

WXPost JUL 7 1974

Ford Trip To Dallas Is Marred

Security Car Glass Broken During Trip

By Terry Kliewer
Special to The Washington Post

DALLAS, July 6 — An otherwise routine visit to Dallas by Vice President Gerald R. Ford was interrupted this morning by an apparent freak accident police initially took to be a sniping attempt, which was discounted shortly afterward.

The incident occurred at 10:15 a.m. as the Vice President's 10-car motorcade moved into Dallas from Dallas-Fort Worth Airport for dedication ceremonies at the new World Trade Center on Stemmons Freeway.

A window in a trailing security car of the motorcade cracked and shattered without warning, leaving what was reported to be a fist-sized hole in the glass.

No one was injured, but local police and Secret Service men fanned out in search of a possible sniper.

That search turned up nothing, and a Secret Service spokesman shortly thereafter issued an official report that the window had been shattered by heat expansion.

However, initial wire service reports carried stories quoting the Texas Department of Public Safety as saying the window had been broken by a bullet or rock.

Yet a half hour later, a vice presidential aide, Bill Roberts, said the Secret Service had "no doubt" that no shots were fired at the motorcade and that the window was broken by heat expansion in the state police car, which they said was being driven for the first time.

"There was no shot fired in the area," Roberts said.

Nevertheless, DPS investigators continued their examination of the car, impounded at DPS regional headquarters here.

And at 4:30 p.m. CDT a DPS spokesman said the car's driver, Officer Jim Bryan, in-

sisted he had been shot at.

"He says he feels like he might have been fired at from a car meeting him," the DPS said. "The glass (from the shattered driver's-side front window) went all over him. It went in the back seat and across his lap.

"We don't feel that it was heat expansion," the spokesman concluded. He noted that the Secret Service had knocked the remaining glass out of the window after inspecting the car, making it difficult, he said to reconstruct the window.

However, police and Secret Service men agreed that no spent round of ammunition, rock, or other projectile was found in the car, which brought up the end of the procession.

Ford, riding in a bulletproof limousine near the front of the motorcade, reportedly knew nothing of the incident.

The rest of the motorcade apparently learned of it only

See FORD, A2, Col. 1

FORD From A1

... security personnel relayed the news.

Ford later told reporters at the World Trade Center that he had received a 10-minute phone call from President Nixon in New Biscayne. He said the President had heard rumors from the Secret Service about a possible sniper in Dallas.

"Naturally, I was pleased that it was nothing but a shattered window," Ford said. Asked whether he was apprehensive after hearing the initial reports about a possible gunshot at the motorcade, he replied, "Not at all. The police checked and re-checked and determined the window was

shattered by the heat and not by an act of any individual."

In his news conference the Vice President discussed Watergate, the Middle East, and the general political climate in the United States. Ford said he assumes that President Nixon would obey a Supreme Court order to turn over White House tapes to the Watergate special prosecutor.

"But a person involved in litigation does not go out and say publicly what he is going to do," the vice president said.

"I don't assume any citizen of this country would abide by a ruling of the Supreme Court," he added.

After his news conference Ford spoke briefly at the dedication of the World Trade Center, had lunch at the nearby Apparel Mart, and then played golf at the Preston

Trade Club here.

Dallas police took extra security precautions at the Preston club, but would not say what they were.

This evening he is expected

to confer with state political leaders—including Sen. John Tower (R-Tex.) and Democratic Gov. Dolph Briscoe—before departing for Washington.