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N.Y. Man

Arrested in

Plot on Nixon

SFChronicle

United Press

New York

A 27-year-old New York man was arrested yesterday and held under \$500,000 bond on charges of paying \$1000 to a Secret Service undercover agent to assassinate President Nixon.

The suspect, Andrew B. Topping, who lives with his mother and five-week-old son in Manhattan, was arraigned before a Federal magistrate on charges of attempting to kill the President.

He was characterized by Federal agents as a "self-employed" investment financier who hired Pinkerton detectives for some undisclosed purpose, and was facing trial on charges of illegally keeping guns in his apartment.

BAIL

Magistrate Marvin D. Jacobs set the half million dollar bail because of what Assistant United States Attorney William B. Gray called "the enormity of the offense."

Jacobs set August 21 for a

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PLOT

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hearing and Topping was taken away to the Federal House of Detention. His legal aid society attorney said he could not meet the bail.

Gray said Topping had made a request to see Mr. Nixon a week ago and underwent the customary interview.

Later, Gray said, an acquaintance told authorities Topping was looking for someone to assassinate the President.

Undercover agent Stewart J. Henry held two meetings with Topping, Gray said, and Topping was arrested just after Henry received \$1000 payment yesterday.

DEAL

Lillian Stevens, a neighbor of Topping's in his highrise apartment building, said he was "always talking about a fantastic deal going somewhere that never seemed to come through."

"He was always very friendly to me personally but there were always strange things going on in that apartment lately — men coming and going late at night," she said.

"He was always unshaven and looked like a ragamuffin," Mrs. Stevens said.

Other residents of the apartment house said Topping was "quiet and nice looking."

Gray said Topping's wife died recently and, following her death, a search of the apartment by police uncovered several guns. He had been charged with firearms violations and was free on his own recognizance pending the trial.