and the publication of it in the Sacramento Bee, plus the public knowledge that the Manson followers were living in Sacramento, the Secret Service apparently took no special security precautions.

White House press secretary Ron Nessen, said that "the Secret Service tells me this woman's name has never come to their attention as being of interest in their task of protecting the President."

One man was arrested earlier this week for threatening the life of the President, according to the Associated Press. His name is Thomas D. Elbert, 34.

According to Nessen, agent Buendorf cut his finger slightly between his right thumb and index finger in grabbing the gun and said he believed it might have been caught in the firing mechanism. But he said he could not be certain.

Nessen said examination established that the pistol was loaded, and that there were cartridges in the clip but not in the chamber. This meant that pulling the trigger would not have fired a bullet; a cocking mechanism would have to be activated first.

Karen Shelton, daughter of a Sacramento Bee reporter who was standing nearby said she heard Fromme say to the agents who apprehended her: "It didn't go off, fellas." Then Fromme said, according to Shelton: "He's not a public servant," repeating the phrase several times.

The whole incident took no more than several seconds and the Secret Service and local security men moved with dispatch, without drawing guns. As soon as Buendorf seized the woman, agent-in-charge Ron Pontius shouted "Forty-five"—a reference to the gun—as other agents quickly raced up behind and around the President, shielding him.

The episode occurred on the last stop of a two-day business and politics visit to Seattle, Portland and Sacramento by the President. He was in a relaxed and cordial mood as he strolled across the Capitol grounds with normal security protection on his way to make his final speech on the trip.

According to Linda Worlow, an em-

ployee of the State Assembly Republican Caucus, who was about to shake the President's hand when the incident occurred, the woman later identified as Fromme had been standing without attracting attention along the roped-off path for some time before Mr. Ford's arrival. At one point, Fromme asked a Sacramento police officer when the President was coming, and which way, Worlow said.

As the President came by, Worlow said, "I saw her hand and I saw the handle of the gun, I saw all but the barrel of the gun." And then got out of the way as Buendorf seized the woman.

Once inside the east entrance to the

Capitol, the President was hustled into a door to his left and immediately ushered into the office of Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., as scheduled. According to Brown's press aide, William Stahl, the two men began chatting at once, make no reference to the incident, and then launched into a general policy discussion.

Only near the end, Stahl said, did presidential assistant Donald Rumsfeld come over to the President and half-whisper the police report about the identity of the woman. The president, Stahl said, then conveyed the information briefly to Brown.

In his subsequent speech to the state legislature, the President unruffled, made no reference to the incident. But deploring the rise in violent crime and the use of firearms, he called at one point for mandatory sentences for those convicted of gun-connected crimes.

Later, he told reporters that he was grateful for the generally warm reception he had received in California and "would not under any circumstances feel that one individual represented the attitude of the people of California."

As the President spoke in the Capitol, local police roped off about a 30-square-yard area where the apparent attempt had taken place. A Sacramento city employee carefully went over it with a metal detector on a long pole, and a city policeman with a hand shovel dug up anything suspicious. But he seemed to be finding only stray coins.

The President, originally scheduled to walk back across the Capitol grounds to his hotel, went by car instead under tight security that continued until he departed for Washington aboard Air Force One in mid-afternoon. He departed Sacramento at 3:18 p.m. PDT (6:18 p.m. EDT). Fourteen minutes later Fromme was formally arraigned.

Vice President Rockefeller, next in line to the presidency, was in Roches-



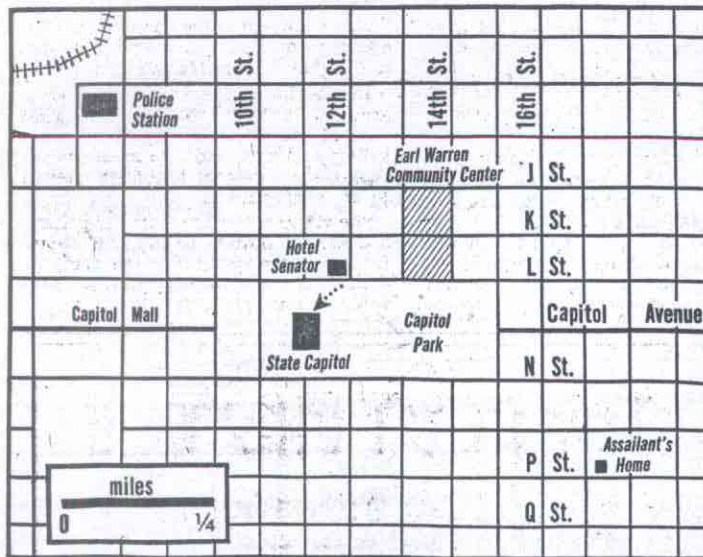
ter, N.Y., at the time of the incident. Following completion of his speaking engagements there, he flew to his family estate at Pocantico Hills near New York City, where he normally spends his weekends.

A spokesman for Rockefeller said that, as of last night, the Vice President had not spoken to Mr. Ford and had given no indication that he would change previously scheduled plans not to return to Washington until Sunday. In Rochester, Rockefeller told reporters that his first instinctive thought on hearing the news from Sacramento was, "Thank God that he's all right."

In Washington, FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley announced that the FBI had assumed jurisdiction over the case under federal statutes "relating to assault or attempted assaulting of the President."

Kelley's announcement said that Fromme was being charged specifically with a violation of Title 18, Section 1751 of the U.S. Code. This statute, enacted by the Congress following the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, for the first time made assaults or attempted assaults on the President a federal offense.

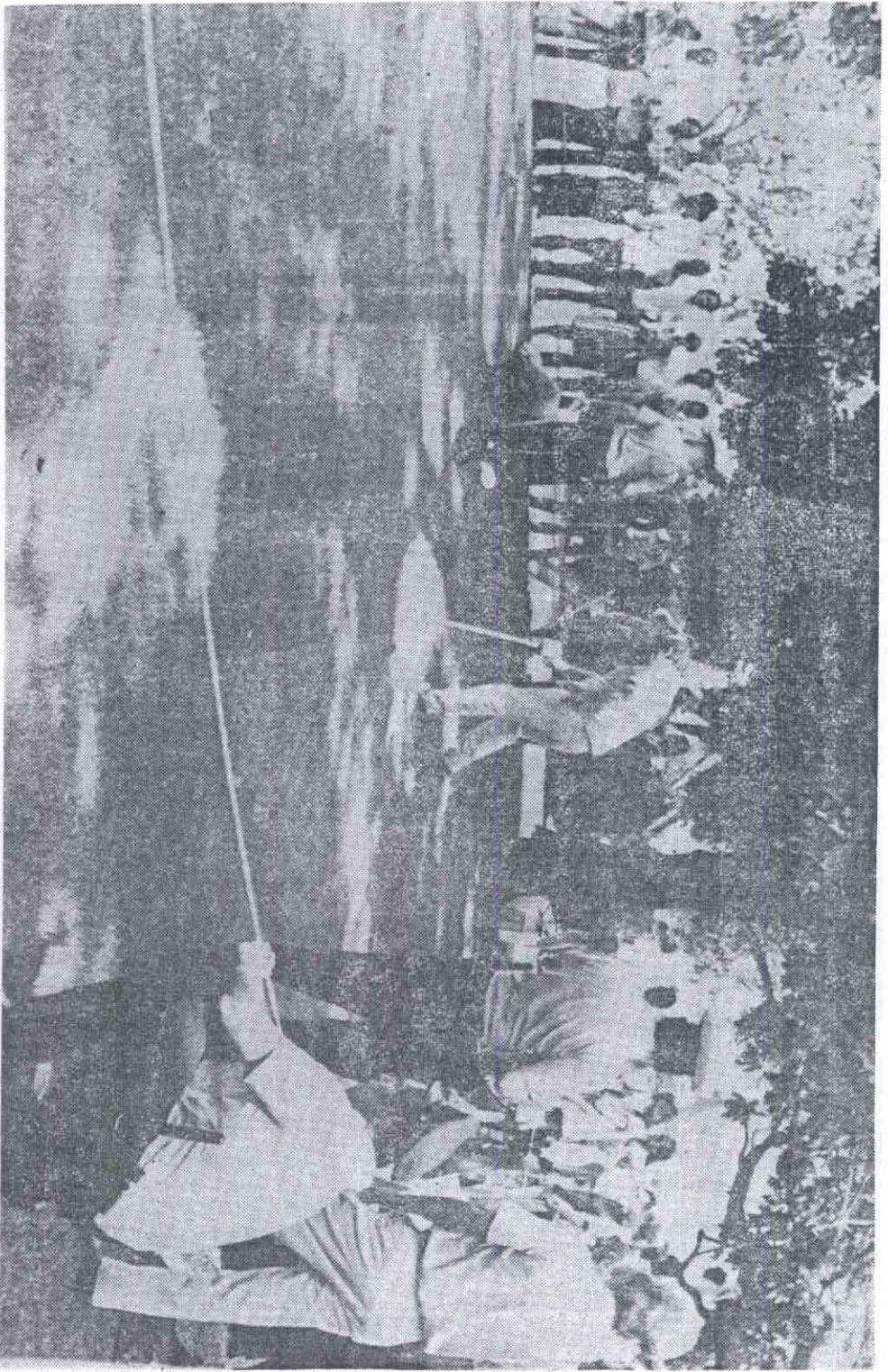
Except for Kelley's brief statement, FBI officials refused to say anything about the investigation. They replied "no comment" to such questions as whether the FBI or other federal agencies had any advance indications of an attempt against Mr. Ford's life, whether the so-called "Manson family" was among the groups regarded



Dotted lines show President Ford's route from the Hotel Senator to the State Capitol grounds in Sacramento.

By Joseph P. Mastrangelo—The Washington Post





Associated Press

Police examine the grounds of the California State Capitol after a woman was taken into custody for pulling a gun on President Ford.

by federal officials as a potential threat to the President and whether the gun reportedly taken from Fromme had been legally purchased and registered.

The Title 18 statute covers the President, the President-elect, the Vice President, the Vice President-elect, that officer of the federal government

next in line for the presidency in situations when the office of vice president is vacant, or any person acting as President under the authority of the Constitution.

The statute specifies that "whoever attempts to kill or kidnap" any individual covered by its provisions "shall be punished by imprisonment for any term of years or for life."



## ***The Suspect:*** A Loyal Follower Of Charles Manson

By Leroy F. Aarons  
and Robert G. Kaiser  
Washington Post Staff Writers

Lynette Alice Fromme, 27, charged with trying to kill President Ford yesterday in Sacramento, was the second woman that mass-murderer Charles Manson recruited into his "family" eight years ago, and she has apparently remained a fanatic Manson follower.

Tiny and redhaired, known as "Squeaky" because of her high-pitched voice, Fromme was at Manson's side until he was arrested for the murder of actress Sharon Tate and six other people in 1970. Since Manson's conviction, Fromme has maintained contact with him, has tried repeatedly to see him and has told many people that she still believes he is the second coming of Jesus Christ.

In an interview with filmmaker Robert Hendrickson, producer of the documentary "Manson," which is soon to be released nationally, Fromme said: "I'm ready to die for Charlie [Manson]; he's ready to die for me."

Two months ago, Fromme and San-

dra Goode, another Manson loyalist, issued a statement to the press warning of bloodshed if President Ford remained in office. The statement said:

"If Nixon's (sic) reality wearing a new face (i.e., President Ford) continues to run this country against the law, your homes will be bloodier than the Tate-LaBianca houses and Mylai put together."

Tate-LaBianca was the shorthand, unofficial name of the trial at which Manson and his colleagues were convicted of the ritualistic murders of Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Leno LaBianca and four others. Mylai was the scene of a massacre of Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers.

Fromme has faced murder charges on two occasions. In the first case, the charge was reduced and she served 90 days in prison for interfering with a witness in the Manson trial. She had helped other Manson women feed the witness a hamburger laced with LSD.

In 1972 she was charged with murdering Lauren Willett, 19, whose hus-

See FROMME, A6, Col. 3

# Suspect Fromme:

## 4 Manson Followers Jailed in LSD Case

LOS ANGELES, April 16 (UPI) — Four followers of Charles Manson were sentenced today to 90 days in jail for feeding a hamburger spiked with LSD to a station witness.

APR 17 1971

...mately testified against Man-son at the trial. Superior Court Judge Stephen H. Stothers imposed the jail sentences on Catherine Grogan, Lynette Fromme, Sharon Tate, and Dennis

## Manson Followers Held In California Murder

NOV 14 1972

STOCKTON, Calif., Nov. 13 (AP)—Five persons—at least two of them former followers of the Charles Manson family—have been arrested in the slaying of a woman, whose body was found buried beneath a house here, police said.

The body of Lauren Chaville Willett, 19, was dug up Sunday, four days after Sheriff's detectives in Sonoma County, 100 miles to the northwest, unearthed the decomposing corpse of her husband, James T. Willett, 26.

Police said Mrs. Willett had been shot once in the forehead with a .38-caliber pistol.

Booked for investigation of her murder were Michael Lee Monfort, 24; James T. Craig, 33; Priscilla K. Cooper, 21; Nancy Laura Pitman, 24; and Lynette Alice Fromme, 24.

All were listed by police as transients.

Miss Pitman and Miss Fromme, both former followers of the Manson clan, camped outside the Los Angeles courthouse during the sensational trial of the murder cult leader. Miss Fromme, known in the family as "Squeaky"—testified at length during the trial.

Marine from Los Angeles County, was unearthed last Wednesday from a shallow grave near the Russian River south of Guerneville after a hiker noticed a hand protruding from the ground. He was still wearing his military uniform and investigators said he apparently had been dead about three months. Cause of death had not been determined.

Sonoma County District Attorney John Hawkes said five persons arrested in Stockton "include suspects in husband's death," which said was definitely a homicide. Hawkes said he to issue warrants "some or all" of the Miss Fromme has of four Manson clan members arrested in Los Angeles in April for trying to flee from the mess from the Sharon Tate giving her a LSD.

The four pleaded no contest to conspiracy charges against them were reduced from felonies to misdemeanors. The prosecution contended the four lured another clan member, Barbara Hoyt, 19, to Honolulu before she was

## 3 of 'Family' Arrested in Manson Case

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 18—Police today arrested three more girl members of the Charles Manson family, alleging they conspired to kill a witness by feeding her a hamburger laced with LSD.

Catherine (Gypsy) Share Fromme, 22, and Ruth Ann (Fusch) Morehouse, 18, will be arraigned Monday.

They were arrested on a street corner near the trial court where they have held a constant vigil for 36-year-old Manson. All with crosses cut into their foreheads to denote membership of the Manson family, they were led away singing one of Manson's songs.

The Washington Post Collage of previous stories details Lynette Fromme's life in the news.



# Loyal Member of Charles

FROMME, From A1

band also was murdered that year. The Willetts had been involved with the Manson family. But there was insufficient evidence against Fromme and the charge was dropped.

She was never directly connected with the Tate-LaBianca killings.

For years, journalists and law-enforcement officials who met Fromme took away the same impression: she was a small, frail, naive girl with a sublime, beatific smile—"the smile of a true believer," according to Curt Gentry, coauthor of "HELTHER Skelter," a best-selling book about the Manson case.

Her devotion to Manson has apparently been all-consuming. According to California prison authorities, she has been trying for years to see him and communicate with him—by sending messages or emissaries—and with substantial success.

In 1974, according to a spokesman for the California Department of Corrections, Manson apparently contemplated an attempt to break out of the state mental facility at Vacaville where he had been taken for a psychiatric evaluation. Authorities there intercepted a note written by Manson that referred to a possible breakout involving weapons. State officials concluded that the note was meant for Fromme and Goode.

Fromme and Goode moved to Sacramento, the state capital, two years ago, apparently to be closer to Manson, who was being held in Folsom prison.

The women dressed in long robes of the kind Fromme was wearing yesterday. Fromme reportedly told acquaintances she was living the life of a nun while Manson remained in prison.

In their statement to the press two months ago, the women said: "Put Manson and Nixon (sic) in a courtroom. See who has broken the laws and keeps breaking them, and who should be imprisoned."

President Nixon gave the Manson case notoriety by declaring publicly that Manson was guilty of murder, though a court had not yet found him guilty.

Lynette Alice Fromme's story is hidden in the bizarre mystery that surrounds the history of Charles Manson and his "family."

The daughter of an aeronautics engineer who resided in Southern California, Fromme apparently fell afoul of her parents as a teen-ager. According to Manson family legend, Charlie—as she calls Manson—found her crying on a sidewalk in Venice, Calif., near Los Angeles, and asked if her father had kicked her out of the house, which he had. Manson offered to take her with

## Manson's 'Family'

him.

"No one had ever treated me like that before, not pushed me around," she recalled her, "so I just picked up all my things and went." She never turned back.

At Manson's trial, Fromme testified that as a child "I thought I was ugly." Explaining why she had been attracted to Manson, she said, "A dog goes to somebody who loves it and takes care of it."

She moved into the life of drugs,





Associated Press

Lynette Fromme, left, and Nancy Pitman are shown in 1972 photo at left before arraignment in Stockton as suspects in slaying of Marine and his wife. Photo at right shows Fromme during 1970 vigil for Charles Munson.

sex, rock music and occult theology that Manson created.

Vincent Bugliosi, the chief prosecutor at Manson's trial and co-author of "Helter Skelter", has written that Fromme once tried to chock him about her sex life.

She was explaining to him, Bugliosi wrote, that she cared for George Spahn, a blind man in his 80s who owned a ranch in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles where the Manson family lived for long periods. Bugliosi wrote:

"She was in love with George [Spahn], Squeaky said; if he asked her to marry him, she would . . . He was also, she added, in an obvious attempt to chock me, very good in bed. She was quite graphic."

Bugliosi believes Fromme was the ex-officio leader of the Manson family once Manson was arrested. She's on a power trip," he said. His co author, Gentry, observed in an interview yesterday that Manson kept the women in the family in "incredibly subservient positions" when he was out of jail, but that his absence gave the women a chance to exercise authority on their own.

No one has satisfactorily explained exactly what the Manson Family was, or what its members had to do. Law enforcement officials involved in the investigation of the Manson case con-

cluded that ritual murder was common in its ranks. Some thought a new member had to commit a murder to be initiated, though this was never proven.

Manson apparently thinks of himself as Christ, but at various times as much else.

Manson reportedly had brooded since 1961 about some kind of impending end of Western civilization, and in 1969 this evolved into the hazy ideas that he referred to among his followers as "helter skelter."

The term apparently derived from the rock record of that title in a 1969 Beatles album. In Manson's mind, according to some observers, the phrase became linked with a theory that the blacks would rise up in an upheaval of "helter skelter" proportions, kill millions of white and take over the reins of government in America and elsewhere.

After 40 or 50 years, according to the theory, the blacks would realize that they were unfit to run the world and would turn power over to Manson because they recognized his superior qualities through their "super awareness."

Apparently to accelerate the race war he foresaw, Manson tried to create the impression that the Tate-Labianea murders were the work of blacks.

Also to help speed the day of his ultimate recognition as a savior, Manson reportedly conceived the idea of "The Hole—a mystic retreat he wanted to establish in California's Death Valley—from which he and his followers would make forays to sack cities and kill people.

Yet Manson and his followers talked in terms of love and forgiveness. "Love," said Fromme in an interview for the documentary "Manson," "is infinitely strong and infinitely mad, erratic and crazy, crazy . . ."

At first Fromme and Goode were denied permission to write to Manson in prison, but recently state authorities allowed them to exchange mail. The women sent long letters in thick packets, prison authorities said yesterday.

The correspondence was "regularly perused" by prison authorities, a spokesman said yesterday, "but nothing we've detected [in the letters] suggested anything like this," that is, an assassination attempt on President Ford.

Manson is serving a life sentence, as are three other former family members convicted with him. Many previous followers have publicly disassociated themselves from Manson since his conviction. Fromme and Goode are the only two known to have remained unswervingly loyal.



## Assessment:

By Haynes Johnson

Washington Post Staff Writer

Gerald R. Ford was about to make a speech yesterday on a subject familiar to all Americans—crime, violence and the menace of handguns. His speech, a standard vehicle for politicians these days, will be remembered now mainly for the events that preceded it.

Once again the country has been exposed to an all-too-familiar phenomenon, an assassination attempt on a political leader. Once again citizens are wrestling with the most troubling questions about the fundamental stability of American political life.

Is it possible for a President, or a presidential candidate, to appear safely before the public? Must our political campaigns be conducted behind a wall of security, or even only in the confines of a sealed-off, bullet-proof television studio? Is there a pattern to the violence that has torn at our political life, and is there any consensus about what to do about it?

As in the recent past in the shooting of the Kennedy brothers, Martin Lu-

## Is Any Politician Safe in America?

ther King Jr. and George C. Wallace, there are no easy answers. The immediate reaction to the news from California yesterday fell into predictable patterns.

Nelson A. Rockefeller, who would succeed to the presidency in an assassination, saw the attempt on Mr. Ford's life as a necessary and unavoidable political risk. "When you join the

### Commentary

armed forces, you take a certain risk," he said. "It's the same with public life. Thank God the President's safe."

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. of California saw it as a sign of national sickness. "There's a lot of crazy people in this country," he remarked. "... This is part of the thing in America in the 1970s."

And in Washington the handgun control lobby quickly issued a statement. "This almost tragic incident again points up the imperative need to re-

See ASSESSMENT, A4, Col. 1

# Is Any Politician Safe in America?

## ASSESSMENT, From A1

strict the sale, manufacture and possession of the handgun—the deadly, concealable weapon," said Nelson T. Shields executive director of the National Council to Control Handguns.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.), the last of the Kennedy brothers, said the attempt on the President showed that there was always the possibility of an act of violence against a public official.

"The President or other public officials should not become possessed by that threat or we can't do anything," he said.

Kennedy, who was in Seattle for the dedication of a cancer research center, was asked about becoming the possible target of an assassin. "It is in the back of your mind all the time," he answered.

Perhaps the most sobering fact about this latest assassination attempt was the relative absence of national reaction. On other occasions the wire services were pouring out immediate statements from national spokesmen of all groups and political persuasions. That didn't happen yesterday.

If you were watching television during the lunch hour in Washington, when the news bulletins first came about the attempt, networks quickly put on brief accounts of what had happened. Then there were familiar scenes of crowds, noise, and confusion,

shot in henky-jerky fashion. The assailant was seen surrounded and then being escorted away, a slim figure in a long red dress.

Moments later the networks resumed their normal day time programming, the soap operas and quiz shows that fill the airwaves and screens. "Search for Tomorrow," "The Guiding Light," "The Edge of Night" flashed across the screen with almost in interruption for news about the President.

It was as if we had all been through this too many times before. There was little to say that everyone didn't already know.

Yesterday's apparent assassination attempt differed from others in two respects. No shot was fired, and the person pointing the gun was a woman. Beyond these, the circumstances were part of the old pattern: a leader in the midst of a crowd, finding himself in proximity to someone with a gun.

While President Ford was undergoing his personal ordeal 3,000 miles from the White House, in Washington volume after volume of studies and analyses of other assassinations were gathering dust on government shelves.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the murder of President Kennedy and of which Gerald R. Ford was a member, contains one sentence that speaks volumes: "One out of every five Presidents since 1865 has been assassinated; there have been attempts on the lives of one out of every three." That was written before the deaths of

Robert Kennedy and King and the shooting of Wallace.

Six years later, in the wake of Robert F. Kennedy's death, the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence produced another long report. It warned that the danger of assassination had become so great that the President and presidential candidates should sharply curtail their public appearances. It recommended television as the best and safest way of reaching the voters.

"Present trends warn of an escalating risk of assassination, not only for presidents, but for other official holders at every level of government, as well as leaders of civil rights groups and political interest groups," it said.

It contained another sentence worth recalling today: "Almost alone among the nations with the highest level of economic development and the greatest degree of political freedom the United States has a high assassination rate."

President Ford did not directly address that problem when he delivered his address before the California Legislature yesterday after the attempt on his life.

There is a "truly alarming increase in violent crime throughout this country," he said. Then he added that this situation poses a threat so serious that partisanship must be abandoned "on a scale comparable to closing ranks in wartime against an external enemy." The President thereby defined the

problem. He did not prescribe a cure. Now, as in the past, it seems no one has an answer to what is clearly a central American question.





President Ford is applauded by California Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., left, and Assembly Speaker Leo McCarthy before addressing state legislature.

Associated Press



# Ford Supports Rights Of Victims of Crime

By Howard Benedict  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Sept. 5 (AP) — Shortly after a young woman apparently tried to shoot him, President Ford delivered a strong appeal today for mandatory prison terms for offenders convicted of serious crimes involving firearms.

Mr. Ford never mentioned the incident that had just occurred on the Capitol grounds.

The President had chosen crime as the topic for his speech to a joint session of the California legislature before he left Washington.

Mr. Ford told the lawmakers that he wanted to talk about the "truly alarming increase in violent crime throughout this country" and to make the point that "it can be brought under control only by the best concerted efforts of all levels of government."

Mr. Ford's speech was warmly received, especially when he appealed for the rights of victims of crimes of terror and violence.

"Peace on 10th street in Sacramento is as important to the people who walk and work there as peace in the Sinai desert," he said. "One man or woman or child becomes just as dead from a switchblade slash as from a nuclear missile blast. We must prevent both."

The President declared that most serious crimes are committed by repeaters and while appealing for mandatory prison terms, especially for those guilty of crimes involving a dangerous weapon, he said he wanted "to give equal weight on the scales of justice to the rights of the innocent victims of terror and violence."

"Government should deal equally with all citizens," the President said. "But if it must tilt a little to protect any element more than any other, surely it should be those who cannot afford to be robbed of a day's food money, those who lack the strength to



President thanks Secret Service.

resist, those who even fear the consequences of complaining."

Mr. Ford proposed that Congress set an example by providing for mandatory prison terms for convicted offenders in such serious crimes as aircraft hijacking, kidnaping and trafficking in hard drugs.

He also said he advocated mandatory sentences "for persons found guilty of crimes involving use of a dangerous weapon and for repeat offenders, with or without a weapon, whose crimes show a potential or actual cause of physical injury."

He said he hoped all 50 states would follow suit.

"Far too many violent and repetitive criminals never spend a day in prison after conviction," Mr. Ford said. "Mandatory sentences need not be severe; it is the certainty of confinement that is presently lacking."



## Ford Thanks Secret Service, Other Officers for 'Superb Job'

*After the attempt on his life yesterday, President Ford met briefly with reporters at midday in the Senator Hotel in Sacramento. Following is the text of his statement, in which he commended law-enforcement agencies and vowed to continue his travel, and of his responses to reporters' questions:*

President Ford: Let me say very emphatically that I think that the Secret Service and the other law-enforcement agencies that were on the job were doing a superb job, and I want to thank them for everything they did in this unfortunate incident.

I also wish to express to the people of California my gratitude for the very, very warm welcome they have given me in the state.

I would not under any circumstances feel that one individual in any way represented the attitude on the part of the people of California. I just thank the Californians for being so friendly and so hospitable.

Let me add, with great emphasis, this incident, under no circumstances,

will prevent me or preclude me from contacting the American people as I travel from one state to another and from one community to another. In my judgment, it is vital for a President to see the American people, and I am going to continue to have that personal contact and relationship with the American people. I think it is vital, and I intend to carry it out.

**Q.** Mr. President, can you tell us what you saw or felt personally at the time?

**A.** I am not sure that I ought to describe what I saw beyond the fact that I saw a hand coming up behind the others in the front row and obviously there was a gun in that hand. I then saw almost instantly very quick and very effective action by the Secret Service in taking care of that matter.

**Q.** What was your own thought, sir?

**A.** Well, I was very thankful. I was very thankful to the Secret Service for doing a superb job, but once I saw they had done it I thought I had better get on with the rest of the day's schedule. Thank you very much.

# News on Air Before Mrs. Ford Is Told

By Donnie Radcliffe  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Betty Ford first learned of the apparent attempt on her husband's life at 1:34 p.m. (EDT) yesterday, 26 minutes after the incident occurred in Sacramento, Calif.

That was about 20 minutes after the first wire service bulletins went out on teletypes across the country and 14 minutes after two television networks, and the American Broadcasting Co., the Columbia Broadcasting System went on the air to inform viewers of the apparent assassination attempt on Mr. Ford.

Mrs. Ford was notified by Richard E. White House Secret Service detail. He telephoned her from his Washington office to tell her "what had happened and that everything was all right," according to Sheila Rabb Weidenfeld, Mrs. Ford's press secretary.

"She was going through some papers and was on the telephone when a White House operator interrupted to say she had a call for her," Weidenfeld said.

Both Weidenfeld and the Secret Service at first thought that Keiser was telephoning Mrs. Ford from Sacramento. However, it was revealed later that Keiser was in Washington where he had been informed of the apparent attempt on the President's life by his agents traveling with Mr. Ford.

"Richard Keiser is head of that detail and if there are incidents, he is informed immediately," said Jack Warner

Warner said, however, he was in no way a spokesman for the Secret Service. He was not in contact with Mrs. Ford of the incident since his position to explain the delay in information was "not familiar with the time element."

In a statement to reporters, Mrs. Ford said of assassination attempts that "it's something you just have to live with and I'm very grateful to the Secret Service for the great job they do."

Mrs. Weidenfeld said the First Lady seemed "fine" when they talked briefly upstairs in the White House shortly after Mrs. Ford was informed.

"The only word I can think of to describe her mood is thankful," said Weidenfeld when asked to characterize the First Lady's emotional state.

Weidenfeld said Mrs. Ford did not talk by telephone to her husband immediately, nor did she discuss with her the subject, generally, of Mr. Ford's safety.

"She hasn't gone into any of that," said Weidenfeld.

Two of the Fords' children Susan, 18, and Mike, 25 were informed by their Secret Service agents that an at-

tempt apparently had been made on their father's life. Susan was out of town with friends and Mike was at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary near Wenham Mass.

Jack, 23, at home in the White

House, also heard the news from his Secret Service agent.

Steve Ford 19, got the news the way thousands of other American did—from television, Weidenfeld said. He was at the White House at the time.



# Four Presidents Killed, One Wounded

*Gerald R. Ford yesterday became the ninth American President to become the target of an assassination attempt. Like three of his predecessors, he escaped injury. Four presidents died after being shot and one survived his wounds. Following is a history of those assassination attempts and their outcomes:*

**Andrew Jackson**—Jan. 30, 1835, in Capitol rotunda, Richard Lawrence tried to shoot him twice but misfired both times. Lawrence, who thought Jackson was in league with steamship companies to get his money, was found not guilty by reason of insanity.

**Abraham Lincoln**—April 14, 1865, he was fatally shot in Ford's Theater in Washington by actor John Wilkes Booth. The President died the next day. Booth was shot and killed April 26, 1865, when trapped in a barn in Bowling Green, Va., by Union troops. Booth was a Southern sympathizer.

**James A. Garfield**—July 2, 1881, he was shot in the back in a Washington train station by Charles J. Guiteau who was refused an ambassadorial position by Garfield. Garfield died Sept. 19, 1881. Guiteau was hanged the following year.

**William McKinley**—Sept. 6, 1901, he was shot by Leon Czolgosz, while attempting to shake his hand at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. Czolgosz, a self-professed anarchist, was electrocuted. McKinley died Sept. 14, 1901.

**Theodore Roosevelt**—Oct. 14, 1912, as a former President, he

was seriously wounded by John N. Schrank while campaigning in Milwaukee, Wis., as a presidential candidate for the Bull Moose Party. Schrank thought he was avenging McKinley's death. Five psychiatrists appointed by the court found Schrank insane. There was no further trial and he spent the rest of his life in a Wisconsin mental institution. Roosevelt recovered.

**Franklin D. Roosevelt**—Feb. 15, 1933, as President-elect he was shot at in Miami by Guiseppe Zangara. Zangara missed Roosevelt but fatally wounded Chicago Mayor Anton Cermak, who died March 6. He had no ill will towards Roosevelt personally, just toward a capitalist head of state. Zangara was electrocuted March 20, 1933.

**Harry S. Truman**—Nov. 1, 1950, while he was napping at Blair House, two Puerto Rican nationalists, Oscar Collazo and Griselio Torresola, stormed the building in an attempt to reach Truman. During the melee Torresola and White House policeman Leslie Coffelt were slain and Collazo and two other policemen were injured. Collazo was sentenced to death but Truman later commuted it to life imprisonment.

**John F. Kennedy**—Nov. 22, 1963 Kennedy was fatally shot in a motorcade in Dallas. The accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, was shot and killed while awaiting trial by Jack Ruby. No motive was firmly established. Gov. John Conally of Texas was wounded by Oswald, but recovered.

# Rockefeller Is Thankful, Continues With Schedule

By John M. Goshko  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Vice President Rockefeller yesterday reacted to news of the apparent attempt to assassinate President Ford by exclaiming, "Thank God that he's all right" and then plunged ahead with his normal schedule.

Rockefeller, next in line for the presidency, first heard about the incident moments after he had finished addressing a Chamber of Commerce luncheon in Rochester, N.Y.

At a press conference immediately afterward, he answered a question about his reaction by saying: "I just thought immediately, thank God the President's safe."

The Vice President also told the press conference, "When you join the armed forces, you take a certain risk. It's the same with public life. Thank God that he's all right."

A spokesman for Rockefeller said later that the Vice President had not spoken to Mr. Ford following the incident in Sacramento and did not plan to return to Washington.

After leaving Rochester, he flew to his family estate at Pocantico Hills in Westchester County, north of New York City. The spokesman said that Rockefeller regularly spends his weekends there and had not planned to return to Washington until Sunday when he is scheduled to be host at a "housewarming" for the residence being prepared for his use on the Naval Observatory grounds.

The spokesman said there was no indication that Rockefeller intended to alter this schedule.

The spokesman also said "absolutely not" to a question about whether there had been any bolstering of security for Rockefeller following the Sacramento incident.

Although he declined to give details about the number of Secret Service agents assigned to guard Rockefeller, the spokesman said that "he is guarded in the same way as the President" and added: "I don't know how they could increase the size of the guard without putting men on the roof of his car."



# Role of Women Growing In Violence, Terrorism

By Victor Cohn

Washington Post Staff Writer

Lynette Alice Fromme, the first woman apparently to try to kill an American President, is one of a growing number of women involved in all crime, violence and political terrorism, experts on assassination said yesterday.

There have been nine victims and many more attempts on the lives of presidents and presidential candidates since 1835 and until yesterday there wasn't a woman behind any of the weapons, said Dr. Marvin Wolfgang, a research director for the 1969 presidential commission on violence.

"Now women are increasingly involved in crime and crimes of violence and terrorist groups," he said.

"I know nothing about this young woman and one case does not make a pattern," said Dr. Saleem Shah of the National Institute of Mental Health. "But the traditional cultural norm—where men resort to violence more because men have always been the hunters and fighters—is certainly changing.

"One judges this not only by looking at our changing culture, but also the crime rates and particularly the delinquency rates have been increasing more rapidly for women than for men," he said.

"The girls in the last 10 years and especially in the last five years have been doing a good job of catching up with the boys."

Still, added Shah, the fact that Lynette Fromme is a woman "in all probability" does not make her very different from the usual picture of the American political assassin or would-be assassin.

"What one usually finds is an unhappy, ill-adjusted person from an unhappy home, the people who run away from home and couldn't stand their parents or get along in society," said Shah, director of the institute's Center for Studies in Crime and Delinquency.

Just because women have not tradi-

tionally turned to violence "does not mean a girl in an unhappy situation does not suffer as much as a boy, or that she is not as vulnerable," he said.

American presidential assassins have almost always been loners — persons who can make few emotional ties in what they see as a hostile world, said both Shah and Wolfgang, who directs the Center for Studies in Criminology and Criminal Law at the University of Pennsylvania.

"If Fromme is identified as working with any group, it will be unusual for the United States," Wolfgang said. "The pattern here is different from the pattern of political assassination conspiracies in Europe and Latin America."

A few women have been involved, or accused of involvement, indirectly in American assassination conspiracies.

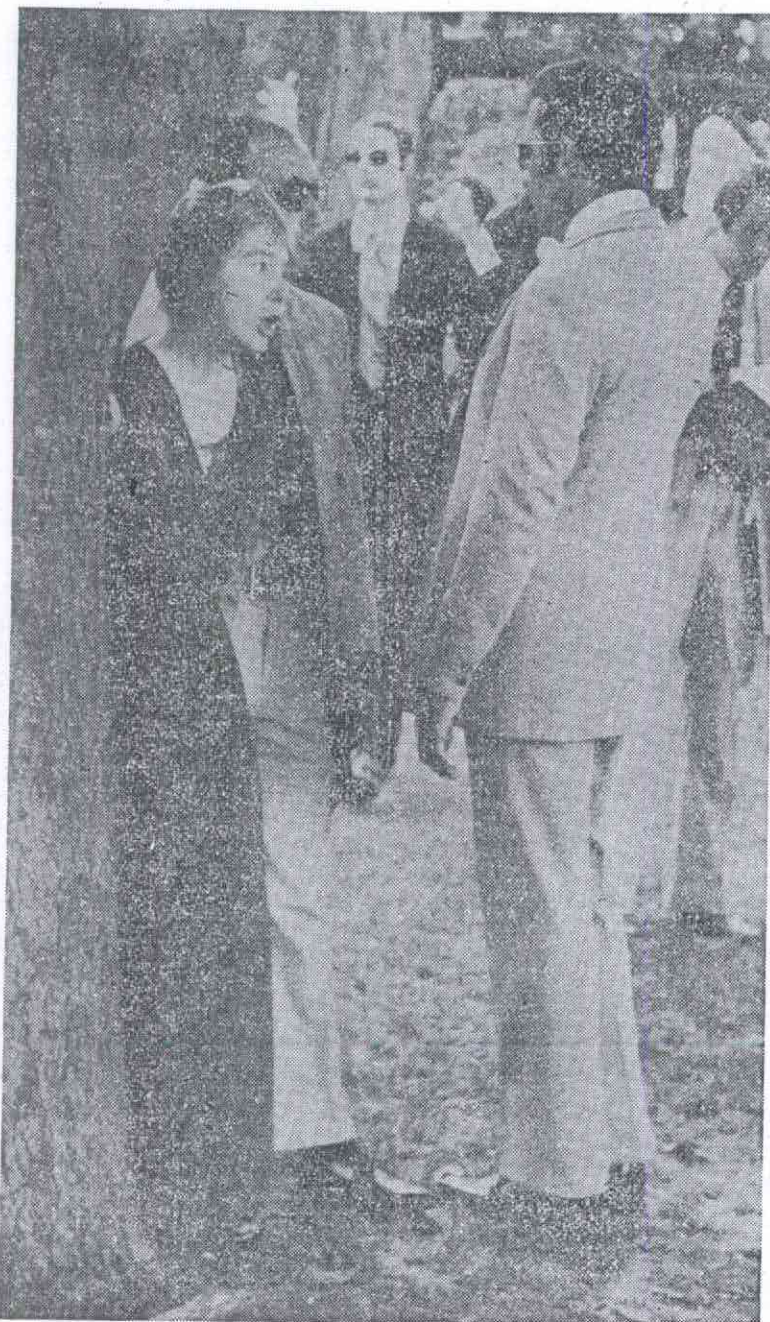
Mary Surratt, a widow who kept a Washington boardinghouse and whose son was associated with John Wilkes-Booth in a plot to kidnap resident-elect Abraham Lincoln, was tried, convicted and hanged as an accomplice in the assassination of Lincoln and wounding of Secretary of State William H. Seward.

Many historians have called the evidence against her flimsy. Guy W. Moore, in his 1954 book 'The Case of Mrs. Surratt' (University of Oklahoma Press), said there was at least reasonable doubt and "no proof that Mrs. Surratt knew what was being plotted in her boarding house."

In 1892 the Russian-born anarchist Emma Goldman helped her friend, Alexander Berkman, plan an aborted assassination attempt on steel magnate

In 1954 Lolita Lebron helped lead a group of Puerto Rican nationalists who entered the House of Representatives gallery and wounded five members of congress in a demonstration for Puerto Rican independence.

She was convicted and sent to prison and she admitted firing five shots from a Luger pistol. But she said, "I did not shoot to kill" and that she did not think she had hit anyone.



Associated Press

Officers surround Lynette Alice Fromme after she was taken into custody.