

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/24/68

LUCY HALLUM, Auditor's Department, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, advised that records of the auditing department disclosed the following information concerning recent canceled payroll checks on file.

A check dated June 14, 1968, Number 9403, drawn on the Union Bank and Trust Company, Wilshire and Western Avenue, in the amount of \$40.34, made payable to DONALD D. EVANGELISTA, had been cashed on July 15, 1968, and bore the endorsement of DONALD EVANGELISTA and MARIA E. WICKSON, 517 South Kenmore Avenue, Los Angeles, Apartment 2, telephone Number 384-3714.

Another check dated June 21, 1968, Number 9939, in the amount of \$37.59 made payable to DONALD D. EVANGELISTA bearing the endorsement of DONALD EVANGELISTA, no address, had been cashed on July 10, 1968. A stamp of the bank where the check was possibly cashed was the First Western Bank and Trust of Los Angeles--Number 701 (16-351).

On 9/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-*U*
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/cyn *sfw* Date dictated 9/23/68 *1268*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/19/68

Mr. ERNEST VALLERO, Job Dispatcher, Southern California Waiters Alliance, Local 17, American Federation of Labor (AFL) - Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), 321 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles, California, telephone HU 2-9800, advised the following:

Mr. VALLERO said that he frequently dispatched extra waiters to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles but had no personal recollection of DONALD EVANGELISTA, Social Security Number [REDACTED] who reportedly was hired as an extra banquet waiter at the Ambassador Hotel on May 17, 1968.

Mr. VALLERO ascertained from records of Local 17 that DONALD D. EVANGELISTA, Social Security Number [REDACTED] had joined Local 17 on January 19, 1965. He was born June 29, 1943 in Massachusetts. EVANGELISTA was suspended from Local 17 in July 1965. EVANGELISTA's wife was identified as MARIA E. EVANGELISTA. No residence address or phone number appeared in the records. It was noted that in July 1965, EVANGELISTA had affiliated with Waiters Local 531 at 1192 ~~East~~ Walnut Street, Pasadena, California, telephone 449-3771.

The records also disclosed that on May 17, 1968, EVANGELISTA had paid \$25.00 toward a reinstatement fee of \$50.00 to Local 17. There was nothing on the record to indicate that EVANGELISTA had been dispatched by Local 17 to the Ambassador Hotel.

Mr. VALLERO voiced the opinion that Mr. EVANGELISTA when seeking extra work at the Ambassador Hotel on May 17, 1968, may have learned that it was necessary to reinstate himself with the Waiters Local before he would be hired, therefore, his payment of \$25.00 on May 17, 1968. The balance of \$25.00 due for reinstatement was never paid and the \$25.00 paid on May 17, 1968 was forfeited, according to Mr. VALLERO.

On 9/17/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~11~~ 1269
by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/ecr Date dictated 9/18/68
SFW

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/24/68

Mr. ANGELO DE PIERRO, Maitre d', Banquet Room, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, advised the following:

DONALD DAVID EVANGELISTA, an extra banquet waiter who had been hired at the Ambassador Hotel May 17, 1968, and who voluntarily terminated on June 19, 1968, was an established extra waiter who had been used from time to time for a period of two to three years. EVANGELISTA was reported to have taken a trip back East. Neither his specific address nor his current employment was known to DE PIERRO. DE PIERRO suggested that EVANGELISTA could be reached through Local 17 of the Waiters' Union, 321 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles.

Concerning the general character and reputation of EVANGELISTA, DE PIERRO said that there were some rumors, source of which he could not recall, that EVANGELISTA had had some trouble with the police back East, but the nature of the trouble was not known to DE PIERRO.

On 9/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1270
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/cyn Date dictated 9/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/19/68

ONDINE VAUGHN, free lance photographer and actress, 1221 North Genesee Avenue, Los Angeles, California, advised the following:

Miss VAUGHN, who was previously interviewed June 21, 1968, had traveled with the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party as a photographer. She did work for STEVE SCHAPIRO, who distributes photographs through the Black Star Distributing Company in New York City. Miss VAUGHN examined the photographs of Senator KENNEDY which had been obtained through the office of HUGH J. MC DONALD, Assistant Press Secretary of the late Senator. One picture taken by STEVE SCHAPIRO of the Black Star Distributing Company shows KENNEDY shaking hands with an unidentified individual. Another person who resembles SIRHAN SIRHAN is standing next to KENNEDY with his hand outstretched to shake hands with KENNEDY. VAUGHN said that she was unable to identify the youth who is in the photograph who is about to shake hands with KENNEDY, and the only person she knew in the photograph besides Senator KENNEDY was WILLIAM BARRY, on the right side of the photograph. BARRY was a Senator KENNEDY aide. VAUGHN said the photograph appeared to her to have been taken at the Los Angeles International Airport at an entrance of a terminal utilized for the arrival of important persons. She speculated that the time probably would have been in May of 1968, during one of Senator KENNEDY's campaign trips to Los Angeles.

On 8/7/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-¹²⁷¹
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg Date dictated 8/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/13/68

Mr. ALBERT ORFALEA, 4131 Adlon Place, Encino, California, advised the following:

He stated his son, RICHARD ORFALEA, who had attended the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, on the evening of June 4, 1968, and the a.m. of June 5, 1968, was not residing in the Los Angeles area. He, at this time, was in the Phoenix, Arizona area on a United States Air Force Reserve two-week training program. RICHARD is scheduled to return to his residence at 455 Eddy Street, San Francisco, California, telephone (415) 771-7052, on August 12, 1968. RICHARD is employed in the International Department of the Bank of America in San Francisco.

Mr. ORFALEA said that on the basis of what RICHARD had related following the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, RICHARD had not actually observed the shooting. There had been some speculation concerning whether or not RICHARD had observed SIRHAN SIRHAN in the Embassy Room at the Ambassador Hotel prior to the shooting.

Concerning the identity of DAVID ROCHE, who reportedly had been in the company of RICHARD ORFALEA, Mr. ALBERT ORFALEA said that he did not know DAVID ROCHE by name or description but that RICHARD could possibly identify DAVID ROCHE.

On 8/2/68 at Encino, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/eb Date dictated 8/8/68

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8/19/68
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

STEVE SCHAPIRO, free lance photographer, 170 West 73rd Street, New York City, New York, phone ~~847-5087~~, who markets photographs through the Black Star Distributing Company at 450 Park Avenue South, New York City, New York, advised the following:

SCHAPIRO said that he had taken many pictures while traveling with the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party. He remembers these photographs had been furnished to the KENNEDY family. He marketed others through the Black Star Distributing Company.

SCHAPIRO, following the examination of the photograph obtained July 31, 1968, from HUGH J. MC DONALD, Assistant Press Secretary to the late Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, said it looked like one that he had taken. He said the photograph was taken at the Los Angeles International Airport sometime in March of 1968, shortly after Senator KENNEDY announced that he would run for the office of the President. KENNEDY was on a campaign tour which carried him to Kansas and then to California. He had chartered a plane and had gone to San Francisco and on the return trip to Los Angeles, they stopped at several cities in Central California. Upon arrival at the Los Angeles International Airport about midday or early afternoon, a large crowd, larger than expected, had gathered and as KENNEDY was walking through a narrow passageway leading into the main area of the terminal, the photograph was taken. SCHAPIRO could not recall the name of the airline chartered or the name of the terminal. KENNEDY normally chartered flights through American Airlines. The only person besides KENNEDY recognized by SCHAPIRO was WILLIAM BARRY, a KENNEDY aide. He was standing beside KENNEDY. The two youths were not associated with any organized group. In fact, if any organized group had been present, SCHAPIRO had no knowledge of it. The youth in the picture in question

On 8/13/68 at Beverly Hills, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1273

by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg Date dictated 8/14/68

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who is getting ready to shake hands with Senator KENNEDY, is definitely not a picture of SIRHAN SIRHAN according to SCHAPIRO, who based his opinion on having examined numerous photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/9/68

INNGARD MITCHELL, 1190 South Kensington, who is employed as a Sales Clerk, Evening Gown Department, of the May Company Department Store, Wilshire and Fairfax, Los Angeles, California, advised the following:

INNGARD MITCHELL had attended the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party at the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968 and the morning of June 5, 1968. She was in the Embassy Room at the time that Senator KENNEDY was shot. She did not see the shooting nor did she see SIRHAN SIRHAN and has no recollection of seeing anyone resembling SIRHAN SIRHAN. MITCHELL said that she had talked to a female who was in the Embassy Room at the time of the shooting, who had claimed that she had seen a person she thought to be SIRHAN SIRHAN in the Embassy Room prior to the shooting, but she did not know this person's name and could not furnish a good description at this point except she was a Caucasian. MITCHELL said that the Los Angeles Police had questioned her at the Ambassador Hotel shortly following the shooting, at the time that they were seeking witnesses. Later, a Sergeant from the Los Angeles Police Department had contacted her and she had given him all of the negatives of the pictures she had taken during the evening. She could not recall the full name of the Sergeant but she had said the phonetic spelling of the last name was KARCHATI.

On 8/6/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/mlj Date dictated 8/8/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/29/68

SUE HARRIS, 10280 Cheviot Drive, Los Angeles 90064, telephone 273-0418, telephoned the Los Angeles Office of the FBI following attempts to contact her for an appointment and related the following:

SUE HARRIS, during the recent campaign of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, acted as secretary for DICK KLINE, Press Relations Manager for Senator KENNEDY in the Los Angeles area. HARRIS, just prior to the time that Senator KENNEDY was shot at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, was in the Press Room set up for the KENNEDY campaign party at the hotel. When Senator KENNEDY was about halfway through his speech in the Embassy Room, she went to her room in the hotel to pack and prepare to leave. When she returned to the area of the Embassy Room, she learned that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) had talked to SUE HARRIS, and she had furnished an address book of individuals who were connected with the KENNEDY campaign staff.

HARRIS stated that she had a boy friend, HARVEY PEPPER, who had been in the Embassy Room at the time of the shooting and had stated to her that he had been really close to the shooting. She did not know whether HARVEY PEPPER had been interviewed in this matter by the FBI. She was of the opinion that the Police Department had interviewed Mr. PEPPER who lived in an apartment on Kings Road near Melrose Avenue in Los Angeles, telephone 653-5366.

On 7/23/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156 - 1275
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/eb Date dictated 7/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/13/68

STEPHEN FISCH, 329 Conway Avenue, Los Angeles, California, telephone 272-6738, who is employed as a stock boy at the Safeway Grocery Company, 9467 West Olympic Boulevard, Beverly Hills, California, telephone 272-7119, advised the following:

Mr. FISCH acknowledged that he had telephoned the Los Angeles office of the FBI, July 24, 1968, to advise that he had taken photographs of certain crowd scenes during the appearance of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at Temple Isaiah, 10345 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, on the evening of May 20, 1968. He had agreed to make available the negatives of the pictures taken for FBI examination.

Mr. FISCH furnished seven film negative strips which he had taken. He requested that when any examination the FBI may wish to make of the negatives was completed that the negatives be returned to him at his residence address.

Mr. FISCH stated that based on photographs he had seen of SIRHAN SIRHAN in various news media, he had no recollection of seeing any individual resembling SIRHAN SIRHAN at the Isaiah Temple at the time of Senator KENNEDY's speech.

On 8/6/68 at Beverly Hills, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~101~~-
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/eb Date dictated 8/8/68 1276

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/29/68

On July 22, 1968, Mrs. GLORIA ILAN, Office Secretary of Temple Isaiah, 10345 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, telephone 879-2191, advised the following:

Mrs. ILAN said that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY had given a speech at Temple Isaiah on the evening of May 20, 1968, sometime between 8:00 and 10:00 p.m. The only films, which she had knowledge of being taken of Senator KENNEDY at that time, were individual shots which contained the bust of Senator KENNEDY. There was some news coverage of the speech and undoubtedly there were some pictures probably taken by the news media of the affair, although Mrs. ILAN had no details as to what specific coverage may have been utilized at the meeting. She said that she would further check into the matter and see if she were able to come up with any known film which might have been taken of the stage area surrounding Senator KENNEDY at the time of his speech.

Mrs. ILAN, on July 23, 1968, said that she had been unable to come up with any source of any film which may have been taken of the stage area during Senator KENNEDY's speech.

She agreed to remain alert for such film.

On 7/22/68 and 7/23/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~AC~~
 by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/eb Date dictated 7/23/68
 1277

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/7/68

Date _____

HARRIET LESSNER, 4318 Colbath, Sherman Oaks, California, was interviewed at the Sawyer School of Business, 5352 Laurel Canyon Boulevard, at which time she furnished the following information:

In mid-May 1968, she volunteered to work for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY in the Sherman Oaks area. About ten days before the assassination of Senator KENNEDY, she attended, along with her father and four year old daughter, a rally at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

Just as she was entering the hotel with her daughter, she had conversation with an unknown white male concerning the excitement of her daughter at the prospect of shaking hands with Senator KENNEDY. In the course of this exchange, the man said, "Wouldn't it be something if she lives to tell about it." She thought this comment was very strange and simply said to the man that she certainly hoped her daughter would. After saying this to the man, she went on into the hotel to await the appearance of Senator KENNEDY.

While in the hotel waiting for Senator KENNEDY, she heard rumors that he was to come through the kitchen entrance into the Coconut Grove Room. In an effort to get close to the Senator, she went to the area of the kitchen entrance where she again observed the same man who had spoken to her concerning her daughter. The man was wearing a dark jacket and at the time she thought the jacket rather heavy in view of the fact the room was quite stuffy. Also, the man did not have on a tie and did not appear to be dressed for the occasion. Senator KENNEDY did not come through the kitchen entrance and when he did enter the room she lost sight of the man and did not see him again that night.

After the assassination of Senator KENNEDY, she observed photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN on television

On 8/5/68 at North Hollywood, California File # Los Angeles 56-156 - 1278
 by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/jmb Date dictated 8/6/68

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and in the newspapers and was positive that this was the same man who had spoken to her in front of the Ambassador Hotel on the night of the KENNEDY rally.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/2/68

ROBERT M. KLAASE, 7800 Clearfield Avenue, Van Nuys, California, was interviewed at his place of employment, 3850 Wilshire Boulevard, at which time he furnished the following information:

He himself was not a volunteer for the Kennedy Committee, however, he and his wife are good friends of JUDY ROYER and on the night of June 4, 1968, they went to the Ambassador Hotel to await the results of the California primary election. They arrived at approximately 7:30 PM and, with the use of some blue passes which JUDY ROYER had obtained for them, they went to the Embassy Room of the hotel.

KLAASE and his wife spent most of the evening in the Embassy Room, but at approximately 11:00 PM he left the room to get some drinks. After leaving the room, the security guard at the main entrance refused to let him in because the room had become crowded. In an effort to reenter the room, he went through the kitchen area. At that time, he did not notice anyone in the kitchen.

Upon reentering the Embassy Room, he went to the area where the ABC television cameras were set up to await the arrival of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

While waiting in the vicinity of the television cameras, a man, who was monitoring one of the doors adjacent to the podium on which Senator KENNEDY was to give his speech, asked him if he would mind watching the door for a few minutes. KLAASE consented to watch the door and while doing so he observed a man who was later identified to him as SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN attempting to pass through the door. As SIRHAN attempted to go through the door, KLAASE tapped him on the shoulder and said that no one was allowed in the area other than members of the ABC staff. At this point, SIRHAN turned around and went back into the central area of the Embassy Room. At the time KLAASE observed him, he was wearing a light blue pullover shirt and blue wash trousers. SIRHAN did not have a jacket on and KLAASE observed that since the shirt and trousers were tight fitting it was unlikely that SIRHAN had a gun in his possession at this time.

On 7/30/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
 by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/jmb Date dictated 8/1/68

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Approximately one half hour after the incident involving SIRHAN, Senator KENNEDY arrived to give his victory speech. On the arrival of Senator KENNEDY, one of the doors, which KLASE had previously been watching, was opened directly in front of him and he was unable to see Senator KENNEDY. After listening to the Senator for a few minutes, he left the Embassy Room, passed through the kitchen and went to the Colonial Room. While passing through the area of the kitchen, he met JUDY ROYER and she accompanied him to the Colonial Room. Upon arrival at the Colonial Room, they watched the Senator on television for a few minutes and then decided to try to return to the Embassy Room by means of the kitchen area.

As he and ROYER were walking through the kitchen, they saw the crowd moving towards the Colonial Room and realized that Senator KENNEDY had finished his speech and was now making his way towards the Colonial Room by way of the kitchen area. Since they wanted to avoid the crowd surrounding Senator KENNEDY, they both turned around and were making their way back towards the Colonial Room when KLASE heard several loud pops which sounded like firecrackers. At this point, he was approximately 30 feet from Senator KENNEDY and he could not actually see the Senator. However, he did see people pushing and struggling with someone. At this point, there was a great deal of shouting and someone yelled that the door should be watched and no one be allowed to come in. KLASE went to the door of the Colonial Room and refused to allow anyone entrance into the kitchen area. After standing at the door to the Colonial Room for a few minutes, one of the security guards came by and KLASE asked him to keep the people from coming into the kitchen area. He then attempted to go to the area where the shooting had occurred, but because of the crowd he was unable to see any of the injured people.

While standing in the vicinity of the Colonial Room door, he observed officers of the Los Angeles Police Department taking SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN out of the area. At this point, he unquestionably recognized SIRHAN as the same man that he had

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seen earlier attempting to pass through the doors in the area of the ABC television cameras.

KLASE stated that during the time he was in the kitchen, just prior to the arrival of Senator KENNEDY and the shooting he noticed some of the cooks and waiters in the area, but did not see SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. KLASE further stated that while he was in the kitchen area his wife remained in the main portion of the Embassy Room and did not see SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/13/68

LARRY IRVIN FINDLY, 3816 West 118th Street, Hawthorne, California, home telephone number 676-9988, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information concerning his whereabouts at the time Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, in the early morning hours of June 5, 1968.

FINDLY advised he is a free lance sound man, and on June 4, 1968, he was employed by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) network to assist in the coverage of the California primary election returns at the Ambassador Hotel. During this coverage, FINDLY stated he worked with a free lance cameraman, JOHN VIAZANKO, also employed by CBS. FINDLY recalled he arrived at the Ambassador Hotel at about 7:00 p.m. on June 4, 1968, and until 11:30 p.m. remained in the Embassy Room and Colonial Room, the latter designated as the official Press Room. FINDLY stated that at about 11:30 p.m. he accompanied VIAZANKO to the nearby Beverly Hilton Hotel to get some film, and they returned to the Ambassador Hotel at about 12:10 a.m. on June 5, 1968. They immediately returned to the Embassy Room and were situated adjacent to the speakers platform when Senator KENNEDY made his victory speech. Upon the completion of Senator KENNEDY's speech, FINDLY and VIAZANKO remained in the Embassy Room and secured several photographs of the crowd. Moments after Senator KENNEDY left the speakers platform, FINDLY heard what sounded like two balloons burst, then heard several more bursts. FINDLY and VIAZANKO immediately ran into the vacant area between the speakers platform and the Embassy Room service pantry, at which time FINDLY observed a male Caucasian who had been shot. FINDLY did not recall this individual's name but stated this gentleman was employed by North American Airlines. Due to the impact of the crowd, FINDLY and VIAZANKO were pushed away from the area where Senator KENNEDY had been shot, however, FINDLY observed Senator KENNEDY being removed from the service pantry on a stretcher.

On 8/7/68 at Hawthorne, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
 by SA J. C. FISHBECK, JR./eb Date dictated 8/8/68 *1280*

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FINDLY advised at no time during the confusion did he observe the individual who allegedly shot Senator KENNEDY. Further, after observing a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, FINDLY stated that he had seen no one who resembled SIRHAN prior to the time FINDLY observed SIRHAN's photograph in a Los Angeles newspaper on June 5, 1968. In addition, FINDLY stated that nothing came to his attention prior to the shooting to indicate this event would occur.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/20/68

Mr. HENRY CORDELIUS, telephone 447-3382, who resides at 747 West Camino Real, Arcadia, California, advised he recalled teaching German to SIRHAN B. SIRHAN at Pasadena City College in the Fall of 1963. He stated he had to check at the school to be sure he had taught SIRHAN, since it had been so long ago, however, he recognized pictures of SIRHAN when they appeared on television. He stated SIRHAN never caused him any trouble, was always polite, and, as he recalled, was not a very good student. He stated his only conversations with SIRHAN referred to SIRHAN's frequent absences from school, which SIRHAN explained by stating there was illness in the family. Mr. CORDELIUS recalled SIRHAN's sister later died of an illness.

Mr. CORDELIUS stated SIRHAN never talked to him personally about his political or social beliefs. Mr. CORDELIUS stated he was not acquainted with any of the other members of the SIRHAN family.

On 9/16/68 at Arcadia, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~1281~~
 by *[Signature]* SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/eb Date dictated 9/17/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/1/68

KEITH R. MC KAY, JR., a Student Counselor at John Muir High School, 1905 Lincoln Avenue, Pasadena, California, was interviewed at the school. He stated he recalled teaching 10th Grade English and Social Studies to SIRHAN SIRHAN in 1960 or 1961. MC KAY recalled SIRHAN as being "different" because he came from a foreign country. He stated SIRHAN had a good command of the English language for the short time he had been in the United States. He recalled SIRHAN appeared to like to wear his uniform of the California Cadet Corps, when some students refused to wear it if possible. He said while SIRHAN was polite, he was not reticent, and was willing to recite and discuss issues in class. Mr. MC KAY said they discussed world affairs at some length because it was a Social Studies class, and SIRHAN was interested. He saw no particular leaning on the part of SIRHAN against Israel at that time, although SIRHAN had a nationalistic interest in the fact that he was of Arabic background. He said the Suez crisis was recent enough that it was discussed in class, and the discussion as he recalled it was about evenly divided for and against Israel. Mr. MC KAY could recall no apparent anti-American feelings on the part of SIRHAN, although SIRHAN expressed a scholarly disapproval of United States policy in supporting Israel more than the Arab cause. This disapproval did not appear to be violent or to make SIRHAN too unhappy. Mr. MC KAY could recall no disciplinary problem regarding SIRHAN, and had nothing further he could recall concerning him.

On 7/30/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156 -L-
 by SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/jan Date dictated 7/31/68 1282

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

7/29/68

Date _____

Miss SHIRLEY VEYLUPEK, who resides at 2584 Catherine Road, Altadena, California, was contacted at her employment with the Pacific Telephone Company at 41 South Chester Street, Pasadena, California. Miss VEYLUPEK stated she was acquainted with SIRHAN SIRHAN when both were students at John Muir High School in Pasadena in 1961 to 1963. She stated SIRHAN was a year ahead of her, but they had classes together. She said their relationship was only at school, and any discussions they might have had between classes or during school hours. She said they discussed religion on a couple of occasions, and she recalled SIRHAN was quite set in his ideas on religion, and in his interest in the social customs of the Middle East from which he came. She believed that SIRHAN was a Moslem, but was not sure about this. He would occasionally bring Arabic newspaper to school, and show the other students how to read some of the Arabic alphabet. Miss VEYLUPEK said there was nothing in SIRHAN's character which indicated any tendency toward violence, and he was always quiet and polite. She said they had taken a Russian language class together. She had nothing further to add concerning SIRHAN and stated she did not know any of the other members of his family.

On 7/24/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156 -21-
 by *[Signature]* SA LLOYD D. JOHNSON/mjn Date dictated 7/26/68 1283

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/21/68

LUCIEN E. DICK, Manager of Industrial Relations, Burroughs Corporation, 460 Sierra Madre Villa, Pasadena, California, was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and then furnished the following voluntary information:

DICK advised that a search of previous employment applications reflects that employment application was filed by SIRHAN SIRHAN at this address on November 7, 1967. DICK advised he did not interview, or have occasion to see, SIRHAN as he was interviewed by MELVIN OLSON, Employment Representative with this company.

LUCIEN E. DICK made available the original employment application of SIRHAN SIRHAN which was made at the Burroughs Corporation, above, on November 7, 1967, which reflects the following information:

On 5/14/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
 by SA RUSSELL C. ANDERSON/cag Date dictated 6/21/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/5/68

Mr. LAMBERTUS WANSINK, 804 East Howard, advised that, although SIRHAN SIRHAN and his family lived only a short distance down the street from him, he did not know any member of the family well. He recalls that SIRHAN SIRHAN stopped by his residence several times and petted his dog. He chatted casually with SIRHAN but never had involved conversations with him. He did see SIRHAN as he walked by their home on his way to work.

He and his wife are from Holland, which SIRHAN somehow learned, and one day SIRHAN told them that he worked for a Dutchman at a health food store on Lake Street.

He has spoken several times with MARY SIRHAN but does not know her well. He believes she is a hard worker and a very religious person.

On 7/30/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-*1285*
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY and
SA M. JON KOLOMITZ/MJK/yfs Date dictated 8/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/5/68

BETTY TAPIA, 691 East Howard, related that she has lived at her present residence about one year. She knows MARY SIRHAN slightly and has spoken with her several times but does not know her well. She knows that MARY SIRHAN's boys live with her but she does not know them by name.

She and her husband were in the SIRHAN home on one occasion and she thinks that at that time she may have met SIRHAN SIRHAN. She believes that MARY SIRHAN is a religious person who works hard. She knows nothing about the political beliefs or statements of SIRHAN SIRHAN.

On 7/30/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~81~~-1286
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY and
SA M. JON KOLOMITZ/MJK/yfs Date dictated 8/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/5/68

DANIEL TAPIA, 691 East Howard, stated that he believes he has spoken to SIRHAN SIRHAN on one or two occasions but is not certain since he never was introduced to all of the boys in the family. On one occasion, he thinks he met SIRHAN in the family home when he and his wife were there to see MARY SIRHAN for a shorttime. He can recall no specific conversation with SIRHAN.

He believed that MARY SIRHAN is a very religious person who works hard to take care of her family. He knows nothing about the political beliefs of any member of the SIRHAN family.

On 7/30/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156 - 1287
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY and SA M. JON KOLOMITZ/MJK/yfs Date dictated 8/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/5/68

BETTY WANSINK, 804 East Howard, advised that she did not know SIRHAN SIRHAN well. She has had several short conversations with his mother, MARY SIRHAN, but they have never discussed political matters.

She recalls that recently, while she was in the front of her home, MARY SIRHAN stopped to talk to her as she was walking by. MARY SIRHAN told her that newspaper stories saying that SIRHAN SIRHAN was married and had a brother in another country were wrong. WANSINK told MARY SIRHAN that her feeling was that her son must have somehow been paid for what he did. MARY SIRHAN then stated that what he did he did alone. She then related a story about a childhood experience involving his paper route which she apparently believed proved his honesty.

WANSINK only saw SIRHAN SIRHAN, previously, on one occasion. She saw MARY SIRHAN somewhat more frequently but is not a close friend.

On 7/30/68 *MD* at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-*1288*
 by SA PHILLIP J. REILLY and
SA M. JON KOLOMITZ/MJK/yfs Date dictated 8/1/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/2/68

THEODORA VAN AMERSSOORT, 416 West Poppyfields, advised that she has known MARY SIRHAN for about three years. Mrs. SIRHAN was working at the Westminster Nursery School on Lake Street when she joined the faculty there. She came to know Mrs. SIRHAN well. Mrs. SIRHAN was classified as a housekeeper but her position actually was to assist teachers at this school in preparing snacks, cleaning toys, and other jobs around the school.

Mrs. SIRHAN seldom ever mentioned her family, and, although they were friendly with each other, Mrs. VAN AMERSSOORT and Mrs. SIRHAN never had any lengthy discussions.

Mrs. VAN AMERSSOORT only saw the SIRHAN boys when they waited in the car outside of the school for their mother. She knows that one of the boys is a musician but does not know his name.

Mrs. VON AMERSSOORT has visited MARY SIRHAN in her home twice since June 4, 1968. On her first visit they mostly discussed items of mutual interest concerning the operation of the nursery school.

Mrs. VON AMERSSOORT visited the SIRHAN home the second time on the Friday when SIRHAN SIRHAN made his first appearance in court. At that time, MARY SIRHAN told her that she knew why SIRHAN SIRHAN did what he did but stated that she was under a court order not to talk with anyone.

On the same occasion, MARY SIRHAN pointed out to her that a picture of the SIRHAN family in "Life Magazine" improperly identified members of the family. SIRHAN is actually the boy who is sitting in her lap in the photograph. MUNIR was not yet born at the time the photograph was taken. The boy named MUNIR who is shown in the photograph died as an infant but because he was such a pleasant child his mother named her last born son MUNIR after him.

On 7/26/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1289
 by SA M. JON KOLOMITZ/yfs Date dictated 8/1/68

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LA 56-156

Mrs. SIRHAN had never discussed her feelings about Jewish people or political matters with Mrs. VON AMERSSOORT. Mrs. VON AMERSSOORT did not personally know SIRHAN SIRHAN and no additional information concerning the SIRHAN family.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/2/68

Date _____

ROBERT MEDINA, Manager of the jewelry and photography counter at Lucky Discount Store, 488 East Villa, advised that he has been manager of this counter since July 11, 1968. MEDINA checked his records of all film processed from his counter in 1968, without locating any record of any film ever having been deposited there by anyone named SIRHAN.

MEDINA further advised that he did not know anyone named SERGE ETIENNE who had ever been employed at the Lucky Discount Store in Pasadena, but that HENRY A. ETIENNE, 1072 North Lake Street, Pasadena, had formerly operated the concession at Lucky Discount Store. MEDINA advised that ETIENNE was a watchmaker and possibly SERGE ETIENNE was related to him.

MEDINA observed photographs of members of the SIRHAN family, including SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, and stated that he did not recall having ever seen any of them previously.

On 8/2/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~9~~-1290
 by JJP SA JOSEPH DOYLE POWELL/jr Date dictated 8/2/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/5/68

HENRY A. ETIENNE, 1072 North Lake Street, advised that he had operated the jewelry and photography counter at Lucky Discount Store, 488 East Villa, Pasadena, prior to May 1968. He advised that SERGE ETIENNE was his son, and that SERGE had also worked part-time at the counter for a few weeks after ETIENNE gave up the concession. ETIENNE was unable to recall anyone named SIRHAN as a customer of the counter. He stated that he knew very few names of his customers, but if there had been a customer who had a volume of photography business in the range of \$10 to \$12 per week, his name would at least be familiar.

ETIENNE observed photographs of members of the SIRHAN family, including SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, and stated that he did not recall having ever seen any of them previously.

On 8/5/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~1291~~ 1291
by SA JOSEPH DOYLE POWELL/jr Date dictated 8/5/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/19/68

Mrs. RUBY HAYWARD, 1288 Topeka Street, Pasadena, California, is a widow and is retired. She attends the Lake Avenue Congregational Church in Pasadena.

About ten years ago, she met Mrs. MARY SIRHAN while both were sitting on a bus bench on Lake Avenue. It was Good Friday and Mrs. HAYWARD persuaded Mrs. SIRHAN to come to her church for Good Friday services. A friendship developed that has lasted to the present. Mrs. HAYWARD had SIRHAN SIRHAN do yard work for her when he was a student at John Muir High School. She has not seen him since his high school days but has always had a very high regard for him and the members of his family. She advised that she has no information bearing on his political interests or of the behavior that led him to the act of violence. She is very distressed about the whole thing because of her high regard for SIRHAN's mother.

On 8/15/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~10~~-1292
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY/mab Date dictated 8/15/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/15/68

Mr. JOSEPH E. JACOBS of 2149 North El Molino, Altadena, California, is an employee of the U.S. Post Office in Pasadena, California (nights). Mr. JACOBS ethnic background is Syrian. 3

Mr. JACOBS said he has never met SIRHAN SIRHAN. Sometime around 1959 when his daughter was attending Longfellow Grammar School at 1065 East Washington Street in Pasadena, he remembers picking up AIDA and MUNIR SIRHAN on one or two occasions during rainy weather to take them to this same school.

Mr. JACOBS said he recalled the SIRHAN children telling him that their father had returned to the Middle East, exact time not recalled by Mr. JACOBS. Mr. JACOBS said he had never been to the SIRHAN home on Howard Street in Pasadena and had never met Mrs. SIRHAN, the mother of the boys.

On 8/13/68 at Altadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~2~~-1293
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY/gk Date dictated 8/13/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/12/68

FRANCISCO TAPIA, age 70, is a native of Boliva and a citizen of the United States. He lived at 691 East Howard Street, Pasadena, until approximately eight months ago when he exchanged his house with that of his son who needed larger quarters. He is retired and devotes himself to Bible study and religious activity.

Mr. TAPIA met and talked with SIRHAN SIRHAN several times during the time he lived opposite the SIRHAN family. He found them to be a decent family and he particularly liked the mother who seemed to be a very fine, hard working woman who was very interested in the welfare of her family. On one occasion (he does not remember the time) he was interviewed by the Pasadena Police Department regarding MUNIR SIRHAN who had become involved with the police on a narcotics matter. Mr. TAPIA said he told the investigating officers that he knew of no derogatory information concerning MUNIR or any members of the SIRHAN family

With regard to SIRHAN SIRHAN, Mr. TAPIA said his relationship was casual and pleasant. He spoke to him only as SIRHAN would leave the house or return and SIRHAN seemed totally absorbed in horses and becoming a jockey.

Mr. TAPIA said he had one serious conversation with SIRHAN, and it had to do with religion and one's obligation to God. At this time, SIRHAN claimed that he understood the difference between good and evil acts, but felt that there were large areas in between which were so called indifferent acts and he, SIRHAN, thought that many of these acts were good or bad depending on the end results. For example, he said SIRHAN brought up the matter of wealth and poverty. He said he felt it was not wrong to take from the rich (i.e. steal) if one intended to benefit the poor. TAPIA countered this by saying "no", it is good and necessary perhaps for the rich to give of their surplus to the poor, but the poor were not entitled to steal on this basis. SIRHAN said he did not feel this way.

On 8/8/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-¹²⁹⁴
 by SA PHILLIP J. REILLY/rem Date dictated 8/9/68

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LA 56-156

Mr. TAPIA said he never discussed Judaism with SIRHAN because he knew he was anti-Jewish. The whole SIRHAN family was embittered over the results of the Arab-Israeli War.

Mr. TAPIA said that based on his observations, he never would have guessed that SIRHAN harbored "murderous" thoughts and intentions. He felt that SIRHAN was confused in his moral understanding and probably more than a little influenced by communist philosophy.

Mr. TAPIA said he was not aware that SIRHAN SIRHAN had listed him as a personal reference with the Pasadena Public Library, but this was entirely possible. Mr. TAPIA said he was astonished to learn that SIRHAN had shot and killed Senator ROBERT KENNEDY and he had no explanation for SIRHAN's motives.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/12/68

JOSEPH MARCOVECCHIO, a student at California State College at Los Angeles, was contacted at his home, 438 North Carmelo Avenue, Pasadena, California, regarding his knowledge of SIRHAN SIRHAN. MARCOVECCHIO is the son of HERBERT and LIVIA MARCOVECCHIO and is a citizen of the United States by naturalization.

MARCOVECCHIO said he met SIRHAN SIRHAN for the first time in 1966 at a billiard parlor on Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena, California. It was a chance meeting and they talked briefly. Some time later the same year, MARCOVECCHIO met SIRHAN SIRHAN again, this time in the company of a close friend of his named IVAN GARCIA. MARCOVECCHIO said IVAN knew SIRHAN quite well but he, himself, met SIRHAN perhaps three or four times over the period of 1966-1968. He said he last saw SIRHAN in a bar near Allen Street in Pasadena. IVAN GARCIA was also present. This was about two months prior to the killing of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. SIRHAN was very exuberant, having just obtained a \$2,000.00 cash settlement from an insurance company for an injury claim.

MARCOVECCHIO said he really knew SIRHAN very casually and never talked with him in any depth. He said SIRHAN liked to talk about horses and his own ambitions to become a jockey. SIRHAN did not have a girl friend but he was interested in girls, although MARCOVECCHIO never saw him with a girl. SIRHAN did not own a car to MARCOVECCHIO's knowledge, and he did not know where SIRHAN had worked other than at the race track. MARCOVECCHIO said he never met any other member of the SIRHAN family and never visited the SIRHAN home, although he knew SIRHAN lived on Howard Street, in Pasadena.

MARCOVECCHIO said he did not know SIRHAN at Pasadena City College but met him through IVAN GARCIA as mentioned above. MARCOVECCHIO said he attended Pasadena City College in 1964.

MARCOVECCHIO described SIRHAN as being an unusual

On 8/8/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1295
 by SA PHILIP J. REILLY/rem Date dictated 8/9/68

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LA 56-156

person in the young people's world. He was very polite, very proper and very courteous and on one occasion, when there were some girls around (MARCOVECCHIO does not remember the date) he was very exaggerated in his manners. MARCOVECCHIO said he was astounded to learn that SIRHAN could have resorted to violence since he never exhibited such tendencies. MARCOVECCHIO said in his judgement, based on his limited contact with SIRHAN, he did not consider him the type to commit an act of murder or violence of any kind.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/11/68

EVAN FREED, 9431 Cresta Drive, Los Angeles, California, telephone 870 5900, advised as follows:

Until recently, he was a freelance photographer for the Copley News Service. In that capacity, for about four weeks prior to the assassination of the late Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, he had covered the Senator's activities in the Los Angeles area. At about 7:00 PM the night of the 1968 California Primary (June 4, 1968) he went to the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, where he remained for approximately fifteen minutes and then went upstairs to the KENNEDY rooms on the fifth floor where he stayed until about midnight when Senator KENNEDY and his party went downstairs to the Embassy Room. FREED did not accompany them but used the stairs to reach the Embassy Room. About twenty five feet outside of the Embassy Room, he became involved in an altercation with another photographer during which time his camera was damaged. In order to get out of the crowd, he went to the kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel to try to fix his camera. He was still in the kitchen area when Senator KENNEDY, who had finished his appearance in the Embassy Room, entered the kitchen through the main door to the kitchen. At the time, FREED was located at a row of tables in the corridor. The Senator shook hands with numerous people on entering the area. The Senator was within six to eight feet of FREED when the latter let his gaze drop towards the floor and at that moment FREED heard noises which sounded to him like firecrackers going off. He then looked up and saw a man shooting a gun. Some people were trying to grab the individual while others were "hitting the floor". The man who was doing the shooting subsequently was identified as SIRHAN SIRHAN. SIRHAN was the only person FREED saw shooting. FREED did not see Senator KENNEDY hit by gunfire or see him fall to the floor, but he did subsequently observe the Senator lying on the floor and thought he, the Senator, was dead. There was much shouting at this time, and FREED did not hear any particular conversation. The man who was

On 9/11/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56 156-24-1296

by SA's FREDERICK E. BECKER and SAMUEL W. NORTH, JR. Date dictated 9/11/68

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LA 56-156

shooting was disarmed, but FREED did not recall the disarming procedure. He did recall seeing the shooter pushed against a table and pinned down. FREED then left the kitchen area in an attempt to locate a telephone to call some friends and tell them to turn on their television sets. Being unable to locate a telephone, FREED returned to the kitchen area where his name was taken by the Los Angeles Police Department.

8/15/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

EARL H. LAFFOON, apartment 202, 505 South Lafayette Park Place, Los Angeles, California, telephone number 388-9059, was interviewed at his place of employment, Earl H. Laffoon Investigations, Suite 210, 1833 West 8th Street, telephone number HU 3-6943, and furnished the following information:

On January 22, 1968, he was requested by Mrs. JEAN STINER of the Argonaut Insurance Company, 443 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California, to conduct an investigation of SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California, described as 23 years of age, 115 pounds, and 5 feet 4 inches tall. SIRHAN has filed a claim against Altfillisch Construction Company, Route 1, Box 159 B, Corona, California, which company is insured by the Argonaut Insurance Company. According to LAFFOON, his records reflect that this claim related to an injury received by SIRHAN, on September 25, 1966, while SIRHAN was employed as an exercise boy at a horse farm, located in the vicinity of Citrus and Cleveland Streets, Norco, California, and operated by Altfillisch Construction Company. LAFFOON's records further reflect that this injury consisted of a cut on the chin and a cut on the left eyelid, and a bruised back and left hand.

LAFFOON's investigation in this matter covered two days, namely, January 25 and 26, 1968, and involved a surveillance in the vicinity of 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California, as well as a contact with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN's mother, at this location, on June 25, 1968; surveillance and photographing of an individual identified as SIRHAN B. SIRHAN's brother, ADEL SIRHAN, on June 26, 1968; and, surveillance and photographing of SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, on June 26, 1968, as this individual proceeded on foot from 696 East Howard Street to Organic Pasadena, a health foods store, located at 1380 North Lake, Pasadena, California. LAFFOON, referring to his records, noted that when contacted on June 26, 1968, SIRHAN B. SIRHAN's mother stated that SIRHAN (SIRHAN B. SIRHAN) was currently employed at an unknown location, and worked irregular hours. LAFFOON further noted that his photographing of ADEL SIRHAN and SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, on June 26, 1968, involved the use of approximately 45 feet of 16 mm color film. According to LAFFOON, he gave this film to the Argonaut Insurance Company, and it is his understanding that the insurance company has furnished same to the Los Angeles Police Department.

On 8/8/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-155-1297
 by SA RICHARD J. RAYSA/jr Date dictated 8/9/68

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LAFFOON advised that the entire results of his investigation were included in a report dated February 8, 1968, and furnished to the Argonaut Insurance Company. LAFFOON then furnished a xeroxed copy of this report, a reproduction of which is attached.

LAFFOON indicated that he has no further information regarding SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, or members of the SIRHAN family, and that he has never received any information regarding the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, on June 5, 1968.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/18/68

WILLIAM T. WOODBURN, 12719 Ledford Street, Baldwin Park, California, was interviewed at his place of employment, Royal Industries Incorporated, 1035 Westminister, Alhambra, California, at which time he furnished the following information:

WOODBURN is called "WALKING BILL" by numerous of his acquaintances and periodically frequented the Golden Garter Bar, West Valley Boulevard, Alhambra, California, prior to the death of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

At the Golden Garter Bar, WOODBURN has played pool on occasion with an individual whose facial features somewhat resemble those of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, but who is definitely not identical to SIRHAN.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was displayed to WOODBURN and he stated positively that he is not identical to the man he played pool with at the Golden Garter Bar, and that he has never seen SIRHAN before.

A photograph of ROBERT RICHARD ANDRUSE was displayed to WOODBURN and he advised that this photograph is identical to the person he played pool with at the Golden Garter Bar in Alhambra.

On 6/18/68 at Alhambra, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1298
 by SA RICHARD M. FOX and SA JOSEPH A. KRAHLING/rl Date dictated 6/18/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/7/68

GLORIA FARR, 12040 Salem Drive, Granada Hills, California, phone number 363-1641, furnished the following information with respect to her knowledge of the events of June 4, 1968, and June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, where Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot.

She stated that she was ~~not~~ a supporter of Senator KENNEDY, however, she wanted to see him in person and to witness the reported charisma and charm which he exudes. At approximately 11:30 pm, on June 4, 1968, she went to the Ambassador Hotel with VERNON THOMPSON, an NBC electronics technician and they parked the car at the rear of the Ambassador. They went to the Ballroom located underneath the Embassy Room in the hopes of seeing the Senator, but when he did not arrive by 11:45 pm, THOMPSON left to see where he was and came back and said that the Senator would be upstairs. THOMPSON told her that he had gone to the NBC truck, located outside the building, where he saw the Senator appear in the upstairs Ballroom on the television monitors located in the truck. They then went up the stairs leading to the Embassy Room and entered the Embassy Room, passing by a guard who did not challenge them.

They took up a position approximately four people deep from the front of the platform and just to the Senator's right. Just before the Senator finished his speech, a cordon of men formed to the Senator's right, leading from the platform steps in the direction of the press area. She then went to the area at the bottom of the steps and stood directly behind an individual whom she described as being a white male, with a dark swarthy complexion, dressed in a blue wooly sports coat, light blue shirt and light blue slacks. This individual himself was part of the cordon. She tried to get through him, but he would not let her through; however, another large man was about to barge through. When this happened, she told the person in front of her "How come you didn't let me through when you just let that person through", or words to that effect. There

On 8/5/68 at Granada Hills, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1299
 by SA DAVID H. COOK/cld Date dictated 8/7/68

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LA 56-156

were individuals standing on the platform steps. One individual, who was standing on the second step, pushed aside the crepe paper with his foot and she wondered what he was doing, but decided that there were perhaps some television cables down there. He did this on two occasions, once approximately three minutes before the Senator finished his speech and the other time just a few seconds before the speech ended.

The Senator did not come through the cordon of men which was established for him, but exited the Ballroom through some curtains to the rear of the Ballroom. Moments later she heard four rapid and distinct cracks which sounded like "firecrackers". She then heard screams and shouts that the Senator had been shot, but she did not believe this until she saw a young girl proceeding from the kitchen area with the look of stark terror in her eyes. She tried to go into the kitchen area and was pushed into a corner by the crowd which exerted pressure from both directions. She heard a request for a doctor and then one young woman who said she was a nurse was able to get through. Since she, FARR, was also a nurse, she was also able to get in the kitchen passageway where she observed three wounded men. One was sitting in a chair with his chest area covered with blood and the nurse, who had proceeded her into the area, was applying an orange scarf to the area of the wound. The second was a slender young man sitting in a chair with an ashen face. She did not observe any visible wounds. The third was a middle aged man who was bleeding extensively from the head and who was lying in a pool of blood on the floor. She attempted to administer aid for him and asked the waiter where she could obtain a tray of ice. She obtained ice from the ice machine in the passageway, but as she was returning to the victim, someone took it from her and threw it away, saying, "What do we need that for". There were screams in the area and due to the confusion in the area, she panicked and started to cry. She then heard someone say "We don't need that, get her out of here".

LA 56-156

She observed Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor and one eye was open slightly more than the other. He appeared conscious, but she saw no blood on him, so she assumed that he was all right. She returned in the kitchen area until the Senator was wheeled away by some ambulance attendants and then she returned to the main Ballroom where she told everyone that the Senator was all right.

She later returned to her parked car with THOMPSON and they discussed seeing the individual on the platform steps poking under the platform with his shoe. They then went back to the Ballroom and observed the bracing under the steps was very narrow, being approximately one foot wide.

She went with THOMPSON to the NBC Burbank Studios and stayed there until approximately 4:00 am.

She stated that she telephonically contacted the Los Angeles Police Department and informed the department about what she had seen in the Ballroom for whatever significance it would have in their investigation. She was shown photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN taken following his apprehension and she advised that the individual who stood in front of her at the bottom of the platform steps in her opinion, is not identical to SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. She stated that in a previous interview, an officer of the Los Angeles Police Department, had shown her other photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, who was dressed up at the time, and she does not consider those photographs shown as being identical to SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN either. She also saw photographs of the brothers of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, and she recalls that the photograph of ADEL SIRHAN is a likeness, however, she does not feel that ADEL is identical with the individual who was in front of her.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

8/7/68

Mr. WILLIAM NORRIS, Partner, Law Firm of Tuttle and Taylor, Suite 1300, 609 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, phone number 625-7831, advised that during the campaign of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY for the presidential nomination, he, NORRIS, acted as one of twelve State of California Vice Chairmen under Chairman JESSE UNRUH. In this capacity, he associated with the Senator and other members of the Senator's staff, and based on his, NORRIS' position, he furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the events of June 4, 1968, and June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel.

NORRIS advised that he went to the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 8:30 pm, and parked in the rear parking lot. He then entered the hotel and went to the KENNEDY press area, located in the Colonial Room, where he talked with various campaign personalities. At approximately 10:00 pm, he went upstairs to the KENNEDY suite, where he stayed for approximately 45 minutes. He then went downstairs to the Embassy Room, where he met several friends and took them to the KENNEDY suite to meet the Senator. Shortly thereafter, he returned to the Embassy Room and met other loyal supporters who also wanted to meet the Senator. Just as he was about to take them upstairs, he saw STEPHEN SMITH, the Senator's brother-in-law, so he delayed his trip upstairs as he realized that the Senator would appear in the Ballroom in a few minutes.

When the Senator arrived, he, NORRIS, remained in the press alcove of the Embassy Room, just to the west of the platform. After his speech, the Senator left the platform to the rear, through some curtains which provided access to the kitchen area and the main KENNEDY press room. He, NORRIS, attempted to follow from the Embassy press area and he heard several distinct rapid reports. He did not realize that anything out of the ordinary had occurred until he encountered a rush of people coming toward him from the ~~direction the Senator had gone, plus the look of stark~~ terror on the face of JUDY ROYER, the personal secretary

On 8/2/68 at Los Angeles California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1300

by SA DAVID H. COOK/cld Date dictated 8/7/68

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LA 56-156

for former Governor PAT BROWN, currently associated with the Beverly Hills Law Firm of BALL, HUNT, HART, and BROWN. ROYER was standing on a chair looking down the passageway toward the Senator and he assumes that she must have seen some of the actual shooting. There also were loud shouts and screaming in the air.

Shortly thereafter, many rumors were spread about concerning who was shot. He heard that STEVE SMITH, FRED DUTTON, and PAUL SCHRADER, had been shot as well as the Senator. The facts soon developed, however, that STEVE SMITH and FRED DUTTON had not been shot, for he saw both of them and they were uninjured. It was then that SMITH told him that the Senator had been shot, and that they should get all the people out of the Ballroom. He, NORRIS, emphatically concurred and suggested that SMITH himself make a public announcement, since such an announcement coming from a member of the KENNEDY family would have more meaning to those assembled in the Ballroom. Mr. SMITH then made the announcement to clear the Ballroom. NORRIS advised that he stayed at the hotel until approximately 3:00 am, helping to clear the area and talking to various friends.

He was shown a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and he stated that at no time during the evening did he see this individual.

He advised the security in the KENNEDY suite upstairs in the hotel was almost nonexistent, and that it was fairly loose early in the evening at the Embassy Room, but that as the evening wore on it became more difficult to gain access to that room. He stated that he bases this observation on his ability to gain access to those areas during the evening. No one checked his press pass in the KENNEDY suite. At approximately 10:30 pm, a guard was at the Embassy Room and the guard checked his pass, but later on at approximately 11:00 pm, the guard denied him access to the room, so he entered it through another back entrance.

LA 56-156

With regard to the plan for the protection of Senator KENNEDY while the Senator was in the State of California, he advised that VICTOR PALMIERI, member of the President's Commission On Crime, who was concerned over the safety of the Senator during his campaign, discussed this with STEPHEN SMITH in his, NORRIS', presence on one of the Senator's earlier trips to California. PALMIERI suggested that stringent security be provided for the Senator, but SMITH told PALMIERI "We will just have to take our chances".

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/26/68

Reverend Father PAUL W. ROMLEY, Syrian Orthodox Church, Third and Alvarado Streets, Los Angeles, California, advised that SIRHAN B. SIRHAN never attended his church and did not join the church. Father ROMLEY advised that he had been previously interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI concerning SIRHAN's possible membership in the Syrian Orthodox Church in Los Angeles. Father ROMLEY stated he had no information concerning SIRHAN B. SIRHAN or the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

On 8/16/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1301
by SA FREDERICK E. BECKER/vaa Date dictated 8/22/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/30/68

VERNON THOMPSON, Big Bear, California was telphonically contacted on September 26, 1968 to request appointment for interview. THOMPSON advised that he is presently employed by radio station KTOT, Big Bear, California. THOMPSON asked purpose of interview and was advised it was concerning events at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California on June 4-5, 1968.

THOMPSON advised that he was at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4, 1968 with a friend, GLORIA FARR, at the time Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY made his victory speech. He stated that he was in the room where KENNEDY made his speech. Later on KENNEDY left the room and entered a hallway, which apparently led to the kitchen where the assassination took place. THOMPSON stated he never himself entered the hallway leading to the kitchen and he, in fact, never heard the shots which were responsible for the assassination of Senator KENNEDY. He stated that he never saw any of the individuals involved in the shooting, nor was he told any information by anyone present concerning the assassination.

THOMPSON advised that he did not observe anything at the Ambassador Hotel which he could even remotely connect with the assassination. He stated he knew of no one at the Ambassador Hotel who would have any information of value concerning the assassination.

THOMPSON stated in view of the fact that he has no information concerning this matter, he did not think that any further interview in this matter would be productive.

On 9/26/68 at San Bernardino, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1302
 by SA CARL G. MURANO, JR./ecr Date dictated 9/26/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/10/68

On September 4, 1968, JACK GRUGAN, ^{Date} ~~3003 Leeward~~ Avenue, Apartment 17, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 West Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, where he is a Security Guard.

GRUGAN advised he was previously interviewed by FBI Agents following the shooting of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He stated he was on duty the night of the shooting and his post was at the back parking lot of the hotel. He stated a Los Angeles Police Department Unit was writing parking tickets at the rear of the hotel when he learned about the shooting of Senator KENNEDY. He stated that he directed the Los Angeles Police Officers to the place of the shooting. He stated other Police Officers were at the scene and the only time he saw the person suspected of shooting Senator KENNEDY was when the police took the suspect out of the hotel to a waiting police car. At that time he got a short glimpse of the suspect.

GRUGAN stated he had not seen the suspect before and he could furnish no further information concerning the shooting.

On 9/4/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-~~C~~
 by SA FREDRICK E. BECKER/djm Date dictated 9/10/68 1303

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