

The Helter Skelter Assassination Attempts

The year 1974 was not a high water mark for U.S. politics.

Richard Nixon, the 37th President, who had been methodically destabilized by Henry Kissinger and *The Washington Post* over a two-bit B & E his henchman had royally screwed up in the forever-famous Watergate building, became the first President to resign from office.

The justification for Kissinger's actions may have been Dickie's overt dislike for Israel and his penchant for saying so. Then, again, Dickie's calling Kissinger "Jew Boy" probably didn't help, either.

That other bigmouth, the smarmy Spiro Agnew, Nixon's VP, had long before been thrown to the dogs for his corrupted antics in another scandal in the hopes the hounds would not further pursue the trail that eventually led to Dickie Boy.

Obviously that strategy didn't work, and both Dickie and Spiro were shown the door, leaving us with Gerald Ford and Nelson Rockefeller as President and Vice-President, neither of whom had been elected to office, which represented an embarrassing first for the U.S.

But it gets weirder.

Suddenly Gerald Ford became the target for assassins.

Why?

Clearly, Ford was babysitting the office.

However, on Sept. 5, 1975, Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme attempted to shoot Ford point-black with a .45.

There is some thought that the Secret Service acted uncustomarily slowly.

Be that as it may, what is also interesting is Fromme's connection to the Charles Manson Family. She not only had been a member of the cult, but had been living close to Sacramento, the city whose prison was home to Charlie, the city in which Fromme had tried to pop Ford.

But, wait, it still gets weirder.

Seventeen days later another attempt on Ford's life is made, this time by another Manson Family member, Sarah Jane Moore, in San Francisco.

Dr. Rhawn Joseph picks up the story in his book *America Betrayed*:

"And of course, we were told, "there was no conspiracy." And, maybe there wasn't. And, likewise, we were told, "there was no conspiracy," when, 17 days later, an FBI and police informant pulled out her gun, and pointed it at President Gerald Ford. On September 22, 1975, Sarah Jane Moore aimed, and then fired.

"Again, the Secret Service did not react.

"Sarah Jane Moore was well known to the FBI. She had been recruited by them. Married five times, mother of four children, a mentally disturbed nursing school drop out, Sarah Jane Moore finally joined the Women's Army Corps, where she may have first been recruited by the FBI.

"At age 42, Sara "dropped out" of society and immersed herself in the radical counter-culture lifestyle. Sara was a spy. She went "underground" at the behest of the FBI, to gain information on the terrorist organization, the 'Symbionese Liberation Army' which had kidnapped Patty Hearst.

“Sarah Jane Moore was still working for the FBI when she pointed and fired her standard police-issued .38 Smith and Wesson at President Gerald Ford as he left the St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco.

“But then the unexpected happened. As Secret Service agents stood and watched, a bystander, Oliver Sipple, grabbed Moore’s arm when he saw the gun, causing the bullet to miss Ford by just a few feet. Instead it ricocheted off a wall and wounded a cab driver. Sipple, an ex-Marine, wrestled her to the ground, and shoved his hand into the firing mechanism, which prevented her from getting off a second shot.”

Sipple was also a homosexual. His sexual preference should not have entered the equation. But it did. That information was advanced by Harvey Milk, a homosexual and member of San Francisco’s Board of Supervisors who thought it should be known that a gay was capable of such heroism.

Milk would be assassinated in 1977.

But Sipple, who felt his life had been destroyed by Milk, plunged himself into alcoholism and drug addiction and was dead only months after his intervening act.

So who might have benefited from the assassination of Ford?

Joseph wrote of the first attempt: “‘Nelson Rockefeller came within a 32nd of an inch of becoming President of the United States,’ said Donald Heller, an assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted Fromme.

“And if Rockefeller became President, who would he have chosen to be Vice-President? The leading candidate would have been George Bush.”

But what about the second attempt made by Sarah Jane Moore? What did she have to say about her actions?

Joseph quoted her as stating: “It would have elevated Nelson Rockefeller to the Presidency, and then people would see who the actual leaders of the country are.”

Two months later, in November, 1975, Vice-President Nelson Rockefeller announced that he was removing himself from consideration as a possible running mate for President Ford in 1976.

Ford, of course, got blown out by Jimmy Carter in the subsequent Presidential election.

So exactly what was all that Ford assassination stuff about?

Joseph wrote that Bush wouldn’t have been a viable choice for VP in 1974, having served only one term as Congressman and having perhaps an uncomfortably strong attachment to the CIA, of which he would later become director.

Rockefeller, however, had been a four-time governor of New York and had made the path straight for brother David’s machinations in New York City, to include the ramming through of the construction of the World Trade Center, a project few in The City wanted.

It seems logical, then, that the most desired result of the Gerald Ford Turkey Shoot is that Rockefeller would’ve become President.

When Moore said that Rockefeller’s Presidency would’ve allowed us to see who were “the actual leaders of the country,” she probably was closest to hitting hit it on the head.

What must be remembered is that the Rockefellers “own” West Virginia. Jay, in particular, has been both governor of and Senator from the state.

It should also be noted that Charles Manson, born Maddox, lived in West Virginia and is reputed to have lived on the very same street as Moore, who claims she had been set up by the FBI and Fromme, Manson's girlfriend.

The bottom line: This was a ripe time for a Rockefeller to become President, especially without a vote being cast.

However, the Presidency eluded Rockefeller, who chose not to run in 1976.