

Post
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Three Charged With Conspiring To Assassinate Sen. Kennedy

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. Sept. 12 (AP)—Three persons have been charged with conspiring to murder Sen. Edward M. Kennedy and one of them said today he was offered \$30,000 to kill the sole surviving Kennedy brother.

An official police spokesman said, meanwhile, that it was unclear whether the alleged plot was "idle boasting or really serious." A top police official who asked not to be identified warned that it might all be "idle, drunken talk." Police said the incident was still under investigation.

Robert E. White, 42, listed as a resident of the Salvation Army's Rehabilitation Center here, was held in lieu of \$50,000 bail at the city jail.

Sandra R. Rondeau, 37, of Westfield, and David J. King, 31, of Springfield, were released on personal recognizance Saturday by a District Court clerk. Earlier, their bail had been set at \$50,000 each.

All three were to appear in Springfield District Court on Monday.

Kennedy, campaigning for re-election in the Boston suburb of Everett today, was asked if the incident would change his plans.

"I don't expect so," he said. "I have no further comment."

King was staying at a small white frame house in Springfield with his former wife. Describing himself in a telephone interview

as a self-employed radio and television repairman, King said he met White on Aug. 8 at the Salvation Army center and two days later was offered a chance by White to make "big money."

King quoted White as saying, "You can make \$30,000 altogether. All you have to do is kill U.S. Sen. Kennedy . . . You get \$5,000 down and after the job you get \$25,000."

Rondeau, who had worked as a waitress at the Oaks Inn, a hotel where Kennedy had scheduled a fund-raising breakfast Saturday, "was supposed to serve breakfast and Mr. White was supposed to walk in right behind her. He was going to shoot Kennedy while he had breakfast," King said.

"I wasn't to do the killing. He was to do the killing. All I was supposed to do was to keep the freight elevator ready for him and make sure all the other elevators were not working," King said.

King said White showed him two shotguns and two revolvers Friday: "I assume he got them out of New York. That's where the money was coming from."

King said he called police Friday night after White did not keep a subsequent rendezvous.

[But the plot was leaked to police Saturday morning by one of the alleged participants, United Press International quoted police detective Walter Rooke as saying.]