

New Plea for Protection By a Man on the Run

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A Southern California minister who claims to have met Sirhan Sirhan, accused slayer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, the day before the assassination, says he is hiding out in the Napa Valley in fear of his life.

He has appealed for help to an old friend, San Francisco attorney George T. Davis. Davis said the minister's life has been threatened twice and the Los Angeles Police Department has not responded to appeals for protection.

"He's reliable," Davis said yesterday. "I've known him about 25 years and I think his story is reliable."

Davis said he would make

a formal request for 24-hour protection for the minister today to State Attorney General Thomas C. Lynch.

The minister's story, related by Davis, in brief, was this:

The minister — who buys and sells horses to supplement his income—was driving his pickup truck in Los Angeles June 3. He was approached by two men, one large, one small, who asked him for a ride.

The smaller man, who said he once worked at a race track, expressed interest in buying a horse. The minister had one to sell.

They haggled a while on a

price, settled at \$300, and agreed to meet that night on Sunset boulevard.

The small man identified himself as a Jordanian who had been in the United States for 13 years.

The minister went to the designated meeting place and was met by four persons including the small man, and a woman. The small man showed him a \$100 bill and told him the \$300 would be ready for him the next morning.

The morning of June 4, he was met by the two men and woman he had seen the day before, and was told the small man would see him at

11 p.m. at a spot near the Ambassador Hotel. The minister had a meeting himself that night, could not make the rendezvous, and the deal was left pending.

The minister said the next day he was watching a television newscast and saw Sirhan Sirhan, Kennedy's accused slayer. Sirhan was the small man who wanted to buy the horse, the minister said. He went to the police.

That same night, he was threatened via a telephone call. He has since received a similar threat, he says.

The minister said he sought protection for himself and his family from the Los Angeles police, but they did not respond to his plea.

Los Angeles police had no comment yesterday.