

WASHINGTON (AP) — Authorities are puzzled about what motivated a man who was fatally shot by a White House guard on the mansion's lawn after scaling a fence, brandishing a three-foot pipe and ignoring the guard's command to halt.

Washington police said the intruder, Chester M. Plummer, raised the three-foot pipe "'in a threatening manner'" and ignored repeated orders to halt from the Executive Protective Service guard on Sunday night.

The guard, Pvt. Charles A. Garland, fired a single shot that hit Plummer in the upper left chest and felled him about 60 feet from the eight-foot fence along Pennsylvania Avenue he had just scaled.

The police said Plummer, a 30-year-old Washington cab driver, reportedly had a criminal record, but was not involved in any previous intrusions on the White House grounds.

A police sergeant said Plummer's motive was unknown. After talking with Plummer's parents, the sergeant said, "'He never indicated to them he had any qualms with the President.'" Plummer, a bachelor, was estranged from his parents, he added.

Secret Service spokesman Jack Warner, asked whether the incident would cause any security changes at the White House, replied, "'We constantly review our security procedures and find no problems with the outer perimeter at this time.'"

The White House recently installed crash-proof gates costing \$550,000. A man crashed into the old gates in a car on Christmas Day 1974, and in

February 1973 an AWOL soldier landed a helicopter on the White House lawn amid a hail of bullets from guards.

Last November an unarmed intruder came within a few feet of Susan Ford, the President's daughter, on the first of his three illicit entries onto the grounds.

But no previous incident resulted in death or serious injury.

A dispatcher at the Red Top Cab Co. in Arlington, Va., where Plummer worked, said, "He was really a nice guy. He was quiet."

Plummer was shot several hundred

feet from the White House, where President Ford and his family were in their second floor quarters. It was not known whether Ford heard the shot, but White House spokesmen say he was informed of the incident.

An ambulance squad tried to revive Plummer with heart massage on the White House lawn. He stopped breathing en route to George Washington Hospital, where efforts to revive him continued. He was pronounced dead at 11:05 p.m., about 90 minutes after the shooting.

A Secret Service official said, "The

individual was observed earlier ... by EPS officers, but did not make any overt attempt at that time to arouse suspicion as to a possible penetration."

Plummer set off an alarm and was "immediately detected" by Garland and another officer when he scaled the fence, and Garland approached him alone, the official said.

Garland, 25, will be placed on administrative leave pending a routine grand jury investigation, the police said. He became an officer last January in the EPS, the uniformed branch of the Secret Service.