

# Get Gaudet off hook, lawyer asks U.S.

Secret Service actions scored

The Secret Service is re-

sponsible for getting Edwin M. Gaudet into a tight spot, his attorney says, and now it's up to them to get him released from state charges today in Taos, N.M.

Gaudet, 29, a former New Orleans Police man, was charged by federal authorities last week with threatening President Nixon's life, but that charge was dropped.

But Gaudet was jailed in Albuquerque, N.M., under a \$300,000 bond on three state counts of assault with intent to kill a police officer.

The state charges stem from an exchange of gunfire last Monday in the rugged Sangre de Cristo mountains about 2 miles north of Taos after Gaudet escaped from a federal agent attempting to arrest him on the federal warrant.

He was expected to be moved from Albuquerque to Taos today to answer the

state charges.

Gaudet's lawyer, Lillian Cohen of New Orleans, said Sunday, "On behalf of our client, we are going to make an urgent appeal that they (Secret Service) help us get him released on his own recognizance. We don't want him sitting in jail for God knows how long.

"We want them to act to avoid compounding their original error," she said. "He did peacefully surrender to an arrest warrant which never should have been issued."

Gaudet, who lives in the Morning Star commune near Taos with his wife and three children, surrendered to authorities last Wednesday after a three-day search for him. He had been accused of threatening the life of the President on Aug. 15, but the charge was dropped after an alleged witness said she couldn't positively identify him.

Gaudet told a Saturday news conference in Albuquerque he fled because he didn't know the plainclothes agent was with the Secret Service.

"When they started asking around for me, I didn't wait to find out who they were. I took cover. They weren't wearing uniforms," he said. He denied that he fired a hunting rifle he said he took with him.

"There were a lot of shots, but they weren't from me," he said. "As far as I'm con-

cerned, I'm a scapegoat."

Miss Cohen said in New Orleans that she had evidence that "he never did fire at any officer. Any shots that were fired were fired at him," she said.

She didn't elaborate.