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FIRST LEAD

ROCHESTER, N.Y., SEPT. 29 (AP)-POLICE SAID A MAN CARRYING A RIFLE ASKED A PASSERBY TODAY ABOUT THE MOTORCADE ROUTE OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY. BUT THEY SAID THERE WAS NO IMPLIED THREAT ON KENNEDY'S LIFE.

THE MAN WANTED TO KNOW THE ROUTE SO HE WOULD NOT GET CAUGHT IN TRAFFIC, POLICE SAID.

"THERE WAS NO THREAT," A POLICE OFFICER SAID.

POLICE REPORTED THE MAN, WHOSE IDENTITY WAS NOT DISCLOSED, INTENDED TO GO HUNTING AND HAD JUST PICKED UP HIS RIFLE FROM A SHOP WHERE A NEW SIGHT HAD BEEN PUT ON THE WEAPON.

KENNEDY, THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE FOR U.S. SENATOR, MADE TWO APPEARANCES HERE TODAY WITHOUT INCIDENT. THE QUESTION ABOUT HIS MOTORCADE ROUTE TOUCHED OFF A HUNT FOR THE MAN AND INTENSIFIED SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE KENNEDY PARTY.

POLICE REPORTED THAT THE MAN, AFTER PICKING UP THE RIFLE, STOPPED A PASSERBY ON STATE STREET IN DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER AND SAID:

"WHICH WAY IS THE KENNEDY MOTORCADE COMING?"

THE RIFLE WAS IN A BROWN CASE.

AFTER ASKING THE QUESTION, THE MAN DROVE OFF IN A GREEN-HALF-TON TRUCK, POLICE SAID.

THE PASSERBY, NOTICING THE RIFLE CASE AND THE NATURE OF THE QUESTION, INFORMED A NEARBY POLICEMAN OF WHAT HAD TRANSPIRED, POLICE REPORTED

AS PART OF THEIR INVESTIGATION OF THE SITUATION, POLICE WENT TO A GUN SHOP ON STATE STREET, THEY REPORTED. THEY SAID THEY BELIEVED THE WEAPON HAD BEEN PICKED UP THERE.

THE IDENTITIES OF THE PASSERBY AND THE GUN SHOP OPERATOR WERE NOT DISCLOSED.

(NO PICKUP)

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