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# White House gunman arraigned on new charges

## Jury indicts Duran for attempted assassination

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Colorado man accused of an assault-rifle attack on the White House last month was indicted Thursday on a new charge of trying to assassinate President Clinton. Francisco Martin Duran, who pleaded innocent, could face up to life in prison if convicted.

U.S. Attorney Eric Holder said prosecutors plan to prove that Duran intended to kill the president when he allegedly fired about 29 rounds from a semiautomatic rifle at the White House from a public sidewalk.

Clinton was in the White House at the time of the Oct. 29 attack. The mansion was struck by several gunshots, but nobody was hurt.

Duran did not speak during his arraignment before U.S. District Judge Charles R. Richey. Public defender Leigh A. Kenny entered the plea on his behalf.

Prosecutors filed court papers asking Duran's lawyers to disclose whether they plan to assert an insanity defense. Richey gave Duran's lawyers until Monday to reply.

The judge did not immediately rule on a request by The Washington Post, The New York Times and NBC television that he release a letter written by Duran that was the basis for a government-requested competency examination of the defendant. A psychiatrist found that he was able to under-

stand the charges against him.

Public defender A. J. Kramer told Richey the letter should not be released, at least for now because it could cause prejudice against Duran. "This letter says nothing about the president. It has nothing to say about any harm intended to the president," Kramer said.

Duran, 26, of Colorado Springs, was arrested on the Pennsylvania Avenue sidewalk after he was tackled by two bystanders.

An 11-count federal grand jury indicted Duran also charged Duran with assault on Secret Service agents, destruction of federal property, weapons possession by a convicted felon, using a gun during a crime and interstate transportation of a firearm.

Holder said evidence against Duran included statements he made to people in Colorado before the shooting, observations by people in Washington and materials recovered in searches.

"We're quite confident that the information we are going to put before the jury will convince them that he was attempting to assassinate the president," Holder said.

Duran's rifle was loaded with a 30-round clip of ammunition when he poked the weapon through the wrought-iron posts of the White House fence and began firing, Holder said.

# Gingrich disavows effort to eliminate ethics committee

WASHINGTON (AP) — Speaker-to-be Newt Gingrich on Thursday disavowed any effort to dismantle the House Ethics Committee as part of the Republican reshaping of Congress.

"It won't happen; it's a bad idea," Gingrich told a reporter Thursday night, hours after a senior House Democrat called a news conference to accuse the Georgia Republican of trying to cover his own ethical problems by disbanding the ethics panel.

Rep. David Bonior of Michigan, the House Democratic whip, said an alleged GOP proposal to place ethics questions within the House Administration Committee "is the height of arrogance and hypocrisy" and "calls into suspicion Mr. Gingrich's own motives."

The verbal assault was one of the Democrats'

first attempts to retake the offensive since the election defeats last week.

In attacking Gingrich, they chose a target they consider vulnerable because of questions about the financing of GOPAC, his political action committee, and because they think some of his proposals are extreme.

Gingrich's spokesman, Tony Blankley, rebuffed the GOP leader from the plan to change the ethics panel, saying Republicans had made no final decisions on how they would reshape House committees.

Blankley said Bonior's attack on Gingrich was made to secure support among fellow Democrats in his campaign to retain his whip position.

"Mr. Bonior has chosen this moment to throw back into the gutter," Blankley said.

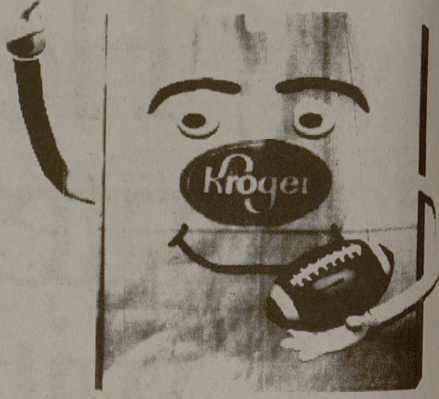


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