

**The original documents are located in Box 43, folder “President - Assassination Attempts Fromme, Lynette (1)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

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This Copy For \_\_\_\_\_

NEWS CONFERENCE#315

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

WITH RON NESSEN

AT 10:40 A.M. PDT

SEPTEMBER 5, 1975

FRIDAY

(Sacramento, California)

MR. NESSEN: From what we have been able to establish in the relatively short time we have had, as the President was walking from the Senator Hotel to the State Capitol through the park along the walkway, there was a crowd gathered along the walkway to the President's left. Secret Service Agent Larry Buendorf was walking directly behind the President.

He saw the hand of a woman come up between two people in the crowd and she was pushing her way through the crowd. She had a gun in her hand which appeared, to Agent Buendorf, a .45 caliber automatic. The gun was about two feet from the President.

Agent Buendorf reached and grabbed the gun with his right hand, grabbed her arm with his left hand, twisted, forced her arm down and twisted the gun out of her hand and he took possession of the gun.

At the same time, he turned her away from the President and forced her back into the crowd and forced her to the ground.

In the process of this, Agent Buendorf sustained a slight cut on his right hand between his thumb and his first finger. He cut this on the gun. He is not sure exactly how he cut it. He is not sure whether it was cut on the firing hammer, which would have prevented the gun from firing.

At that point a police officer of the Sacramento City Police Department named Gaylin Peterson--Patrolman Gaylin Peterson--came to the assistance of Agent Buendorf with handcuffs. Also, Secret Service Agent, named Thomas McCarter, came to the assistance of Agent Buendorf.

The City policeman gave his handcuffs to Agent Buendorf who handcuffed the woman. Agent Buendorf turned over the woman to Agent McCarter and then returned to his duties of protecting the President.

MORE

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Later, it was established that the gun was a .45 and was loaded. Agent Buendorf was treated by the President's physician, Dr. William Lukash. The only treatment required was a band-aid on the cut.

The woman was identified by the Sacramento City Police Department as Lyne Alice Fromne, 26 years of age. I don't have an address.

MORE

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She was taken from here to the Sacramento City Police Station, located at 813 6th Street in Sacramento.

Two Secret Service agents also went there and the investigation is continuing. She is described as 5 foot 3, 120 pounds, with red hair.

The President was aware of the incident, was not hurt in any way, and nobody else was hurt in any way except the slight cut to Agent Buendorf's right hand.

The President has essentially had no comment on the episode. The necessary officials in Washington were notified. Secret Service Agent Richard Keiser, the head of the White House Protective Detail, will be informing Mrs. Ford and the rest of the family of these facts that I have related to you.

Q Ron, how would you describe the President taking the situation, and is he going to continue his schedule?

MR. NESSEN: The President will continue on and finish his schedule today.

Q How is he taking the situation? How would you describe it?

MR. NESSEN: He essentially had no comment about it.

Q Ron, at least one eyewitness out there said he thought the President spotted the gun. Did the President see it?

MR. NESSEN: The President did see the gun.

Q Do you know if there was an attempt made to fire the gun?

MR. NESSEN: That is something that the continuing investigation will have to establish.

Q Do you know if she said anything?

MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

Q What did the President do when he saw the gun?

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MR. NESSEN: He had basically passed the spot and he simply kept going, and as I think some of you saw, he moved on into the building.

Q What did the President personally do when he saw the gun? Did he leap out of the way? Did he move quickly in one direction or another? Was he shoved by an agent? What did he do when he saw the gun?

MR. NESSEN: I can't answer that.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:47 A.M. PDT)

#315



OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY  
(Sacramento, California)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT  
AND  
QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

SENATOR HOTEL

12:46 P.M. PDT

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say very emphatically that I think the Secret Service and the other law enforcement agencies that were on the job were doing a superb job, and I want to thank them for everything they did in this unfortunate incident.

I also wish to express to the people of California my gratitude for the very, very warm welcome that they have given me in the State of California. I would not, under any circumstances, feel that one individual in any way represented the attitude on the part of the people of California.

I just thank the Californians for being so friendly and so hospitable.

Let me end, with great emphasis, this incident, under no circumstances, will prevent me or preclude me from contacting the American people as I travel from one State to another and from one community to another.

In my judgment, it is vitally important for a President to see the American people, and I am going to continue to have that personal contact and relationship with the American people. I think it is vital, and I intend to carry it out.

QUESTION: Mr. President, can you tell us what you saw or felt personally at the time?

THE PRESIDENT: I am not sure that I ought to describe what I saw beyond the fact that I saw a hand coming up behind several others in the front row and obviously, there was a gun in that hand. I then saw almost instantaneously very quick and very effective action by the Secret Service in taking care of that matter.

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QUESTION: What was your own thought, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: Well, I was very thankful. I was very thankful to the Secret Service for doing a superb job, but once I saw that they had done it, I thought I better get on with the rest of the day's schedule.

Thank you very much.

END (AT 12:49 P.M. PDT)



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The City policeman gave his handcuffs to Agent Buendorf who handcuffed the woman. Agent Buendorf turned over the woman to Agent McCarter and then returned to his duties of protecting the President.

Later, it was established that the gun was a .45 and was loaded. Agent Buendorf was treated by the President's physician, Dr. William Lukash. The only treatment required was a band-aid on the cut.

The woman was identified by the Sacramento City Police Department as Lyne Alice Fromme, 26 years of age. I don't have an address.

She was taken from here to the Sacramento City Police Station, located at 813 6th Street in Sacramento.

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MR. NESSEN: Not that I am aware of.

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MR. NESSEN: I can't answer that.

THE PRESS: Thank you, Ron.

END (AT 10:47 A.M. PDT)





About the only thing I can add is to give you a brief description of what happened immediately after the incident. I don't think that any of us in the pool saw it. We were behind the President on his right and this all happened to the President's left.

I did hear someone who I did not -- I didn't know who was talking at the time -- but I did hear someone and it later turned out to be one of the agents, yell "get down, let's go." And I was later told in the State House by another source that "let's go" is some sort of a typical Secret Service code word or trigger word, and when an agent says "let's go," that means we have a serious problem and literally let's get out of here.

As soon as the agent said, "let's go," there was a kind of football huddle thing, the agents around Ford came and clustered him for about two or three seconds. The two agents who were nearest him on each side literally grabbed him physically, put their arms around him and clutched his clothing and literally hustled him out of there at a trot and we were about 100 yards from the entrance to the State House.

These agents grabbed him, didn't actually lift him off the ground but hustled him out at a trot. The President, right after it happened, turned around and looked back at the spot and it was clear, to me at least, he was aware of what happened. He seemed to me stunned, bewildered, dazed, something like that, and it was clear that he knew what had happened.

He did not say anything until we got to the steps and when we got to the steps, Steve -- I will let Steve tell you about this -- Steve asked him something like, "Mr. President, are you all right?" And I think he said something like, "Sure."

You can hear my question on video tape which has audio privileges. And then you hear me say, "The President looking grim, nodding that he is all right." That is on tape and we will try to get it from New York if you want it. All I can add is that I just watched the video tape replay from our camera and you see the President moving along, everything is normal, you can see a woman in a red dress who is immediately behind two other people who are closest to Ford, and Ford actually passes this red dress and appeared to be two or three persons past when suddenly you see agents going behind and just knock their way through the edge of the crowd and then the two agents nearest to Ford, as Tom described, did pull him out. He also went down nearly to his knees. Their first motion was to come in from both sides like this. They knocked him down and forward, so that he was down almost to belt buckle height for several seconds before he came back up, and they were clustered about him as they moved on out of there.

As we got up to the steps, he looked very grim and stunned. I am not sure I would share in bewildered, but stunned is there, and he looked toward me and I yelled out, "Mr. President, are you all right," or something like that, and I did not hear any words. It did look as if his mouth was forming a word, and it was very grim, tight, a little grim.

This was Ford. Somebody said he looked kind of pale at the breakfast this morning.

I don't want to characterize that. We did talk to an eye witness, a young woman, whose name I'll get later. This young woman did describe to a number of reporters what she saw, and she said that the suspect asked a local policeman several minutes before Ford arrived if that was the route he would take and that the policeman gave an evasive answer but that the girl remained with the crowd along the edge of the sidewalk.

This girl also saw the gun. She said that Fromme had on a very striking red dress and appeared to be very friendly and outgoing prior to Ford's arrival.

--Tom DeFrank  
Newsweek

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September 9, 1975

Honorable Philip W. Buchen  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

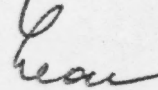
Dear Phil:

Along with millions of others, I was deeply saddened to learn of the shocking experience to which the President was subjected. Then, along with millions of others, I was greatly relieved that no serious consequences ensued. It does mean, however, that our President will need to have the tightest of security.

So often when an incident of this type occurs, it causes others with mental aberrations to develop similar impulses.

I very much enjoyed visiting with you a few weeks ago and I look forward to the next occasion. In the meantime, I send my warmest regards.

Sincerely,



Leon Jaworski

LJ:vm



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

DONALD RUMSFELD

Ernie Luzania of the Secret Service mentioned that there might be a need for the President's statement on what took place in Sacramento. In fact, I believe he was asked for it. I told him I would get something pulled together. Attached is an edited transcript of what the President said to me in response to a series of questions I asked him aboard Air Force One en route back. Lee Goodell took dictation. I have not heard anything more about such requests and my inclination is not to supply anything unless specifically requested. My thought is that you ought to retain this copy. The President would have to review it prior to having it sent out and you would probably have to re-do it and put it in the proper form. Leona and I could or would witness it if that were necessary or desireable at the appropriate time. I will leave it in your hands.



RECOLLECTIONS OF PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
RELAYED TO DONALD RUMSFELD AND TRANSCRIBED  
BY LEONA M. GOODELL ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE AT  
1835 to 1905, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 (Edited by President Ford)

We were walking from the hotel over to the State House. It was apparently organized so that people were only on my left and none were on my right as I started shaking hands with the people heading towards the State House. The crowds were 2 to 4 rows thick, typical crowds.

We came to a row of trees. I don't know why I remember the trees, but I was shaking hands with people in the front row. I usually look to see if anyone in the back row wants to shake hands.

I saw a woman in a red or orange unusual dress who apparently did. I would guess she was 35 to 40 years old. She seemed to be wanting to move her hand forward. I got the impression she wanted to shake hands and I looked down and this right hand came out about a little above my knee. I looked at the hand and there was a gun in it. It was her right hand. About the time I saw the hand and gun, some Secret Service grabbed the hand and gun. About that time, several, I don't know how many Secret Service or security people grabbed me and pushed me away and walked me off and told me to move fast. As I turned and looked -- curious sort of -- 2 or 3 obviously Secret Service or security people grabbed her -- they were on her like a shot. Then we walked off to the State House as fast as we could.

Don Rumsfeld then said that in Governor Brown's office, the first time the President had discussed the incident, he had indicated his impression that she was 35 to 40. The President agreed and said but then you told me she was 26.

The President said if my recollection is accurate, she had grey-brown hair and sort of a weather beaten face. She looked kind of hard. I could easily notice the dress -- odd looking, I couldn't help but notice it.

The President said: They grabbed me by the shoulders and almost forced me down. They grabbed me from the rear, pushed my shoulders from the back. I had the feeling they were trying to get me down so that I couldn't be seen. They were standing up behind me -- and then they took me away.



Don Rumsfeld said: Was she on her knees? Why was her hand so low?

The President said: As I was greeting the crowd, I started to lean down and shake hands. A little above my knee, a robe or something was obvious, and I saw her offer her hand which seemed in front of my left leg, down a little, and she wanted to shake hands.

I don't know what precisely happened. It is a shock. I saw her hand go down and saw the gun. She was about 1-1/2 to 2 feet from me when I saw the gun.

Don Rumsfeld said: Then you moved rapidly toward the building.

The President said: The Secret Service started to run me toward the building. I said to slow down. I said everything is all right.

Don Rumsfeld asked if the President had heard anything she might have said.

The President said: I didn't hear anything she may have been yelling. Was she yelling? Don Rumsfeld said there were some eye witness reports that she was yelling something. The President said he had no recollection.

Don Rumsfeld asked if she appeared to be alone -- did the President have any recollection of people who may have seemed to be with her.

The President said: I just saw one person -- obviously one person in a red-orange dress -- I couldn't tell. She was sort of close to a tree on her right. I never saw her body except from her shoulders on up. She was in the second row. I don't recollect who was in front of her. I didn't pay much attention.

Don Rumsfeld recounted reports about the woman seeming to be jerking the gun as if trying to get it to fire.

The President said: All I saw was a gun in her hand. The Secret Service were so very quick.

Don Rumsfeld said that supposedly an eye witness said he or she heard it click.

The President said: I didn't hear it.





The President said: She had it in her right hand, firmly in her hand. But then it happened so fast, one of the Secret Service hands was right there on it. It seemed to slip out of her hand, she lost her control. It was pulled away.

The President said: I was on the Warren Commission. In my own way, as I go down a line, I am conscious. I am looking. I am not sure whether other people in my situation feel the need to look. I consciously do it.

Don Rumsfeld said: Did you think of anything else as you were moving.

The President said: My immediate recollection was that everything was all right. I didn't want the Secret Service to be forcing me so hard -- at such a speed that it would create panic. So I said everything is fine, we are making it.

Don Rumsfeld said: You then went straight into the building, turned left, and went into the Governor's office. You said hello and sat down. I came in and out several times during the 40 minutes to an hour meeting. When I came back in the last time toward the end of the meeting, I interrupted you as the meeting was breaking up. It appeared you had not discussed the incident.

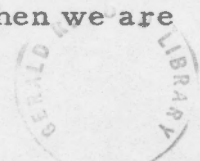
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Don Rumsfeld said: You then described the incident to Governor Brown and I said that I had been with Nessen and the Secret Service and wanted to verify what was to be said to the Press.

The President said: I would be curious to know the comments of Larry Buendorf, Ernie Luzania and the others who were right in the area to see if what I remember coincides with their recollections. I wonder if Buendorf has a different recollection.

Don Rumsfeld said: I have Larry's report. He gave a report to Knight over the phone. We could get Ernie's report and see if it coincides.

The President said: I would be interested in comments from the Secret Service who immediately grabbed her. I didn't know we had people moving that close behind a group of people when we are shaking hands.



Don Rumsfeld described the sequence of events from the grabbing of her hand, taking the gun, giving the gun to someone, getting the handcuffs from a local police officer, and getting her on the ground.

The President said: I thought people behind had jumped on her. I wonder if they got any information from the people in front of her.

Don Rumsfeld said: Some had been interviewed, some were on TV -- a Mr. Haywood, I believe. The police said they then went out to Manson's place and picked up two other women and were now searching for a third one.

The President said: I wanted to go over where the people were at the airport to shake hands. Don Rumsfeld said: Ron Pontius said you shouldn't do that, and I told him we wouldn't let you do it. The President said: Ernie said I don't want you to go over, so I didn't. Rumsfeld said: The Secret Service wanted time to sort it out. They still don't know if only one person was involved or possibly if some others were involved.

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Gerald R. Ford

WITNESSED:

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Donald Rumsfeld

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Leona M. Goodell



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD  
THROUGH: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Statement on Attempted  
Presidential Assassination

About a week ago I was approached by the FBI's White House liaison man with a request to interview the President on his recollections relative to the attempted assassination in California. I was advised that this request was made by FBI Director Kelley.

During this past week, I have discussed this matter with representatives of the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division at Justice, the FBI and the Secret Service. These officials are now unanimous in the view that at this juncture the President should provide a written statement of his recollections regarding the attempted assassination. After an evaluation of the written statement, interested law enforcement officials will consider the advisability of any personal interview with the President. I have been requested to obtain and distribute the President's statement.

In order to ensure that all anticipated questions are treated in the written statement, I would suggest that I first be given the opportunity to review the draft which, Phil Buchen advises, has already been prepared under your direction. Thereafter, the statement can be finalized and made available to the offices noted above.

Thank you.

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KAL:d1m



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Gerald R. Ford

WITNESSED:

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Donald Rumsfeld

---

Leona M. Goodell



9L3-1

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1975

TO: KEN LAZARUS

FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

Don't do anything about this until I talk  
to you about it.



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

PHIL BUCHEN

FROM:

DONALD RUMSFELD

Ernie Luzania of the Secret Service mentioned that there might be a need for the President's statement on what took place in Sacramento. In fact, I believe he was asked for it. I told him I would get something pulled together. Attached is an edited transcript of what the President said to me in response to a series of questions I asked him aboard Air Force One en route back. Lee Goodell took dictation. I have not heard anything more about such requests and my inclination is not to supply anything unless specifically requested. My thought is that you ought to retain this copy. The President would have to review it prior to having it sent out and you would probably have to re-do it and put it in the proper form. Leona and I could or would witness it if that were necessary or desirable at the appropriate time. I will leave it in your hands.



RECOLLECTIONS OF PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
RELAYED TO DONALD RUMSFELD AND TRANSCRIBED  
BY LEONA M. GOODELL ABOARD AIR FORCE ONE AT  
1835 to 1905, SEPTEMBER 5, 1975 (Edited by President Ford)

We were walking from the hotel over to the State House. It was apparently organized so that people were only on my left and none were on my right as I started shaking hands with the people heading towards the State House. The crowds were 2 to 4 rows thick, typical crowds.

We came to a row of trees. I don't know why I remember the trees, but I was shaking hands with people in the front row. I usually look to see if anyone in the back row wants to shake hands.

I saw a woman in a red or orange unusual dress who apparently did. I would guess she was 35 to 40 years old. She seemed to be wanting to move her hand forward. I got the impression she wanted to shake hands and I looked down and this right hand came out about a little above my knee. I looked at the hand and there was a gun in it. It was her right hand. About the time I saw the hand and gun, some Secret Service grabbed the hand and gun. About that time, several, I don't know how many Secret Service or security people grabbed me and pushed me away and walked me off and told me to move fast. As I turned and looked -- curious sort of -- 2 or 3 obviously Secret Service or security people grabbed her -- they were on her like a shot. Then we walked off to the State House as fast as we could.

Don Rumsfeld then said that in Governor Brown's office, the first time the President had discussed the incident, he had indicated his impression that she was 35 to 40. The President agreed and said but then you told me she was 26.

The President said if my recollection is accurate, she had grey-brown hair and sort of a weather beaten face. She looked kind of hard. I could easily notice the dress -- odd looking, I couldn't help but notice it.

The President said: They grabbed me by the shoulders and almost forced me down. They grabbed me from the rear, pushed my shoulders from the back. I had the feeling they were trying to get me down so that I couldn't be seen. They were standing up behind me -- and then they took me away.





Don Rumsfeld said: Was she on her knees? Why was her hand so low?

The President said: As I was greeting the crowd, I started to lean down and shake hands. A little above my knee, a robe or something was obvious, and I saw her offer her hand which seemed in front of my left leg, down a little, and she wanted to shake hands.

I don't know what precisely happened. It is a shock. I saw her hand go down and saw the gun. She was about 1-1/2 to 2 feet from me when I saw the gun.

Don Rumsfeld said: Then you moved rapidly toward the building.

The President said: The Secret Service started to run me toward the building. I said to slow down. I said everything is all right.

Don Rumsfeld asked if the President had heard anything she might have said.

The President said: I didn't hear anything she may have been yelling. Was she yelling? Don Rumsfeld said there were some eye witness reports that she was yelling something. The President said he had no recollection.

Don Rumsfeld asked if she appeared to be alone -- did the President have any recollection of people who may have seemed to be with her.

The President said: I just saw one person -- obviously one person in a red-orange dress -- I couldn't tell. She was sort of close to a tree on her right. I never saw her body except from her shoulders on up. She was in the second row. I don't recollect who was in front of her. I didn't pay much attention.

Don Rumsfeld recounted reports about the woman seeming to be jerking the gun as if trying to get it to fire.

The President said: All I saw was a gun in her hand. The Secret Service were so very quick.

Don Rumsfeld said that supposedly an eye witness said he or she heard it click.

The President said: I didn't hear it.



The President said: She had it in her right hand, firmly in her hand. But then it happened so fast, one of the Secret Service hands was right there on it. It seemed to slip out of her hand, she lost her control. It was pulled away.

The President said: I was on the Warren Commission. In my own way, as I go down a line, I am conscious. I am looking. I am not sure whether other people in my situation feel the need to look. I consciously do it.

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The President said: It had never come up.

Don Rumsfeld said: You then described the incident to Governor Brown and I said that I had been with Nessen and the Secret Service and wanted to verify what was to be said to the Press.

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Gerald R. Ford

WITNESSED:

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Donald Rumsfeld

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Leona M. Goodell



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

FBI Message  
switching

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD  
THROUGH: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Statement on Attempted  
Presidential Assassination

About a week ago I was approached by the FBI's White House liaison man with a request to interview the President on his recollections relative to the attempted assassination in California. I was advised that this request was made by FBI Director Kelley.

During this past week, I have discussed this matter with representatives of the Attorney General, the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division at Justice, the FBI and the Secret Service. These officials are now unanimous in the view that at this juncture the President should provide a written statement of his recollections regarding the attempted assassination. After an evaluation of the written statement, interested law enforcement officials will consider the advisability of any personal interview with the President. I have been requested to obtain and distribute the President's statement.

In order to ensure that all anticipated questions are treated in the written statement, I would suggest that I first be given the opportunity to review the draft which Phil Buchen advises, has already been prepared under your direction. Thereafter, the statement can be finalized and made available to the offices noted above.

Thank you.

cc: Phil Buchen ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: BARRY ROTH *HR*

SUBJECT: Gag Orders in U.S. v. Lynette  
Alice Fromme

Attached is a copy of the "gag" order imposed by the Court to enjoin certain discussions of the alleged attempted assassination of the President. On its face, the Order does not apply to the President, and Justice, in any event, recommends for reasons of future precedents, that we not use the Order as our basis for not discussing this subject. Justice recommends instead that we not comment on the basis that this matter is under investigation. A Q&A to that effect was submitted.

You may want to mention this at the senior staff meeting.

Gag Orders in U.S. v. Lynette Alice Fromme

The original gag order is as follows:

Because of the sensitive nature of this case and in order to strike a balance between the constitutional mandate of a free press and the constitutional right of all persons to a fair trial:

It is hereby ordered that the following named persons and the officers, employees, agents and representatives of the following named federal, state, county and city law enforcement agencies are hereby enjoined from making any comment or statement to any news media representative, or to any other person, concerning any matters of evidence or concerning any aspect of the investigation in this case into the alleged attempted assassination of the President of the United States of America, Gerald R. Ford, on September 5, 1975, in Sacramento, California: Defendant Lynette Alice Fromme; Attorney representing defendant Lynette Alice Fromme; Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California; United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of



Investigation; United States Secret Service; United States Marshal; any other Federal law enforcement agency not specifically named above; Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; Sacramento Police Department; Office of the Federal Defender; United States Clerk's Office for this District; all persons called as witnesses before the grand jury of this court in this case. This order is not intended to preclude the United States Attorney, or his deputies or assistants, from announcing whether the grand jury has returned an indictment in this matter, nor is it intended to preclude the defendant, or defendant's attorney, the United States Attorney, or his agents and employees, or any other Federal agency engaged in the investigation of said matter, from questioning and receiving answers from witnesses who may happen to be officers, employees or agents of any of the above named Federal, state, county or city law enforcement agencies, who may be possessed of evidence connected with this case or the investigation of this case. All violators will be subject to the contempt power of this court.

Dated: September 9, 1975

Thomas J. MacBride  
U. S. District Court Judge

The amended gag order is as follows:

FOR GOOD CAUSE APPEARING:

IT IS ORDERED that the order filed herein on September 9, 1975, under the terms of which the defendant, her attorney, the United States Attorney, and certain other Federal, state, county and city officials and their agents and employees, and witnesses appearing before the grand jury in this case were enjoined from making any comment or statement to any news media representative or to any

other person concerning any matters of evidence or concerning any aspect of the investigation in this case into the alleged attempted assassination of the President of the United States of America, Gerald R. Ford, on September 5, 1975, in Sacramento, California, is amended to include as an enjoined agency within said injunction the state of California, Department of Corrections, and the officers, agents and employees thereof to the same effect as if said agency and said persons had been specifically named and enjoined within the terms of the aforementioned order.

Dated: September 11, 1975

Thomas J. MacBride  
U. S. District Court Judge

Filed: September 11, 1975





THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1975

TO: KEN LAZARUS  
FROM: PHIL BUCHEN *P.W.B.*

Don't do anything about this until I talk  
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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

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RELAYED TO DONALD RUMSFELD AND TRANSCRIBED  
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Gerald R. Ford

WITNESSED:

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Donald Rumsfeld

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Leona M. Goodell



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD  
THROUGH: JIM CONNOR  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *PC*  
SUBJECT: Statement on Attempted  
Presidential Assassination

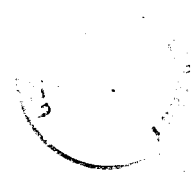
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Thank you.

cc: Phil Buchen ✓



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: PHIL BUCHEN

FROM: BARRY ROTH *BR*

SUBJECT: Gag Orders in U.S. v. Lynette  
Alice Fromme

Attached is a copy of the "gag" order imposed by the Court to enjoin certain discussions of the alleged attempted assassination of the President. On its face, the Order does not apply to the President, and Justice, in any event, recommends for reasons of future precedents, that we not use the Order as our basis for not discussing this subject. Justice recommends instead that we not comment on the basis that this matter is under investigation. A Q&A to that effect was submitted.

You may want to mention this at the senior staff meeting.



Gag Orders in U.S. v. Lynette Alice Fromme

The original gag order is as follows:

Because of the sensitive nature of this case and in order to strike a balance between the constitutional mandate of a free press and the constitutional right of all persons to a fair trial:

It is hereby ordered that the following named persons and the officers, employees, agents and representatives of the following named federal, state, county and city law enforcement agencies are hereby enjoined from making any comment or statement to any news media representative, or to any other person, concerning any matters of evidence or concerning any aspect of the investigation in this case into the alleged attempted assassination of the President of the United States of America, Gerald R. Ford, on September 5, 1975, in Sacramento, California: Defendant Lynette Alice Fromme; Attorney representing defendant Lynette Alice Fromme; Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California; United States Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of



Investigation; United States Secret Service; United States Marshal; any other Federal law enforcement agency not specifically named above; Sacramento County Sheriff's Department; Sacramento Police Department; Office of the Federal Defender; United States Clerk's Office for this District; all persons called as witnesses before the grand jury of this court in this case. This order is not intended to preclude the United States Attorney, or his deputies or assistants, from announcing whether the grand jury has returned an indictment in this matter, nor is it intended to preclude the defendant, or defendant's attorney, the United States Attorney, or his agents and employees, or any other Federal agency engaged in the investigation of said matter, from questioning and receiving answers from witnesses who may happen to be officers, employees or agents of any of the above named Federal, state, county or city law enforcement agencies, who may be possessed of evidence connected with this case or the investigation of this case. All violators will be subject to the contempt power of this court.

Dated: September 9, 1975

Thomas J. MacBride  
U. S. District Court Judge

The amended gag order is as follows:

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other person concerning any matters of evidence or concerning any aspect of the investigation in this case into the alleged attempted assassination of the President of the United States of America, Gerald R. Ford, on September 5, 1975, in Sacramento, California, is amended to include as an enjoined agency within said injunction the state of California, Department of Corrections, and the officers, agents and employees thereof to the same effect as if said agency and said persons had been specifically named and enjoined within the terms of the aforementioned order.

Dated: September 11, 1975

Thomas J. MacBride  
U. S. District Court Judge

Filed: September 11, 1975



THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

*Pres  
Assassination*

September 23, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DON RUMSFELD  
THROUGH: PHIL BUCHEN *P.W.B.*  
FROM: KEN LAZARUS *KL*  
SUBJECT: Statement by the President on  
Attempted Assassination in Sacramento

This office has received a joint request from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a statement by the President on his recollection of the facts surrounding the alleged assassination attempt on his life in Sacramento on September 5. It is, of course, customary for intended victims to report relevant information to law enforcement authorities. Other witnesses to the incident, including yourself, will be contacted directly and interviewed should the need arise.

Attached is a statement which was developed on the bases of the President's recorded remarks which you forwarded to Mr. Buchen under date of September 15, and relevant excerpts from Secret Service reports.

I recommend that the President review the document as soon as practicable and, assuming it is complete and accurate, sign the statement and return it to Counsel's office for distribution to the Criminal Division and the FBI, with a courtesy copy to the Secret Service in accordance with their request.

I would also recommend that we repeat the practice followed in this instance in order to develop a statement by the President on yesterday's incident in San Francisco.

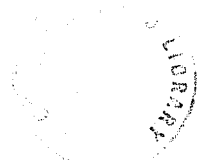
Attachment



STATEMENT OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, pursuant to the joint request of the Criminal Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the Department of Justice, submit the following:

1. During the morning of Friday, September 5, 1975, I was in the Senator Hotel, Sacramento, California.
2. At 10:00 a.m., I departed the Senator Hotel on foot and proceeded diagonally across L Street en route to the State Capitol Building.
3. By 10:05 a.m., I had crossed into the park on the State Capitol grounds and started shaking hands with a group of people gathered, two to four rows deep, on my left.
4. As I approached a row of trees, I saw a woman in an unusual red or orange dress standing in the second row of the crowd. The woman had gray-brown hair and a weathered complexion. She was standing next to a tree and was visible to me above her chest.



5. As this woman moved her right hand forward toward me through the crowd at about waist level, I saw that she was holding a handgun. At this point, she was about two feet away from me.

6. At about the same time I saw the handgun, several Secret Service personnel grabbed me by the shoulders and pushed me down and away from the woman and surrounded me.

7. I have no recollection of hearing the woman say anything or of hearing the handgun click.

8. I was quickly led away in the direction of the State Capitol Building. I turned and looked back momentarily to see two or three Secret Service or other security personnel wrestling the woman down.

9. At about 10:10 a.m., I entered the State Capitol Building and went directly to the office of Governor Brown.

10. This is a complete and accurate statement of my recollections of the incident described above.

---

GERALD R. FORD

The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
September , 1975

— 9/24

Ken

Signed w/

slight revision

Shirley





THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 23, 1975

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7. I have no recollection of hearing the woman say anything or of hearing the handgun click.

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9. At about 10:10 a.m., I entered the State Capitol Building and went directly to the office of Governor Brown.

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GERALD R. FORD



The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
September , 1975

September 23, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** DON RUMSFELD  
**THROUGH:** PHIL BUCHEN  
**FROM:** KEN LAZARUS (s)  
**SUBJECT:** Statement by the President on  
Attempted Assassination in Sacramento

This office has received a joint request from the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a statement by the President on his recollection of the facts surrounding the alleged assassination attempt on his life in Sacramento on September 5. It is, of course, customary for intended victims to report relevant information to law enforcement authorities. Other witnesses to the incident, including yourself, will be contacted directly and interviewed should the need arise.

Attached is a statement which was developed on the bases of the President's recorded remarks which you forwarded to Mr. Buchen under date of September 15, and relevant excerpts from Secret Service reports.

I recommend that the President review the document as soon as practicable and, assuming it is complete and accurate, sign the statement and return it to Counsel's office for distribution to the Criminal Division and the FBI, with a courtesy copy to the Secret Service in accordance with their request.

I would also recommend that we repeat the practice followed in this instance in order to develop a statement by the President on yesterday's incident in San Francisco.

**Attachment**

KAL:dlm





STATEMENT OF  
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD

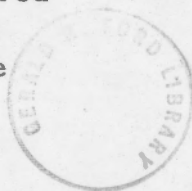
I, Gerald R. Ford, President of the United States of America, pursuant to the joint request of the Criminal Division and the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the Department of Justice, submit the following:

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4. As I approached a row of trees, I saw a woman in an unusual red or orange dress standing in the second row of the crowd who seemed to want to shake my hand. The woman had gray-brown hair and a weathered complexion and appeared to be alone. She was standing next to a tree and was visible to me above her chest.



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Washington, D. C.  
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The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
September , 1975



THE ORIGINAL OF THE ATTACHED DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REMOVED TO THE  
VALUABLE FILE.

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Eva:

Here are the originals of  
the transcripts the President  
made after each of the  
attempted assassinations.

We have copies here but  
Ken felt that the originals  
should be in your office for  
disposition with the Presi-  
dential papers. They should  
eventually be very historical  
pieces of paper!!!!



dawn

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ORIGINAL RETIRED TO  
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

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The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
September 24, 1975

ORIGINAL RETIRED TO  
SPECIAL DOCUMENTS FILE

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1975

MEMORANDUM

FOR: PHIL BUCHEN  
FROM: DON RUMSFELD

Attached is the signed Presidential statement on the Sacramento incident, per your request.

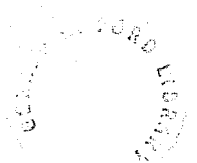
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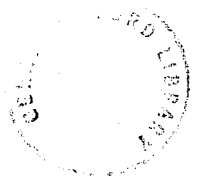
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The White House  
Washington, D. C.  
September 24, 1975



MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 25, 1975

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