

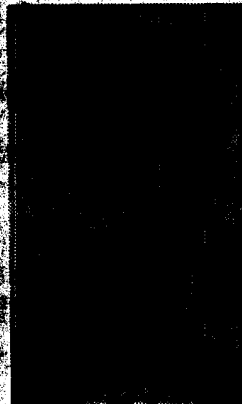
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'Bomb' Put in Official's Car

ROSLYN HARBOR, N.Y., July 12 (UPI) — Eugene H. Nickerson, elected county executive of populous Nassau County and a political ally of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was kept under 24-hour police protection today while police sought the person who wired a hand grenade to one of his automobiles.

Police also kept Carl E. Gorton of Farmingdale, N.Y., under guard until after dawn today in connection with another bomb threat tied in with the Nickerson case. Gorton, a professed member of the John Birch Society, last year attempted to purge single-handedly the Farmingdale Library, of which he is a trustee, of "smut" literature.

Police received an anonymous telephone tip last night which led to a search of three cars owned by the Nickerson family. Later the same anonymous man, it was believed, called police to say a mistake had been made and the bomb had actually been placed in Gorton's car.



EUGENE NICKERSON
... his car boobytrapped

A fragmentation grenade was found behind the dashboard of a car used by Nickerson's daughter. It was wired to a heating switch that had been turned on and was cleverly altered to insure a time delay.

Police Detective Arthur Cunn found he could not dismantle it, so he hurled the

grenade into an open area near the Nickerson home and exploded in the air.

Police also had searched Gorton's home but he refused to let them search his automobile until he was informed of the grenade found in Nickerson's. He then allowed the search, but nothing was found.

Police said five men in the Farmingdale area — including three library trustees who had been critical of Gorton — had recently received written death threats signed "Minutemen." They said however, that there were no known chapters of the Minutemen organization, a ring-wing group, in the area.

Nickerson ran in last month's primary against two other Democrats for his party's Senatorial nomination against Sen. Jacob K. Javita (R.N.Y.), who is seeking re-election. He was defeated by attorney Paul O'Dwyer of New York.

Nickerson told police he could think of no motive for the attempt on his life.