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\$500,000 Bail Set In Threat to President

NEW YORK (AP) — Andrew B. Topping, who blames the recent death of his wife on "prorightist forces," was held in \$500,000 bail today on charges of threatening and attempting to kill President Nixon.

Topping, 27, was seized in Central Park Friday after allegedly paying \$1,000 to a Secret Service agent posing as a killer for hire. Topping reportedly told the agent he hoped the assassination would come by early next week.

Federal officials said the charge of knowingly attempting to kill the President carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Conviction for threatening the President's life can bring a sentence of up to five years and a \$1,000 fine.

Asst. U.S. Atty. William B. Gray said Topping was under a routine investigation after requesting an appointment with Nixon when a man claiming to know Topping told the Secret Service that the suspect had tried to enlist

his help in finding someone to kill the President.

Gray said an undercover agent, Stewart J. Henry, met with Topping Thursday night and then again Friday at the Central Park Boat Basin where Topping allegedly paid the money.

Mrs. Topping suffered gunshot wounds in their Manhattan apartment on July 6, two days after their son was born, and died several days later. Her death was declared a suicide but her husband was charged with possession of unregistered weapons.

Detective Peter Book, who made the weapons arrest, said Topping told him that "prorightist forces beyond his control" caused his wife's death.

Topping described himself as a self-employed investment dealer. He is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, police said, and had recently taken graduate courses at Columbia University.