

Ford Aides Ask Break-in Probe

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The White House demanded an explanation yesterday from the Secret Service about how a 24-year-old Washington man could twice penetrate the White House security system, the first time coming within a few feet of President Ford's 18-year-old daughter, Susan.

The intruder, Gerald Bryan Gainous Jr., was arrested the night of Nov. 26 after he had roamed the grounds of the executive mansion from 8 to 9:30 p.m., the White House said yesterday. Security officers discovered him when he approached Susan Ford while she unloaded camera equipment from a car near the south portico of the White House.

Susan told her father of the break-in before retiring, but the President did not report it to his staff, the White House said yesterday. President Ford was inside the executive mansion, giving a televised address about his plans to aid New York City, when the break-in apparently took place, according to the White House. He finished his address about 8 p.m.

Gainous was not armed and apparently wanted to see President Ford to seek a pardon for his father, who was convicted in 1972 of conspiring to import \$10 million in heroin into this country.

"If he can pardon Nixon, he can pardon my father," Gainous reportedly said.

Federal agents charged Gainous with unlawful entry, and the next day Superior Court Judge Sylvia Bacon released him on his personal recognizance.

Nine days later Gainous climbed over the White House fence again, this time on the Pennsylvania Avenue side and in daylight. He was arrested almost immediately by White House security officers, according to the U.S. attorney's office. Gainous is now in the D.C. jail awaiting a court-ordered examination to determine his mental competence.

White House staff officials, alarmed by the ease with which Gainous gained access to the executive mansion grounds, contended yesterday they had known nothing of these two incidents until they heard reports about them over a Washington television station Monday night.

That prompted the President's chief of staff, Richard Cheney, to demand an "immediate investigation" by the Secret Service, according to a White House spokesman.

The Executive Protective Service, a part of the Secret Service which provides White House security routinely, does not inform White House staff officials of such break-ins, which are not uncommon, an EPS spokesman said.

The EPS declined to comment on the incident or to say whether electronic alarms were functioning when Gainous climbed over the White House fence.

On his Thanksgiving eve break-in Gainous, dressed in black and carrying a briefcase, slipped over the fence, traveled 50 yards before

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triggering an alarm, and personal papers.

The White House said yesterday that Susan Ford had "walked right past" Gainous as he approached and went into the White House. David Kennerly, White House staff photographer, was with Susan and took pictures of the arrest, according to the White House.

Gainous, of 6506 Luzon Ave. NW, attended the University of North Carolina off and on between 1971 and this year, majoring in political science. He left college without graduating.