

## Too Old!

From the opposite side of the globe, the *Sydney Morning Herald* in Australia recently ran the following article. In it, you'll find an interesting statement made by Ms. Moore's attorney.

January 2, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO: Sara Jane Moore, who tried to assassinate US president Gerald Ford in 1975, has been paroled after serving more than three decades behind bars.

Moore, 77, who in 1976 was sentenced to life in prison, was released from a low-security women's prison on Monday.

Moore, an accountant and a divorced mother of four, fired at Mr Ford on September 22, 1975, as he was leaving a San Francisco hotel. Her single shot from a .38-calibre revolver missed Mr Ford after Oliver Sipple, a disabled Vietnam War veteran, grabbed her arm and pulled her down.

Defence lawyers had been preparing an insanity defence for Moore, who had received psychiatric treatment several times, but she ignored her lawyers' objections and pleaded guilty. After she was sentenced to life in prison, Moore expressed mixed feelings about her actions. "Am I sorry I tried?" she said. "Yes and no. Yes, because it accomplished little except to throw away the rest of my life. ... And, no, I'm not sorry I tried, because at the time it seemed a correct expression of my anger."

**James Hewitt, the now-retired public defender who handled Moore's case, said the public should not be alarmed by her release from prison. "She is pretty close to becoming an old lady," Mr Hewitt said on Monday. "She is probably too old to cause any damage."**

Besides, he said, her cause in trying to shoot Mr Ford was political, even if it was a jumbled political goal. Mr Hewitt, who described Moore as a "very confused person", said she did not pose a general threat.

Moore's attempt on Mr Ford's life came 17 days after Lynette Alice "Squeaky" Fromme tried to kill him, when she burst through a crowd, dressed in a nun's robe with a .45-calibre pistol strapped to her leg.

Mr Ford died on December 26, 2006, of natural causes.

Los Angeles Times