

Here Are Principals Involved In Assassin Plot Against Truman

Seek Death For Assassin; Manhunt On

'Boss' May Go To Electric Chair As Conspirator

(Continued From Page One)

service, their numbers reinforced, kept pace.

White House Press Secretary Charles G. Ross said he knew of no plan to move the Truman family from Blair House "to a more defensible place." He indicated the President has no plans for cutting down the number of public appearances.

Mr. Truman's philosophical view that danger of assassination is an occupational hazard of the presidency was illustrated by a remark he made to Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy. Adm. Leahy told reporters after a White House call that the President said: "The only thing we worry about is bad luck—and I never have bad luck."

Hold Mystery Men

In New York, police seeped through the city's 800,000 Puerto Rican residents searching for tips on other possible conspirators.

Two mystery men who called at the apartment of one of the would-be assassins of President Truman shortly after midnight were held for investigation.

Also held there was Mrs. Rose Collazo—wife of Oscar Collazo, 37-year-old Puerto Rican who lies in Emergency Hospital here with wounds suffered in the gun battle with Mr. Truman's guards.

Arraigned on a conspiracy charge and held in \$50,000 bail, Mrs. Collazo said defiantly: "I am not surprised and I am not sorry."

She said that she, her husband and others were "fighting for an ideal."

That "ideal" resulted in the death of one Puerto Rican who tried to kill the President, the wounding of her husband, the death of a White House guard and the wounding of two others.

Guards 'All Right'

Dead from the blazing battle outside Blair House in yesterday's warm November afternoon were Grisello Torresola of New York City and Pvt. Leslie Coffelt of the White House detail—who even as he fell mortally wounded, put a bullet into Torresola's head.

Two other White House guards, Joseph H. Downs and Donald T. Birdzell—were wounded.

Brig. Gen. Wallace H. Graham, Mr. Truman's personal physician, called at Emergency Hospital this morning and reported both guards will be "all right."

Torresola, the dead assassin, may have had a double motive when he and Collazo attempted to storm the Blair House yesterday—furthering Nationalist Party's aims in Puerto Rico and personal revenge.

If so, both backfired.

Gov. Luis Munoz Marin sent Puerto Rican police on a wide round-up of suspected Nationalists. He accused Albizu, who was arrested, of directing the assassination attempt against Mr. Truman and of staging the recent island revolt.

Given 'Mission'

Papers from Albizu, found in Torresola's pockets, bore out the fact that Torresola had been given a "mission" in the United States and was expected to carry it through to "triumph."

Torresola was directed to "assume leadership of the movement in the United States" without hesitation at any time he wanted.

The attempted assassination had some repercussions in Congress. Sen. Owen Brewster, (R-Me.) said that apparently the Congress had not been fully informed of the extent of the Nationalist movement in Puerto Rico. He was talking of an investigation.

What effect the attempt would have on Puerto Rican-United States relations was not fully assessed. Gov. Munoz' prompt action in jailing and rounding up the revolutionary party members may soften the American attitude.

Collazo, the 37-year-old thin, mustached Puerto Rican from New York, was reported in good condition at Emergency Hospital. He is charged with murder and



Pedro Albizu Campos... alleged to be mastermind of attempted assassination.



Mrs. Rosa Collazo... wife of one of two gunmen shot down by guards.



U. E. Baughman... chief of the Secret Service which guards President.



Carmen Collazo... identified her father as member of Puerto Rican Nationalists.



Leslie Coffelt... White House guard who died of wounds received in shooting.



Donald Burtzell... White House policeman expected to recover from his wounds.



Joseph Downs... another White House policeman reported in critical condition.

could, upon conviction, receive the electric chair.

Shift Rumor

Collazo later was transferred from Emergency Hospital to Gallinger Hospital where Washington police have a prison ward.

Maj. Robert J. Barrett, superintendent of police, told reporters the transfer was ordered because "we have a regular guard force set up there" and Gallinger is better equipped to handle prison cases. Mr. Barrett would not let reporters talk to Collazo.

"We've got the case to try in court," he said, "and we're not going to do anything to ruin it."

One hospital source reported that Collazo appeared to be "quite perceptive." He asked questions about his temperature—reported to be about 100 degrees, his pulse, reported at 100, and his blood pressure, which was said to be about normal.

Condition Good

Collazo bluntly told Secret Service agents that he and Torresola came here to kill the President with the intent to kill the President.

Collazo was wounded in the chest, but his condition was described as good.

Secret Service Chief U. E. Baughman quoted Collazo as saying he and Torresola alone de-

cided to "kill the President and start a revolution in this country and win independence for Puerto Rico."

He said the two revolutionists hatched the plot in New York Monday and came to Washington Tuesday.

But federal officials did not discount the possibility that the plot may have been masterminded in Puerto Rico and perhaps was linked with the Nationalist uprising in Puerto Rico.

Letter on Body

This possibility stemmed from a letter found on Torresola's body. Secret Service agents said the letter was written by Pedro Albizu Campos, leader of the Puerto Rican Nationalist movement, at San Juan last Sept. 21.

It instructed Torresola to assume leadership of the movement in the United States "without hesitation of any kind" if he found it necessary to do so.

Extra guards were assigned to the Blair House. Uniformed officers were posted at the entrance, blocking the driveway. Pedestrians who usually are permitted to stroll within a few feet of the Blair House entrance were shunted to the other side of the avenue.

White House officials said the attempted assassination will not change Mr. Truman's plans to

'I Heard the Whine'

'Grabbed Camera, Hit Street,' Says Photographer

Editor's Note: Charles Corte, Acme News picture photographer, was 200 feet away when two Puerto Rican revolutionists tried to assassinate President Truman yesterday. Here is his eyewitness account.

By CHARLES CORTE, Written for United Press

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2—The lights turned red and I tromped on the brake.

For all I know that light still is red. I didn't stick around to see if it ever changed to green.

I have heard gunfire before—in North Africa, in Sicily, at Salerno. That noise from in front of President Truman's Blair House home was no motorcycle.

I grabbed a camera and hit the street. A second later I was peering from behind a concrete pillar at what was going on at Blair House across Pennsylvania Ave.

IN ALL, there were two spurts of gunfire, the shots spaced so close together that they sounded like machine gun bursts. There was the whine of bullets ricocheting off the old State Department building opposite the President's home.

They told me in Italy that "if you hear the whine, you haven't been hit." I heard the whine. I don't think Donald Birdzell did.

Birdzell is a cop on the White House detail. When I saw him, he was flopping into the street in front of Blair House. He got to his knees, shooting.

I knew he had been hit. I knew what he was doing in the street, too. Someone was using him for a target so he was moving from the man he was assigned to protect, the President.

LYING PRONE at the foot of the Blair House steps was another figure, in mufti. This was the man, identified later as Oscar Collazo, who had tried to shoot his way to where the President was.

I was running across the street while I was taking all this in. I made several shots of the man at the foot of the steps before anybody got there to see what had happened to him.

He looked dead to me. Crumpled, he lay on the ground and died. Sort of slack. His chest grabbed a cab for the office. It was a goodbye and there was blood on his head. I thought he was dead, but somebody turned him over and said "this one's still alive."

About that time a Secret Service man I knew shouted, "Hey, even get a ticket."

When the President appears at the auditorium, however, the audience of about 3000 persons will be screened closely. Secret Service agents from a number of Mid-

western cities will be flown to St. Louis to augment the regular White House detail.

From St. Louis, Mr. Truman is scheduled to go to Kansas City

After he votes in Tuesday's election, he will return to Washington immediately.

The abortive attempt on Mr. Truman's life marked the first

time that an American President has been sought out in his home by assassins.

The gunplay was all over in a matter of seconds.

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