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A Possible Plot to Kill Nixon Is Reported

**Motorcade Dropped
in New Orleans**

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 20 — The Secret Service announced today that it had uncovered a "possible conspiracy to assassinate" President Nixon in New Orleans. The President abandoned a planned five-block motorcade through the city's historic French Quarter after the Secret Service "strongly recommended" that he do so.

Mr. Nixon personally ordered the motorcade canceled after he was told by aides of the alleged plot, and the Presidential party sped over an alternate, unannounced route from the New Orleans International Airport to the Rivergate Convention Center where Mr. Nixon delivered a scheduled address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Security was heavy during the President's two-and-a-half hour visit, starting at 11:52 A.M., which passed without incident. He made no mention of the reported threat during his speech, and at one point walked into a crowd of well-wishers outside the convention center to shake hands.

A spokesman for the Secret Service in Washington said

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that the agency's unusual announcement of the possible threat to the President's life had been made in anticipation of reporters' inquiries about the change in plans previously announced by the White House.

The spokesman, Jack Warner, declined to provide any details of the alleged conspiracy, but he confirmed that the Secret Service had asked the New Orleans Police Department to find and arrest Edwin M. Gaudet, one of its former members, in connection with the President's visit.

Mr. Warner acknowledged that, although the Secret Service had altered Presidential motorcades for security reasons in the past, this was the first time that the agency itself had publicly disclosed its recommendation.

Cautions Against 'Inference'

Mr. Warner cautioned against drawing "an inference" that Mr. Gaudet was involved in any assassination plot, and other

Federal officials said they believed that the request to take him into custody was simply a precautionary measure. Mr. Gaudet was reportedly arrested in New Orleans in 1970 when he attempted to throw a burning American flag on Mr. Nixon's car during a motorcade there.

The officials added that a number of individuals were being sought by the local and Federal authorities in connection with the alleged conspiracy to kill Mr. Nixon, but they would not say how many persons were reportedly involved or describe the nature of the evidence against them.

Asked why a disclosure of the change in the President's plans and the reasons behind it were not left up to the White House, he replied that "we felt we were going to get inquiries on it no matter who released it. He said that he had received advance approval for the announcement from Ronald L. Ziegler, the President's press secretary.

Mr. Warner discounted speculation that his agency had been

prompted to make public the existence of the "possible conspiracy" against Mr. Nixon's life because the White House had initially refused to alter the motorcade route for "political" reasons.

"At no time did I ever get any indication that there was any opposition" among the White House staff to complying with the Secret Service's recommendation, which was delivered over the weekend, he said.

Week-Long Inquiry

He said that the recommendation had resulted from a week-long investigation in New Orleans involving Secret Service agents, members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the New Orleans police.

An F.B.I. official would say only that its agents and "sources" there were at work on the case.

It was reported in February that Robert H. Taylor, who has headed the Secret Service's White House detail since Mr. Nixon's first inauguration in 1969, had been removed from his job because of a "rift" with H. R. Haldeman, then chief of the White House staff, during the President's re-election campaign.

The White House denied the reports, but sources familiar with the workings of the Secret Service insisted that Mr. Taylor had clashed with Mr. Haldeman when the Presidential aide tried to relax security measures during a campaign stop by President Nixon Nov. 3 in Providence, R.

According to the sources, Mr. Taylor refused to permit the dropping of a barrier at the Providence airport so that Nixon



President Nixon walking with Gov. Edwin W. Edwards, to right, on arrival at New Orleans convention center.

supporters would be able to rush across the tarmac for a "spontaneous" demonstration.

One Justice Department official, recalling that incident, speculated today that the unprecedented publicizing by the Secret Service of a threat to the President might have resulted from "a similar situation in which the White House insisted on keeping to the announced schedule, which would have exposed the President to a crowd of presumably friendly demonstrators.

Handshaking Stips Planned

The White House's original schedule reportedly called for Mr. Nixon to alight from his automobile during the five-block trip along Canal Street in New Orleans to shake hands.

The Secret Service normally investigates thousands of threats against the President each year, most of them involving individuals rather than conspiracies. A number of individuals have been seized after threatening

Mr. Nixon's life over the last four-and-a-half years, and some have been convicted and imprisoned.

In 1969, a Yemeni Arab and his two sons were acquitted on charges of plotting to assassinate Mr. Nixon shortly after he was elected President in 1968. In August of last year, Andrew B. Topping, a 27-year-old Manhattan resident, was arrested after he allegedly paid \$1,000 to an undercover agent to have President Nixon assassinated.

Arthur H. Bremer, who was convicted to attempting to kill Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama, recounted in his diary an unsuccessful plan to kill Mr. Nixon during the President's state visit to Ottawa, Canada, in April, 1972. He wrote that he had intended to call out "A penny for your thoughts!" as he pulled the trigger.