

# Editor Cites *Post 6-8-74* Security Lag At Ford Event

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. June 7 UPI—A newspaper editor who said he was testing the thoroughness of the Secret Service in checking news media credentials says agents issued passes for coverage of a public appearance by Vice President Ford to a wanted extortionist.

Jerry Mosier, city editor of the weekly Times-Journal, said he copied the name of Edward Cook of Miami, plus the man's birthday, hometown and Social Security number, from a wanted poster in the Colorado Springs post office.

Mosier said the credentials for Cook were waiting at the Air Force Academy gate prior to Ford's appearance for graduation ceremonies Wednesday. A spokesman for the school confirmed the credentials were issued but never picked up.

"I just wanted to find out how thorough their checking is," Mosier said. "I decided either way it went it would be a good story. The story is that they are not checking at all. I don't think that's right."

The Secret Service requires reporters covering appearances by the President and Vice President to submit in advance their names and personal data.

In Washington, Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner said the agency didn't make routine checks of newsmen covering such appearances unless information furnished was suspicious.

"If the request for credentials comes in on bona fide stationery of a newsgathering organization, we expect that they are responsible enough to request credentials only for themselves," Warner said. "We count on the responsibility of the mass media."

Mosier said, however, he believed the procedure stinks.

"I can see the reason for it if it does guarantee the men's safety, but they are not doing it (checking)," he said.

Mosier said he was against furnishing personal data if it was not needed because "they don't need my Social Security number and birthday and the other information for one of their Big Brother computers."