

Gene Pope, owner of The National Enquirer, is heavy for Nixon, so I'm not surprised they decided to kill there N.O. assassination-threat story on which I'd helped them. Today I spoke to John South, the reporter then sent to N.O. on it. He told me it was exactly as I had told him ("The Way you saw it from Day One"), that he is satisfied there never was any serious death threat there, not even involgng the black militants (whcih I also told him), that the police are as open in their disbelief as they can be with politeness and without engaging in an open fight with the Secret Service, but that as of Thursday (which I took to mean not yesterday but last Thursday, 8/30) the SS was still saying they are conducting a serious investigation. I told South that my immediate analysis was that this one was improvised in haste, therefore the drawing upon the past, and that the knowledge of the past made me believe officials with that knowledge had to be involved. He agrees... Claiborne WxPost says Gaudet threat, allegedly made 15, reported to Secret Service 18, when it made security sweep Canal St., leaves plenty time for what was not done, fast check in N.O. on Gaudet, where phone calls would have established it was false. That there could have been such a threat, that the SS could have found out he was in New Mexico, and that it did not check to see if he was, in fact, in N.O. not only doesn t make sense but leaves wide open the possibility there was a real threat and the htreätener was free to make his try. This I would not expect of SS. Or, there is a fairly broad inference that it was part to the contrivances to get Nixon a sympathetic press when he needed it. HW 9/7/73

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