Shooting Query at San Jose

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The FBI is investigating whether shots were fired during demonstrations against President Nixon's preelection visit in San Jose, Calif., it was learned yesterday.

A gents questioned newsmen who were traveling with Nixon to determine whether they heard sounds like the discharge of a rifle or a gun.

One agent indicated there had been a report of gunfire during the Oct. 29 incident.

Several eggs, rocks and bottles thrown from among a crowd of about 1000 demonstrators hit the presidential limousine carrying Nixon, Governor Reagan and Sen. George Murphy of California.

The incident occurred when Nixon emerged from the San Jose Civic Auditorium where he spoke in behalf of Reagan and Murphy, both seeking re-election.

Nixon climbed onto the hood of his limousine, faced the demonstrators and flashed the double "V" for victory signal.

When asked why the President did that to an obviously hostile crowd, White House aides said there were supporters in the crowd and he was greeting them as he normally does.

Other aides said, however, they thought there was an element of defiance in the President's gesture.

Newsmen who talked with Secret Service agents shortly after the incident received no indication gunfire was suspected.

A spokesman for the San Jose Police Department, when asked about the FBI investigation, said the department had not heard of a shot being fired.

Nixon disclosed through aides that what appeared to have been an egg passed close to his head shortly after he emerged from the auditorium and before he entered his limousine. However, Secret Service agents said they thought the missile was a small rock.

An FBI spokesman, asked yesterday for more information, said only that the bureau was investigating the San Jose incident.