

Around
the
Nation

Ford Motorcade Incident

W Post

7-9-74

DALLAS—Authorities say they may never know what caused a patrol car window to break Saturday, which had prompted a police report of a possible sniper incident during the motorcade of Vice President Ford.

The Secret Service maintains the window burst because of heat expansion. It was 92 degrees, normal for Texas, and the car's air conditioning was on when the window on the driver's side shattered.

The heat theory is discounted by the Texas Department of Public Safety. Spokesman Jim Robinson says the department believes the window was broken by a rock.

The auto was five cars and a bus behind a limousine carrying the Vice President from the airport to a dedication ceremony near downtown Dallas.

The Secret Service took out the window, confiscating much of the glass, Robinson said.

"We may never know what caused it," Robinson said. "We will look at it further in an attempt to fix in our own minds that it was a rock," he said.

The Secret Service and state police differ also on another point. The service said the patrol car was new and the window could have been defective. The Department of Public Safety said, however, that the car had 12,255 miles on the odometer and had been in service since February.

Remains a Mystery