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**Writer Arrested****--'Threat to Nixon'**

Norman S. Wexler, the screenwriter of the movie "Joe," was arrested by FBI agents as he got off a flight from New York yesterday and charged with threatening the life of President Nixon.

Wexler, 46, allegedly made the threat in the presence of other passengers on the American Airlines jet, according to Charles W. Bates, special agent in charge of the local FBI office.

"Preposterous," Wexler told The Chronicle at City Prison last night.

Wexler said he wasn't threatening President Nixon's life, he was only quoting an article in Sun Dance magazine linking the president with the Mafia.

He was also charged with interfering with flight attendants and with using abusive language.

According to a complaint filed with U.S. Magistrate Richard Urdan, the screen

writer attempted to block an aisle of the plane with tennis rackets at the start of the flight.

Later, the complaint stated, Wexler simulated a gun, told everyone around him to "shut up," and called stewardesses and passengers "whores, latent homosexuals and members of the Mafia."

Carrying a copy of the magazine with President Nixon's picture on the cover, he then told those seated around him he was "going to shoot Nixon," the complaint alleged.

Magistrate Urdan ordered the suspect held in lieu of \$20,000 bail and set a preliminary hearing for Friday, December 22.