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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.

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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.

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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?

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)