

Suspects in Nixon Plot Reported

NEW ORLEANS — (AP) — Federal authorities have authorized the arrest of several persons in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate President Nixon, a New Orleans television station has reported.

Station WVUE-TV said last night "arrest authorizations," which are less formal than warrants, have been issued. The station said two persons, one of whom had a high-powered rifle, discussed the killing and several others knew of the discussion.

FBI, Secret Service and police department officials refused to confirm the report.

The Secret Service revealed the existence of the alleged plot before Nixon's visit to New Orleans Monday to address the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The reports led to a change in the route the President took into town from the airport and cancellation of a scheduled five-block motorcade down Canal Street to the Rivergate Convention Center, site of the talk.

Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner said late yesterday the agency's investigation of the alleged plot is "very active," but he continued to refuse to reveal details of the investigation. He said no warrants have been issued, and he declined to say how many conspirators are being sought.

"We will continue to check out every lead," said a police department spokesman.

The Secret Service did say it had issued a warrant for Edwin M. Gaudet after a witness allegedly identified Gaudet as the man who threatened Nixon's life during a discussion in a Canal Street drugstore last week. But the Secret Service said Gaudet was not involved in the alleged assassination conspiracy.