

Evidence Eludes New Orleans Probe

By Jim Brigance
Associated Press

Investigators have been unable to establish sufficient evidence to make arrests in connection with an alleged plot to assassinate President Nixon, New Orleans sources close to the inquiry say.

One informant said federal and local officers will "just be watching" six black militants reportedly involved in a plot to kill Mr. Nixon. "We'll just ride it out," the source said.

In a rare public announcement, the Secret Service recommended that Mr. Nixon abandon plans for an open-car motorcade Monday through downtown New Orleans after learning of the alleged plot.

The alleged plot was reported by a police informant who told of a meeting at which assassination plans were discussed, a New Orleans source said. The source said the informant told police later of another meeting between two of the original six alleged conspirators at which a rifle changed hands.

New Orleans police then called in federal agents, who issued "arrest authorizations."

But, the source said, Mr.

Nixon came and left before police could establish enough basis for arresting anyone and they have not yet been able to corroborate the informant's information.

In Washington, a Secret Service spokesman said he would have no comment on the New Orleans report.

But the spokesman, Jack Warner, said the investigation into the alleged conspiracy is continuing and that arrests are still possible. He said there has been no change in the status of the investigation.

Edwin M. Gaudet, in jail in New Mexico on a federal charge of threatening the President, has been charged by the state with intent to kill three police officers in an alleged exchange of gunfire during the three-day search for Gaudet in the mountains near Taos.

Gaudet, 29, a former New Orleans policeman, is being held in Albuquerque under \$100,000 bond. U.S. magistrate Robert McCoy has scheduled a hearing Aug. 30 to determine whether Gaudet should be transferred to Louisiana on the federal charge.