

PURCHASE OF THE MURDER WEAPON BY SIRHAN

When the investigation into the history of the murder weapon established that Munir Sirhan had purchased the gun from George Erhard, the possibility of a conspiracy between Sirhan and his brother was raised. The investigation had determined that Munir Sirhan had arranged for the purchase from Erhard, a co-employee, at Nash's Department Store. When first interviewed, Munir Sirhan denied that he had purchased the gun; he contended instead that he had only been present when the gun was purchased by Sirhan.

The investigation concluded, however, that Munir Sirhan had, in fact, purchased the gun. This conclusion was based on the statements of Erhard and another witness, William Price, and the results of a polygraph examination administered to Munir Sirhan. Munir Sirhan was made aware of the deception in the results of the polygram but refused to change his story. Munir Sirhan's reluctance to admit that he had purchased the gun may be explained by the fact that he was an alien. Such an admission would have placed him in the position of having committed a felony.

The investigation into this aspect of the case remains open. The District Attorney's Office has decided to delay the decision to determine whether any action should be taken regarding Munir Sirhan's possible illegal possession of a weapon. Investigators have no substantive evidence which links the purchase of the gun by Munir with any guilty knowledge on his part of Sirhan's intention to kill Kennedy.

George Erhard Account

George Erhard identified Munir Sirhan, whom he knew only as "Joe," as a co-employee at Nash's Department Store in Pasadena. He gave the following account of the purchase of the gun.

The co-employee, "Joe," had learned from other employees that Erhard was a collector of guns. In early January 1968, "Joe" had asked Erhard if he had a gun for sale which could be used for hunting. "Joe" specified that it be a handgun for under \$50. Erhard told him that he had no guns for sale at that time.

In February, Erhard needed some money to work on his car. He offered to sell an Iver Johnson .22 caliber pistol to "Joe," and "Joe" asked to see it. Erhard brought the gun to work and showed it to "Joe." "Joe" told him that he did not have the money to buy the gun at that time and asked him to meet him at another location later that same day.

Erhard and a friend, William Price, went to an unknown location on Howard Street in Pasadena at about 5:30 p.m. They were met by "Joe" and another man. Erhard and "Joe" bargained over the price for the gun, and Erhard finally agreed to \$25.

During the bargaining, Price had been talking to the other man. When the deal was made, "Joe" borrowed six dollars from the other man. The two spoke to one another in a foreign language during part of the conversation. Erhard then gave the pistol to "Joe," Munir Sirhan.

William Price verified Erhard's account and positively identified

the other man with Munir Sirhan as being Sirhan Sirhan. He stated that Sirhan did hold the gun at one point in the meeting but that Munir bought the gun. Erhard could not positively identify Sirhan Sirhan from photographs. He stated that the man with Munir had been standing away from him, talking to Price.

Munir Sirhan's Account

Munir Sirhan stated to investigators that he had not purchased the gun, but that Sirhan had. He stated that George Erhard had been in his home sometime early in 1968. Erhard was introduced to Sirhan Sirhan, and while they were listening to some Arabic records a conversation took place regarding guns. Sometime later, Munir stated, Sirhan bought a gun from Erhard.

On June 25, 1968, a polygraph examination was administered to Munir Sirhan to determine his truthfulness regarding the gun transaction and whether or not George Erhard had ever been in the Sirhan home. Munir Sirhan's responses to questions indicated he was being untruthful. The test indicated that Erhard had never been in the Sirhan home, nor had he ever been introduced to Sirhan Sirhan. The test also indicated that Munir Sirhan was the person who purchased the gun.

Subsequent to being interviewed, Munir Sirhan admitted that he was lying when he said that Erhard had been inside his home. When he was told the results of the examination indicated he purchased the gun, Munir Sirhan changed part of his story. He

corrected himself and stated he had asked Erhard if he had any guns for sale and that eventually Erhard showed him the .22 caliber revolver (.22 caliber Iver Johnson, cadet model, eight shot, serial #H53725). He examined the gun in the parking lot of Nash's Department Store, 141 East Colorado Street, Pasadena. After examining the gun, he told Erhard he did not have sufficient money to purchase the gun at that time. He asked Erhard to bring the gun to the corner of El Molino and Howard Streets in Pasadena later that evening and told him that he would have the money to purchase the gun. Munir Sirhan stated that he and Sirhan were together when Erhard came to deliver the gun. Munir Sirhan then stated that Sirhan Sirhan had been the one who bought the gun. Munir Sirhan was again informed that the polygraph test showed that he had actually purchased the gun. Munir Sirhan refused to change his story.

COMPANION AT GUN SHOP

The Allegation

The search of Sirhan's vehicle produced a sales receipt for .22 caliber ammunition sold by the Lock, Stock 'N Barrel Gun Shop. The clerk who made the sale was identified as Larry Arnot. He stated to investigators that Sirhan was with two other men at the time he purchased the ammunition. After an extensive investigation Arnot admitted that he could not remember Sirhan or the ammunition sale. He could only state that the sales receipt was in his handwriting.

The Investigation

Mr. Arnot was interviewed by investigators on June 15, 1968. He stated that he remembered selling Sirhan the ammunition on June 1, 1968, at approximately 3 p.m., and verified it was he who wrote the sales slip. He added that Sirhan came into the shop with two other men who were of similar appearance. Sirhan ordered two boxes of mini-mags, and one of the other two ordered a box of conventional .22 caliber ammunition. He did not know if the three men arrived in a vehicle or not.

Arnot viewed the photographs of the Sirhan brothers and the look-alikes, and he identified Sirhan Sirhan as the one who bought the mini-mag ammunition. He was unable to identify the man who asked for the conventional ammunition but stated the third man in the party looked "possibly" like Munir Sirhan. He stated that the two men who ordered ammunition both gave him money, but he didn't know the amounts.

Investigators from the Federal Bureau of Investigation reinterviewed Arnot on June 16, 1968. At that time he repeated the same basic story but added that he had engaged in a conversation with the three men about rabbit hunting. He stated that he could not state which one paid for the ammunition. Arnot viewed a group of photographs and selected the likeness of Sharif Sirhan as "bearing a strong resemblance" to the one who bought the conventional ammunition, but he could not make a positive identification.

Mrs. Donna Herrick, wife of the gun shop owner, was interviewed on June 16, 1968. She reported that she was not at the shop on June 1st. She volunteered the information that she had observed Sirhan in the gun shop on April 3, 1968, with two other foreign-appearing males. One of the men, whom she identified as Sirhan, requested a box of .357 caliber armor-piercing ammunition. She stated that he spoke with a very distinct foreign accent, and she had a great deal of difficulty understanding him. She did not see a weapon in the possession of any of the men, and they did not mention .22 caliber ammunition. She stated that the other two men bore a strong resemblance to Adel and Munir Sirhan.

Mr. Benjamin Herrick, owner of the Lock, Stock 'N Barrel Gun Shop, was interviewed on June 17, 1968. He stated that when he discussed with his wife the events that she had reported, he recalled the incident. He thought it was approximately April 15, 1968, and recalled assisting his wife during the transaction. He

told the men that he didn't stock that type of ammunition. He didn't recall whether the three men had a vehicle or not.

Herrick reported that he observed three men talking with Larry Arnot the afternoon of June 1, 1968. He only observed the three from the rear while glancing over his shoulder, and he thought they were the same three who were in the shop on April 15th. He stated that he could not identify Sirhan as ever being in the store because observing Sirhan's photograph on television created some confusion in his mind as to when or if he had ever seen Sirhan. He was also unable to identify Adel, Sharif, Saidallah or Munir Sirhan as ever having been in the store.

Investigators contacted Nash's Department Store in Pasadena and learned that Munir Sirhan worked at that location on June 1, 1968. He clocked in at 8:57 a.m., out at 12:35 p.m., back in at 1:15 p.m., and out at 5:38 p.m. Joanna Melichuk, a store employee, remembered seeing him at the department store just prior to quitting time on June 1st.

Requested Show Up of Sirhan Brothers

On July 15, 1968, investigators contacted Sirhan's Defense Attorney, Russell Parsons, and requested him to arrange a show up so that the people in the gun shop could view the Sirhan brothers. Parsons stated he would take it under advisement.

When Parsons did not contact investigators, they met with Mary Sirhan and two of her sons, Adel and Munir, on July 25, 1968. The investigators attempted to secure their cooperation for a show up. Mary Sirhan stated she was against it, and Adel agreed

with her. Munir stated he would cooperate, adding that he had
wanted to hide because he was working that day. The Sirhans
decided to seek Parson's advice before answering the request.

On July 28, 1968, Parsons was interviewed at his law offices,
and the request for a show up was repeated. He stated that he
would not make the decision; that he would have to take it up
with his associate who was to enter the case in two weeks.

Polygraph Examinations

Mr. Arnot was administered a polygraph examination by Lieutenant
Hernandez on August 5, 1968, and he was questioned about the
statements that he made to investigators during earlier inter-
views. His physiological responses, as recorded by the polygraph,
indicated that he could not honestly remember seeing anyone in
the gun shop with Sirhan and that he does not actually remember
seeing Sirhan on that day. Arnot was confronted with the results
of the polygraph examination and stated to investigators that he
had lied about remembering Sirhan being in the gun shop.

Mrs. Donna Herrick was administered a polygraph examination by
Lieutenant Hernandez on August 6, 1968. She was questioned about
her statements that she had seen Sirhan in the gun shop during
April when he attempted to buy armor-piercing ammunition. During
the examination her physiological tracings indicated a pattern
of deception at the points where key questions were asked. The
test pointed up the conclusion that Mrs. Herrick was either
honestly mistaken at the time of her first interview, realized
it at the time of the test but would not acknowledge the fact

or was deliberately being untruthful when she stated that she had observed Sirhan in the store.

She was advised of the results of the examination and interrogated extensively regarding her statements. She made broad rationalizations and stated she could have been confused but refused to admit to lying to the investigators.

Conclusions

The investigation showed the allegation that Sirhan was accompanied by two other men at the time he purchased the ammunition to be unfounded. The man who made the initial allegation admitted lying; and the owner of the gun shop, who at first offered supporting testimony, admitted that he simply didn't know. Each of the witnesses who reported seeing Sirhan qualified their statements to such a degree that there was doubt in their own minds that they remembered seeing Sirhan.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY GUN CLUB INVESTIGATION

The investigation of Sirhan Sirhan's activities prior to the assassination of Robert Kennedy revealed that Sirhan had practiced shooting with the murder weapon at a shooting range in Duarte, California on June 4, 1968. During the interviews with witnesses who had seen Sirhan at the range, the rangemaster, Everett Buckner, alleged that he had overheard Sirhan and a blond woman in a heated conversation which Buckner felt was conspiratorial.

The investigation into this allegation revealed that Buckner probably confused much of what he saw during the time Sirhan was at the range. Statements of witnesses indicated that Sirhan arrived and departed alone. Sirhan spoke to several persons who were also practicing at the range but there was no evidence to indicate that Sirhan's contacts with people at the range were related to the Kennedy assassination. Rangemaster Buckner was administered a polygraph examination and it was determined that he had been untruthful. He eventually admitted that he had lied about what he had seen at the range. The investigation of the events of June 4, 1968, at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club are described below.

Description of the Range

The San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, 4001 Fish Canyon Road, Duarte, is a privately owned, combination rifle, skeet, and pistol range which is open to the public on a fee basis. The rifle and pistol ranges face north into a steep hillside approximately

500 yards away. The range office, equipment shack and control tower is manned by the single rangemaster who rents equipment and controls the firing line. The 300 yard rifle range is east of the control tower and has fifty positions. The fifty yard pistol range is west of the tower and has twenty-four positions which may be observed from the control tower. The firing positions on both ranges are covered by a canopy and are equipped with benches and a concrete floor. The shotgun range is across the parking lot and faces south, over a large open field.

Shooters obtain their targets and frames at the range office and set them up themselves. They also paste and remove their own targets during periodic controlled breaks in the firing.

A roster is kept at the control tower office to be signed by all persons firing on either the rifle or pistol ranges. One of the rosters is for non-members; the other, for gun club members. The signing of this roster is not strictly adhered to by the members of the club, nor does the rangemaster require everyone to sign.

The fourteenth person to sign the non-member guest register on June 4, 1968, was Sirhan Sirhan, 696 East Howard Street. After signing the register, he obtained a target from the rangemaster and took a position on the west end of the pistol range. He arrived at the range between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and remained until it closed at 5 p.m. He arrived and left alone. During the day he fired approximately 300 to 400 rounds from a .22 caliber revolver with a short barrel. He used rapid fire

techniques when firing. He spoke with several other patrons discussing guns, ammunition, and shooting techniques.

The Police Department Notified

On June 5, 1968, Charles Kendall heard of the assassination and saw a picture of the suspect, Sirhan Sirhan, on a television screen. He recognized Sirhan as the person he saw firing a small caliber weapon at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club on June 4, 1968. On June 6, 1968 Kendall returned to the gun club and asked the club manager, Lloyd Hager, if he was aware of the fact that Sirhan Sirhan had fired on the range on June 4, 1968. Hager dismissed this idea as a joke by Kendall. Kendall entered the business office where the rosters are kept and found the name Sirhan Sirhan on the non-member roster for the date of June 4, 1968. Kendall showed the roster to Joseph Tescher, and the executive officer, Maynard Goodell. Both Tescher and Goodell advised Hager to notify the Los Angeles Police Department. Hager contacted the Department on June 7, 1968.

Allegations Made by the Rangemaster

On June 17, 1968, the rangemaster, Everett Buckner, Sr., was interviewed at his home in Glendora, California. In that conversation he stated that Sirhan Sirhan arrived at the gun club on June 4, 1968, sometime between 9:30 a.m. and noon. He then took a position on the pistol range at the far west end of the range, probably target number one. After firing between 75 and 100 rounds, Sirhan went back to the control tower and told Buckner he wanted some .22 caliber shells that would not

misfire. Buckner sold him some .22 caliber hollow points; however, he was not sure of the brand. Buckner stated that Sirhan returned to his position, and fired an additional 25 to 30 rounds in the next half an hour or so.

Buckner stated that Sirhan had a conversation with a female Caucasian, 5-7 to 5-8, 130 to 140 pounds, 30's, fair complexion, blond shoulder-length wavy hair similar to a "page boy." She was wearing a light colored, one-piece dress with a full skirt. The woman was firing on the pistol range and had asked Buckner earlier to assist her in firing. However, Buckner had refused because it was against the club rules for the rangemaster to assist customers in firing.

Buckner saw Sirhan stop and talk to the blond and make gestures with his hands, pointing at both the rear sight and the front sight of her weapon. After several minutes, the blond said, "You son of a bitch," or "Goddamn you, son of a bitch, get away from me. They will recognize us." Shortly after that, Sirhan disappeared.

Upon arriving at the firing range, the above-described blond came to the control tower with a man described by Buckner as a male Caucasian, 6-4, and slim. He stated that the blond and the male had an argument with the male stating, "Goddamn it, you got to learn how to fire this gun today." The blond replied, "You're right. I've got to learn how to fire this gun today." They then purchased their targets with the male going to the rifle range and the female to the pistol range.

The investigation indicated that Buckner possibly confused two couples that came to the gun club on the day of June 4, 1968. The first couple, George Mioch, a CYA Parole Officer, and girl friend, Corliss Edwards, arrived at the gun club at approximately 11 a.m. George Mioch is a male Caucasian, DOB 6-10-23, 6-2, 200 pounds, brown hair, and blue eyes. Edwards is a female Caucasian, DOB 10-31-22, 5-6, 116, brown hair and hazel eyes. On June 4, 1968, she wore a blond shoulder-length wig to the firing range. As they arrived at the range, they had an argument in front of the control tower over a gun she had purchased approximately one year prior and had never fired. Mioch made the statement, "You have got to learn to fire the gun today." Mioch stated that a person not familiar with his demeanor who overheard the conversation could have mistaken it as an argument. After paying for their targets, they both went to the rifle range, accompanied by their children, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], 17, and [REDACTED], 13. At approximately noon, they left the rifle range and went to the pistol range taking a position on target number 13. As they arrived at this target, they noticed Sirhan firing to their left. Neither Corliss Edwards nor George Mioch had a conversation with Sirhan during the time they were on the range. Corliss Edwards stated that she stayed very close to their target position while they were on the range. They left between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. Sirhan was still firing when they left.

The second couple, Ronald and Claudia Williams, arrived on the range at approximately 4 p.m. Claudia Williams is a female

Caucasian, 26, 5-3, 110, blond hair, shoulder length, blue eyes. As they arrived at the control tower, they also had an argument. It was over the advisability of paying the range fee for less than an hour of shooting. They decided to purchase their targets; and he went to the rifle range and his wife went to the pistol range, taking a position on target 21 or 22. She identified Sirhan as the only person on the pistol range when she arrived. She had trouble in firing the revolver and asked Sirhan if she had to cock the gun in order to fire. Sirhan came over to her, a distance of thirty feet, and gave her instructions in obtaining a proper sight picture. In doing so, he made gestures with his hands, pointing at both the rear and front sights and at one point took her by the arm and showed her the proper stance for firing. After giving her the instructions, Sirhan fired 18 rounds from her revolver and stated, "It's firing a little to the left." She fired 18 rounds from his revolver, which she described as a .22 caliber revolver, blue steel in color with a short barrel. She noted that Sirhan was a very good shot. A short time later, Ronald Williams came over to the pistol range, had a short conversation with Sirhan concerning his wife's revolver, and they both left the range. The time was approximately 5 p.m. Sirhan had left the range five minutes before the Williams'. Ronald Williams stated that he saw Sirhan walk toward an old De Soto or Dodge, pink and white in color. He stated this may have occurred as they were driving out of the parking lot.

Statement of James Thornbrugh

James J. Thornbrugh arrived at the range at 10:45 a.m. He practiced on target number 22 and left at 2:30 p.m. His statements substantiated statements of the other witnesses with one exception: Thornbrugh stated he thought Sirhan was with a girl and was showing her how to shoot. He describes this female as Mexican or Latin descent, 22 to 23, 5-2 to 5-4, 115, dark brown shoulder length hair, dark complexion. He was uncertain if it was actually Sirhan giving her this instruction or another male standing near Sirhan's position. This information conflicted with that furnished by other witnesses, and after a reinterview, Thornbrugh was offered a polygraph examination.

On July 18, 1968, a polygraph examination was administered to Thornbrugh by Lt. E. Hernandez. At this time he admitted that he did not see or hear the woman talk to Sirhan and that she could have been with any of the men at the range that day. He stated that he had no basis for saying Sirhan and the woman were together.

Statements of David Montellano

David Montellano arrived at the range at 11:30 a.m. on June 4, 1968. He was with Henry Carreon, and they went to the rifle range. Montellano began to fire his pistol and was advised by the rangemaster that he must use the pistol range. He went to the pistol range at 12:45 p.m. Montellano observed Sirhan firing and noticed that he was firing very rapidly. He went to Sirhan's position and asked what caliber weapon he was firing.

Sirhan stated, "A .22 caliber." Montellano asked Sirhan the make of his gun, and Sirhan did not answer him but pointed to the top of the revolver and allowed Montellano to see it was an Iver Johnson.

Montellano observed eight ammunition boxes at Sirhan's position. Six of the boxes were .22 caliber Super-X long rifle and were empty. The remaining two were labeled .22 caliber mini-mags, and at least one of these was full of shells. Sirhan advised Montellano that the mini-mags he was firing cost more, but they were hollow points and spread out more on impact. Montellano noted that Sirhan piled his empty casings on the bench in front of him after firing.

Montellano left the range between 2 and 2:30 p.m. Sirhan was still firing and had 350 to 400 empty casings piled in front of him at that time.

Statement of Henry Carreon

Henry Carreon arrived at the range with David Montellano at approximately 11:30 a.m. Carreon preceded Montellano to the pistol range and he observed Sirhan firing on target 4 or 5 when he arrived. At that time there was only one other man firing on the range. He noticed Sirhan using rapid fire techniques and the report from the pistol appeared to be extra loud. When Montellano arrived at the pistol range, he, too, commented on the noise coming from Sirhan's gun. He was involved in a short conversation between Montellano and Sirhan regarding weapons, ammunition and firing techniques.

He noticed Sirhan using a small screwdriver to eject the casings after firing. He left the range with Montellano between 2:00 and 2:30 p.m., and Sirhan was still firing at that time.

Statement of Michael Saccoman

Michael Saccoman arrived at the range at 2:30 p.m. He fired on target 6 or 7 and estimated Sirhan's location as between targets 14 and 20. Sirhan was at the range when he arrived and was still there when he left. Saccoman stated that Sirhan came over and started talking to him. Sirhan said "That's a pretty nice gun you have there, sort of heavy; can I see it?" Saccoman let him see the gun and allowed him to shoot it a couple of times. Saccoman later stated that these were the two best shots in his target. He went over to Sirhan's position and fired his gun a couple of times and put it down because, "I didn't want it to blow up in my hand."

Sirhan loaded Saccoman's gun with mini-mags and aimed at the wood target frame. He wanted to see how big a hole it would make. Sirhan stated to Saccoman that he bought his ammunition at the Lock, Stock 'N Barrel on Rosemead, below Huntington Drive. Sirhan told Saccoman that he had bought his gun for \$40 from a friend. They talked of hunting, and Sirhan made the statement about his gun, "Well, this can kill a dog." He then changed the subject. Sirhan's target was shot up with at least 100 rounds, and Saccoman stated that Sirhan appeared nervous about checking his target. Saccoman left the range at 3:15 p.m.

Additional Conflicting Stories

Richard and Roberta Grijalva also reported observing Sirhan at the range. They both reported seeing him on the rifle range, not the pistol range. They both remained adamant in their statements and were invited to take a polygraph examination when investigators discovered that their statements conflicted with those of other witnesses.

On September 4, 1968, 1 p.m., Richard Grijalva was administered a polygraph examination at the polygraph facilities at Scientific Investigation Division. This examination was conducted by Lt. E. Hernandez. The results of this examination reveal that Richard Grijalva in his own mind honestly believes that he saw Sirhan Sirhan firing a rifle on the rifle range.

From the 37 persons interviewed, only two, Richard and Roberta Grijalva place Sirhan Sirhan on the rifle range, and it was the investigating officers' opinion that they made an honest mistake in identifying Sirhan Sirhan as the person they observed firing a rifle. An unidentified person resembling Sirhan in general appearance was observed by witnesses firing on the rifle range.

Examination of Evidence

On June 10, 1968 FBI Agents George Kling, Robert H. Morneau, Jr., and Irvin B. Wells went to the gun club and collected all the .22 caliber casings from the trash barrels and areas surrounding the firing positions on the pistol range.

Approximately 40 pounds of brass casings were taken into custody

and were sent to Washington, D.C. for comparison by the FBI Scientific Investigation Section. A request for an analyzed evidence report, comparing the brass confiscated by the FBI with the casing removed from Sirhan's weapon, was made by Captain H. I. Brown, Commander, Homicide Division, SUS. This was not done at the FBI Crime Laboratory, and the casings were later returned to the Los Angeles Police Department.

On August 12, 1968, Officer Dwayne Wolfer, Scientific Investigation Division, Firearms Section, completed his examination of the shell casings obtained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at San Gabriel Valley Gun Club. Officer Wolfer reported he was unable to determine that any of the casings were fired in Sirhan's gun.

The Investigation Continues

On July 1, 1968, a show-up was held at the Glendora Police Department. Both George Mioch and Corliss Edwards volunteered to participate. Everett Buckner viewed both Edwards and Mioch through a glass partition. Buckner stated it looked just like the blond that had the conversation with Sirhan, but he was sure it wasn't her. He could not identify Mioch as being on the range at all.

On July 2, 1968, Everett Buckner volunteered to take a polygraph examination. The examination was given by Lt. E. Hernandez. It was Lt. Hernandez's opinion after giving the polygraph examination that Buckner was lying about the conversation between the blond woman and Sirhan. Lt. Hernandez also formed the

opinion that Buckner was lying about his failure to identify Mrs. Corliss Edwards as the blond woman having the conversation with Sirhan. After an extensive interview, Buckner admitted he had been lying about the statement he overheard made by the blond woman to Sirhan. He stated he had seen a blond female Caucasian talk to Sirhan; however, did not hear any conversation between the two. He would not give an explanation for his previous statement. Buckner also admitted that the woman in the show-up at Glendora Police Department, Corliss Edwards, was the same woman he had reference to as making the statement to Sirhan. He told Lt. Hernandez that he was 98 per cent sure Mrs. Edwards was the woman, but not 100 per cent sure. Therefore, he refused to identify her on July 1, 1968, in the line-up.

It was the investigating officers' opinion that Buckner in addition to making false statements had confused the activities of Mr. and Mrs. Williams and George Mioch and Corliss Edwards.

Summary

The day prior to shooting Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Sirhan B. Sirhan practiced firing a .22 caliber revolver at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club. He arrived sometime between 11:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and left the range when it closed at 5:00 p.m. He was alone when he arrived and when he left. He talked to several persons while at the range, but there is no evidence to indicate that any contact was related to the Kennedy assassination.

All of the witnesses described Sirhan's method of fire as

extremely rapid, and his shooting ability as "good" to "expert". He fired a large amount of ammunition with estimates ranging between 300 and 400 rounds. Investigators were unable to determine what happened to the empty casings. He discussed the destructive power of hollow point ammunition with three of the witnesses.

Most of the witnesses at the range that day stayed only an hour and a half to two hours; however, Sirhan's time on the range can be accounted for with the exception of one hour, from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sirhan was alone to the best of their knowledge.

VOLUNTARY WITNESSES

JERRY OWEN INVESTIGATION

Oliver Brindley Owen, aka Jerry Owen, was an ex-prize fighter turned minister who became involved in an intricate and contradictory series of events which allegedly involved Sirhan and Jerry Owen and the attempted purchase of a horse by Sirhan. The falsehood of Owen's allegation was clearly established through a separate and independent investigation.

Essentially Owen claimed that on Monday, June 3, 1968, at approximately 3:00 p.m., he picked up two hitchhikers in downtown Los Angeles and gave them a ride to the Hollywood-Wilshire area. Owen identified one of the hitchhikers as Sirhan who rode in the cab of his truck during part of the ride. Sirhan allegedly offered to buy a horse from Owen, who had a palomino for sale. The purchase was to be made at 11:00 p.m. that night at a location in Hollywood. Owen and Sirhan then allegedly met at this location at 11:00 p.m., and Sirhan asked Owen if he could wait until the next day when he would have the necessary money. Owen registered at a local hotel for the night.

The next morning, June 4, he was met by a man in a flashy suit and a blond girl who told him that Sirhan did not have the money for the horse but that he wanted Owen to meet him again at 11:00 p.m. that night. The man offered to give him some money as part payment on the horse. The man also told Owen that there was something happening at the Ambassador Hotel that night and that Sirhan would not have the money until then. Owen told the man that he could not meet Sirhan because of an

appointment in Oxnard. Owen gave the man a business card and offered to bring the horse to Los Angeles the next day.

Owen allegedly went to Oxnard, California, and remained there the night of June 4. He returned to Los Angeles at approximately 12:30 p.m. on the 5th and learned of the assassination. After allegedly recognizing a picture of Sirhan in a newspaper, he went to University Station where he made his statement to the Department.

During the ensuing months, investigators sought to conclusively establish the truth regarding Owen's allegation. On the surface his statements were not self-incriminating, and Owen presented himself as a volunteer witness who was interested in assisting the police. Essentially investigators needed only to establish the falsity of Owen's statements to refute his allegation or to verify the truth of his statements and use Owen as a material witness. All evidence seemed to indicate that Sirhan was not with Owen on the 3rd. It was necessary, however, for investigators to determine Owen's reasons for fabricating the incident or whether he was honestly mistaken.

A complication developed early in the investigation when Jerry Owen became wary about the investigation of his allegation. Owen allegedly received a threatening phone call on June 6, 1968, telling him to remain quiet regarding his horse deal with Sirhan. Owen moved to the San Francisco area where he remained for several months. During that time his allegation became

publicized and Owen engaged an attorney, George T. Davis, to represent him.

A polygraph examination was arranged for Owen on July 3, 1968, at the San Francisco Police Department. His attorney, Davis, was present during the test. Owen's responses to key questions indicated that he was being untruthful. When told of the results of the test, Owen made a lengthy statement which indicated that he was unsure of his original statement.

Investigators subsequently interviewed Mrs. Mary Sirhan and Adel Sirhan, who attempted to assist investigators in determining the truth of Owen's allegations. After a visit to Sirhan at the Hall of Justice, Mrs. Sirhan told investigators that Sirhan had denied knowing anything about Jerry Owen or the purchase of a horse.

At this point in the investigation, there had been three separate accounts of the occurrence given by Owen. The number of inconsistencies which appeared between the accounts and the results of the polygraph, coupled with Sirhan's denial of knowing Owen, led investigators to the conclusion that Owen was lying. It remained for investigators to determine why and to firmly refute Owen's statements with factual information and physical evidence.

In early August 1968, Jonn G. Christian, a magazine writer, and William Turner, an ex-F.B.I. agent turned free lance writer, entered into the Owen investigation. Christian contacted this Department offering his assistance, and he suggested that he

would like to be deputized to work with the Department. Christian had a taped account of Owen's story. He told investigators that he believed Sirhan and Owen were together on June 4 and that they conspired to assassinate Kennedy. Christian further alleged that Owen was involved in Sirhan's escape plans and after the aborted escape, Owen was trying to establish an alibi with his horse-selling story.

Christian subsequently wrote a letter to this Department which outlined his reasons for believing that Owen was involved in the assassination. Christian, by enumerating various conflicts in Owen's accounts of the incident, hypothesized that Owen's reasons for lying were that he was involved in the conspiracy and seeking a means to avoid association with Sirhan. Christian subsequently sought to establish a link in Owen's background with Dr. Carl MacIntyre, a minister whose name had been linked through the Garrison investigation with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Investigators, attacking the inconsistencies in Owen's accounts, also concluded that he was lying; however, there was no evidence to indicate that Owen was involved with an extremist group or with Sirhan. The following is an account of the investigation into the allegation of Jerry Owen.

Initial Statement of Jerry Owen

Jerry Owen went to University Station on June 5, 1968, at approximately 3:00 p.m. He gave the following account regarding a contact that he believed that he had had with Sirhan Sirhan:

On June 3, 1968, Owen left his residence in Santa Ana en route to the Coliseum Hotel, 457 West Santa Barbara, Los Angeles. He spoke with the manager of the hotel coffee shop, John Bert Morris, and Rip O'Reilly, a heavyweight boxer. Morris and Owen discussed the purchase of some boxing equipment from the United Sporting Goods Store, 901 South Hill Street, Los Angeles. At approximately 3:00 p.m. Owen purchased one pair of boxing shoes at United Sporting Goods and proceeded to Lester's Shoe Repair, 1263 North Vine Street, to have green shamrocks monogrammed on the shoes.

En route to Hollywood, while stopped at a traffic light at 7th and Grand Streets, two males requested a ride. The two men jumped into the rear of his truck with Owen's permission. Both men were described as Mexican or Latin, in their early twenties, with long hair and wearing old clothing. One hitchhiker was tall and slim and the other three or four inches shorter. At Wilshire and Western the taller man alighted from Owen's truck and greeted four other young adults standing on the corner. One of them was a male in his thirties with a large build wearing a flashy suit; a female Caucasian with dirty blond hair and two other young males were with the older man. The shorter hitchhiker whom Owen subsequently identified as Sirhan asked if he could sit in the cab of the truck.

After moving into the cab, the man asked Owen if he would stop for a few minutes at the "big hotel" while he visited a friend who worked in the kitchen. The hotel was later identified as

the Ambassador Hotel. The man returned to Owen's truck ten minutes later and asked if Owen would take him to Hollywood. En route they had a conversation, and the man told Owen that he was an exercise boy at the racetrack. After Owen told him that he had a palomino horse which he was to sell for \$250 in Oxnard, the man expressed a desire to buy the horse after receiving some money later that evening. Owen agreed to meet him that night at 11:00 p.m. near a bowling alley on Sunset Boulevard.

The young man remained in Owen's truck while he delivered the shoes to be monogrammed. Owen recalled that the young man also discussed nationalities, and he said that he had been raised in Jordan. He also expressed his opposition to Jews.

At 11:00 p.m. Owen went to the bowling alley and found the young man with the blond female and the well-dressed male he had seen at Wilshire and Western that afternoon. They had a 1957, 1958 or 1959 off-white, hard top Chevrolet. The young man displayed a \$100 bill and told Owen he could not pay for the horse at that time. He asked Owen to meet him the next morning, and he mentioned that something was happening at the hotel. Because the deal appeared certain to Owen, he registered at the St. Moritz Hotel, 5849 Sunset Boulevard for the night.

At 8:00 a.m. on the 4th, Owen received a phone call from a man who said he was calling for Joe Sahara. He then went to the parking lot of the St. Moritz Hotel where he was met by the blond woman and the man who was wearing the flashy suit. The man told Owen that the young man could not get the money until

that night, and they asked Owen if he could get the young man a job at a ranch. Owen gave them a business card and told them he would be back in Los Angeles the next day. Owen then went to Oxnard where he remained until 12:30 p.m. on the 5th.

When Owen returned to the Coliseum Hotel on June 5 at 3:00 p.m., he recognized a picture of Sirhan in the Hollywood Citizen News as being the young man who offered to purchase the horse from him. He related the incident to a waitress at the hotel coffee shop who suggested that he report it to the police. Owen then went to University Station. Owen subsequently told investigators that he believed that Sirhan was planning to use his truck to escape from the assassination.

Investigation of Owen's Statement

Owen was reinterviewed on June 18 at Parker Center and added some details to his original account. He said that Sirhan spoke with a slight Mexican accent and that he mentioned that he might sell his home and go to the Holy Land. He told investigators of a telephone conversation which he received approximately a week before. The person sounded like a male Negro and he stated to Owen, "You mother fucker, forget about the horse deal and keep your mouth closed." At this point in the investigation, it was assumed that Owen was being truthful; however, the investigation into the details of Owen's statements had not been completed.

On June 27, Owen was contacted at his home to set up an interview. Owen refused, stating that he was going to San Francisco. When

the investigators suggested a meeting in Palo Alto, Owen said, "No," but suggested that they meet at the residence of Owen's brother in San Bruno. On June 29 the scheduled interview was canceled by the Department when investigators decided to wait for Owen to return to Los Angeles. Owen was not told of this decision, and he erroneously became fearful that his life was in danger. Owen's attorney, Davis, reported that Owen had been contacted by someone alleging that he was a Los Angeles policeman.

On July 1, 1968, San Francisco area papers printed an account of Owen's story about Sirhan. The articles reported that Owen was in hiding in the Napa Valley area in fear for his life. George Davis was quoted as saying that he believed that Owen was telling the truth and that he was reliable. Davis further stated that this Department had refused protection for Owen and that he would ask Attorney General Thomas Lynch for a 24-hour guard. Davis gave an account of Owen's allegation.

The article was in many ways the same as Owen's original account, with some notable contradictions and discrepancies. In his first account Owen said that the price to be paid for the horse was \$250; in the newspaper account it was \$300. Davis also stated that Owen first saw Sirhan's picture on television; contrary to that Owen had said that he had first seen Sirhan's picture in a newspaper. Owen told investigators that he had met one man and a blond woman at 8:00 a.m. on the 4th, but the article said that there were two men and a woman.

On July 2, 1968, Wesley Gardner, owner of the Foremost Protective Agency, notified investigators that he was representing Owen and that future calls to Owen should be channeled through Gardner.

Polygraph Examination of Owen

Owen and Davis were contacted and the canceled interview in San Bruno was explained to their satisfaction. Due to the confusion which was developing in the Owen investigation, investigators arranged for a polygraph to be given by Lt. Hernandez to Jerry Owen at the San Francisco Police Department on July 3, 1968. George Davis was present during the examination, and Owen was explained the purpose of the test and given the opportunity to ask questions concerning the test. Owen resisted the control test; however, his responses indicated that he was a suitable subject for testing.

Owen was asked a total of 25 questions of which 9 were key questions. In response to the following relevant questions, Owen emitted answers which strongly indicated that he was being untruthful.

Q Is everything that you told me this morning about the hitchhiker true?

A Yes.

Q Do you honestly believe that you have talked to the man that is accused of shooting Kennedy?

A Yes.

Q When you told George Davis that you had talked to

the man that shot Kennedy, were you telling him the truth?

A Yes.

Q Did the man who shot Kennedy offer to buy your horse at any time?

A Yes.

It was the examiner's opinion that Owen could not honestly say that he picked up, talked to or saw Sirhan on June 3, 1968. When informed of the results of the test, he made lengthy rationalizations about the occurrence. At one point he said, "I don't know; I don't know; it may not have been him, but if I had saw him face to face or heard his voice or something, then I would. I'd come out and make a definite statement. I don't know." He said that he had only mentioned that the person to whom he had given a ride looked like the picture of the man he had seen on television and accused of shooting Kennedy.

Investigation into Discrepancies

On July 2, 1968, Mrs. Mary Sirhan was interviewed regarding the money which Sirhan received from the insurance settlement for the fall from the horse. She recalled that Sirhan asked for \$300 a day or two before the shooting. She said that she believed that Sirhan had spent most of the remainder from the \$1,000 he gave her from the insurance settlement. She thought that he had given some of the money to Adel. Adel Sirhan was present during the interview, and he stated at one point, "I

think Sirhan wanted the \$300 to buy a horse with." This was the only statement made by either Munir or Adel Sirhan regarding the money Sirhan received from the settlement.

On July 5, Mrs. Sirhan was again interviewed, this time regarding Sirhan's activities on June 3, 1968. She stated that Sirhan had driven her to work at 8:00 a.m. but that he was not at home at 12:30 p.m. when she returned. However, there was evidence that he had just taken a shower and there was a warm cup on the kitchen table. Sirhan was gone most of the afternoon, but she noticed that he was watching television at 4:30 p.m. She was certain that he remained home the rest of that night. This information conflicted with Owen's allegation. At least from the time of 4:30 p.m., Mrs. Sirhan's statement contradicts Owen's statement. This would include the conversations at the Sunset Boulevard bowling alley at 4:30 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. and casts additional doubt on the events which preceded 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Sirhan agreed to speak to Sirhan at the Hall of Justice regarding the Owen allegation. On July 15, after she had spoken to Sirhan, Mrs. Sirhan related his response. Sirhan told her that he did not know Owen, had never seen him nor had he ever ridden in his pickup truck. He also denied that he had attempted to purchase a palomino horse.

The denial by Sirhan, the statements of Mrs. Sirhan and the results of the Owen polygraph caused investigators to conclude that Owen had lied about the incident. Owen's reasons for

lying could not be completely determined; however, an intensive examination of Owen's background revealed a history of involvement in questionable and illegal activities. This information tended to cast doubt on Owen's credibility.

Owen's third account of the incident given, when he was administered the polygraph, was compared with the other two accounts. Further discrepancies were noted, some of which indicated that Owen was adding details which he should have given in his first account. In addition he left out details which were in the original account.

He stated that he had purchased a robe and a pair of boxing shoes at United Sporting Goods; this was opposed to his first statement wherein he said he had purchased only a pair of boxing shoes. He also related that during the evening hours between the time he allegedly dropped off Sirhan around 6:00 p.m. and the time he met him again at 11:00 p.m., Owen stated that he had gone to the Plaza Hotel to see a friend, the ex-fighter Slapsy Maxie Rosenbloom. They then went to a Saints and Sinners meeting. This incident did not appear in Owen's first account at University Station. Further, Owen did not mention the stop at the Coliseum Hotel and Teamsters Gymnasium; instead, he said that he went directly from Santa Ana to the United Sporting Goods Store.

When shown a set of mugs, Owen could not identify Sirhan, and he chose a look-alike as the other man who rode in his truck. In addition, Owen changed the time and date on which he received

the threatening phone call. The newspaper account had stated that he had received the call the evening of the 5th. During the July 3, 1968, interview Owen said that the call came between 2:00 and 5:00 p.m. on June 6.

Investigation into the alleged activities of Owen on June 3 revealed additional discrepancies in his story. Investigators determined that sales records at the United Sporting Goods Store showed no sale of a boxing robe on June 3. A pair of boxing shoes were sold on that date but not to Owen. The manager of the store, Jack Misrach, stated that he knew most of the boxing people in this area. He does not know Owen or Rip O'Reilly, the boxer. After looking at Owen's picture, Misrach did not recall seeing Owen in his store. Jesse Edwards, the salesman who sold the shoes on that date, thought Owen looked familiar but could not recall the transaction. The transaction for the shoes included several other items including gloves, headgear, shorts, jump rope and other items totaling \$39.45.

Lester's Shoe Repair at 1263 North Vine Street was checked to verify Owen's statement that he had taken the shoes for monogramming. Lester Shields, the owner, stated that he had no record of when Owen brought the shoes for monogramming. Shields remembered that Owen came to his shop three times; one time that he remembered seeing Owen's truck, there was no one in it. When he picked up the shoes, two young women were with him and Rip O'Reilly was in the truck.

Dianne Scott, owner of the seamstress shop adjacent to the shoe repair shop, stated that she recalled that Owen brought a robe to be momogrammed on June 10, 1968, not June 3. He picked up the robe on June 26.

Shields estimated the dates of Owen's appearances at his shoe shop as:

Originally brought shoes into the shop	May 23-27, 1968
Picked shoes up the first time	May 25-28, 1968
Brought shoes in second time	May 27-29, 1968
Picked up shoes the final time	June 8, 1968

Investigators interviewed the persons whom Owen stated that he told of the incident who were at the Coliseum Hotel on June 5. Owen allegedly told them of the hitchhiker incident and one of them, Mabel Jacobs, a waitress, told him to tell the police.

Jacobs stated that she spoke to Owen who was in the Coliseum Hotel Coffee Shop with Rip O'Reilly on June 5. Owen pointed to a picture of Sirhan in the newspapers and told her that he was the hitchhiker that he had picked up on June 3. Owen told her that he had taken Sirhan to the Ambassador Hotel and that Sirhan expressed a desire to purchase a horse he was transporting to Oxnard. Bert Morris, the owner, stated that he was not present during Owen's relating of the incident to Jacobs. He did recall that Owen was in the coffee shop on June 5.

Rip O'Reilly, a professional boxer under contract to Owen, was interviewed. He stated that he lives at the Coliseum Hotel and that Owen came there on June 5 to see him. Owen related

the incident of the hitchhiker and told him that he believed that the young man resembled Sirhan. O'Reilly, however, provided investigators with information which strongly contradicted Owen's account.

O'Reilly stated that on June 3, 1968, Owen called him at about 10:30 a.m. and invited him to attend a Saints and Sinners Club that night. At 6:30 p.m. Owen picked O'Reilly up at the Coliseum Hotel, and they drove to the meeting on Fairfax Avenue. Owen was driving a dark-colored pickup truck with a horse trailer attached. A horse was in the trailer. They remained at the meeting until 11:30 p.m., and Owen took O'Reilly back to the hotel.

On June 5, Owen came to the hotel and related to O'Reilly that he had picked up a hitchhiker on Wilshire Boulevard on June 3 and that the hitchhiker offered him \$400 for his horse. Owen said that he stayed at a hotel the night of the 3rd to complete the transaction the next day. Owen told O'Reilly that he believed that Sirhan was a Mexican. O'Reilly further advised investigators that Owen had purchased the boxing shoes mentioned by Owen prior to June 3, 1968.

Investigators had established sufficient contradiction in Owen's story that they were convinced that he was lying. Owen's uncertainty at the conclusion of his polygraph in San Francisco tended to substantiate that conclusion. The only remaining aspect of the investigation was to establish Owen's reason for

fabricating the story.

Owen's Background

Owen was born on [REDACTED], in Ashland, Ohio. He attended the University of Southern California where he played varsity football. For many years he was a sparring partner for ex-heavyweight boxing champion, Max Baer.

Owen had claimed that he had been an ordained minister since 1937 and that he held a credential with the Charles M. Holder Ministry, Inc. on Colton Street in Los Angeles. During his July 3 interview in San Francisco, Owen admitted that he had not been legally ordained. He stated that he had gone into a hotel room for several days during which time he prayed. This constituted his ordainment.

Owen was arrested on suspicion of robbery in 1930 by the Long Beach Police Department but was released the same day. Over the years Owen has been involved in various suspicious and illegal activities. An analysis of the total record of Owen's police record and investigations into his activities reveal that he has been involved in several fire insurance claims involving his personal and church properties, and he has several times been involved in extra-marital and paternity investigations. His religious activities are of the rural evangelistic type with makeshift facilities. Owen has advertised himself as "The Walking Bible" and cites Ripley's "Believe it or Not" as proof that he has complete recall of the Bible. His method is that of a huckster, calling for the believing to listen to his

message. Several of those interviewed likened his approach to that of a "confidence man."

His record would tend to support that description. Owen has been involved in six fires beginning in 1939 in Castro Valley, California. On several occasions he collected insurance settlements from these fires. The cases occurred in: (1) Castro Valley, 1939; (2) Crystal Lake Park, Oregon, 1945; (3) Dallas, Texas, 1946; (4) Mount Washington, Kentucky, 1947; (5) Ellicott City, Maryland, 1951; and (6) Tucson, Arizona, 1962.

Owen's \$16,000 claim for the fire in Maryland was denied because of fraud. A witness observed Owen moving personal effects out of the house prior to the fire and then return them. Owen subsequently collected \$6,500 when the denial was appealed.

In 1963, Owen was arrested in Costa Mesa, California, on a fugitive warrant from Tucson, Arizona, for arson with the intent to defraud an insurance company. A church, Our Little Chapel, which was owned by Owen was destroyed by fire on July 31, 1962, in Tucson. The investigation by the Tucson Police Department revealed that arson was the suspected cause of the fire. Owen was subsequently convicted of three counts of arson and sentenced to serve 8-10 years in prison. The decision was appealed and reversed on June 27, 1966.

In addition to fire claims, Owen has been involved in sex offenses over the years. In 1943, [REDACTED] [REDACTED], 16 years of age, joined Owen's gospel camp in Milwaukēe, Oregon. She had

met Owen when he had his "Open Door Church" in her home town of Des Moines, Iowa. Just prior to Owen obtaining a divorce from his wife in 1947, [REDACTED] became pregnant and returned to her home in Des Moines. Owen gave [REDACTED] \$65 and told her that he would come to Des Moines and marry her. The child was born in November, 1947, and Owen forwarded \$420 for hospital expenses. [REDACTED] later received word that Owen had gotten drunk, married a prostitute and that he would not be able to marry her. [REDACTED] had traveled off and on with Owen's touring churches for approximately seven years. (Owen stated during his polygraph that he had had a paternity suit filed against him at one time.)

On February 17, 1945, Owen was arrested for disorderly conduct in Portland, Oregon. He was found in a motel room with a female, Francis McCarty, both were nude. Owen was fined \$50 and given thirty (30) days in jail; however, Owen posted an appeal bond of \$250, and the case was continued indefinitely. Intelligence Division reports of Owen's activities reveal that he was reported to have been involved with women a number of times during his evangelistic tours.

Owen's highly suspicious background caused investigators to speculate that he sought to use the story about Sirhan to bring attention upon himself. His involvement in the activities described above were questionable grounds for giving credence to his ministerial goodness, and his suspicious record indicated that he was capable of concocting a story as devious as his alleged encounter with Sirhan. Investigators further speculated

that Owen probably did pick up a hitchhiker in the downtown area, though not necessarily on June 3, 1968. Owen then combined a series of events which had occurred on various dates and developed his story. The small discrepancies in his stories would account for some vague familiarity that Owen had with each incident but that he would forget minor details from telling to telling.

Involvement of Jonn G. Christian

Three telephone calls were received by investigators from Jonn Christian, a magazine writer, one each on August 7, 9 and 11, 1968. Christian indicated that he had a tape of Jerry Owen's account and that he wished to assist the Department in its investigation. He went so far as to suggest that he and an associate, William Turner, be "deputized." Christian sought to listen to the Los Angeles Police Department tape of Owen's account so that he could note discrepancies. It was Christian's opinion that Owen and Sirhan were together on June 4, 1968, and that Owen was to assist Sirhan with his escape. Because Sirhan had been captured, Christian believed that Owen had concocted his story to establish an innocuous reason for being with Sirhan.

Investigators sought then to establish the validity of Christian's allegation. It was believed that Owen was not involved with Sirhan in a conspiracy or that he had ever seen him. However, Christian's claim had to be disproven completely. Christian himself carried his claim to various governmental

bodies to plea for their aid in investigating his allegation. His actions caused investigators deep concern as each time they would feel that the Christian claim had been satisfactorily explained to other interested parties, Christian would successfully enlist the support of another agency.

Christian mailed two extensive confidential letters to the Department outlining his "original, unique and confidential information" regarding the assassination. The material represented Christian's theory regarding the discrepancies in Owen's story. Christian also attempted to establish a link between Owen and Dr. Carl MacIntyre, the minister reportedly connected by New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison with the John F. Kennedy assassination.

Investigators were able to establish that Christian had been contacted by George Davis, Owen's attorney, who told Christian, "I think I'm broken in on the Senator Kennedy conspiracy." Davis asked Christian to handle his press releases.

William Turner, Christian's partner and an ex-F.B.I. agent turned free lance writer, had been previously associated with Davis. Turner had lost a campaign for public office in the June primaries, and Davis had been his campaign manager. In addition, Turner had been associated with the radical publication "Ramparts" and has written a book entitled "The Police Establishment."

It is anticipated that John Christian and William Turner will

publish or somehow publicly reveal their theory regarding Jerry Owen and Sirhan. They have consistently attempted to attach credence to their claim by enlisting the support of high ranking government officials for their claim. They will also likely as not show up in conjunction with any attempt to link the two Kennedy assassinations, an event which will definitely occur in one form or another.

On two occasions Christian admitted to investigators that his opinions regarding Owen and Sirhan were only theories. He further admitted that he was investigating the possibility of a conspiracy as a writer and that if a conspiracy did not exist between Sirhan and Owen, he did not have a story.

This investigation has gathered such information as to indicate that Jerry Owen did not know or ever meet Sirhan. The remaining pieces to be inserted into the investigation are those which could not physically be obtained. This includes a direct meeting between Sirhan and Owen. Owen himself, on the advice of his attorney, has been reluctant to continue assisting investigators.

THE VIRGINIA TERESI INVESTIGATION

Mrs. Virginia Teresi voluntarily contacted this Department on June 5, 1968, regarding three men in a vehicle whom she had observed on June 3, 1968. Mrs. Teresi alleged that she observed these men with guns and that she overheard conversation which included the word "Kennedy." Mrs. Teresi eventually identified a photograph of Sirhan Sirhan as one of the three men in the vehicle.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Mrs. Teresi had fabricated the whole story. She had been fearful for Senator Kennedy's safety, and after the shooting she wanted to assure that a complete investigation would be made. A description of the Virginia Teresi investigation follows.

The Investigation

On June 5, 1968, at approximately 6:00 a.m. Mrs. Virginia Teresi, 21, contacted the Department by telephone and stated that she had information relevant to the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Mrs. Teresi was interviewed on June 5, 1968, at 11:30 a.m.

She stated that on June 3, 1968, between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. she was in her vehicle, parked westbound at the north curb of Melrose Avenue approximately 150 feet east of St. Andrews Place. As she started forward in the curb lane, a westbound vehicle passed her and pulled abruptly to the curb between her vehicle and the corner of St. Andrews Place. There were three males in

the front seat of the vehicle and no one in the rear seat.

As the vehicle stopped, the passenger in the right front seat jumped out and stood on the curb. He appeared to be very excited. He turned back toward the vehicle, leaned forward through the open right front door and appeared to be engaged in a heated conversation with the two men remaining in the vehicle.

Mrs. Teresi pulled to the left and attempted to drive around the parked vehicle. As she pulled abreast of the vehicle, the right side of her vehicle was within a few inches of the left side of the parked one. At this point she was forced to stop because of heavy traffic.

The windows of both cars were open, enabling her to overhear parts of the conversation between the man on the curb and the occupants of the vehicle. The driver said, "Get your ass in the car, we have to get him tonight." The man on the curb said, "I don't want to, I'm afraid." One of the men in the car said something that included the word "Kennedy." There was some additional conversation that Mrs. Teresi could not overhear.

At this time the man on the curb stood erect, and Mrs. Teresi observed the handle of a small revolver protruding from the waistband of his trousers. The man on the curb noticed Mrs. Teresi looking at them. He again leaned forward into the vehicle and spoke to the men inside. All three men then stared at her for several seconds.

The man on the curb jumped back into the car and said something that included the words "Wilshire Boulevard." The vehicle accelerated rapidly and Mrs. Teresi last observed it westbound on Melrose Avenue.

When the vehicle pulled away, Mrs. Teresi observed two rifles leaning against the back seat. These rifles were partially covered with a green blanket, but approximately six inches of the barrels were exposed to view.

Mrs. Teresi then made a right turn onto St. Andrews Place and parked in front of her house. She did not see the vehicle nor the men again.

Mrs. Teresi provided investigators with descriptions of the three men and the vehicle. She had not noticed the license number. Mrs. Teresi was shown a photograph of Sirhan, and she positively identified him as the man who had jumped from the vehicle.

The Follow-up Investigation

On June 14, 1968, Mrs. Teresi was reinterviewed. She repeated her original story. She also stated that on June 3, 1968, upon arriving home following the above incident, she had telephoned the Los Angeles Office of the F.B.I. and told them what she had seen and heard. The F.B.I. was contacted, and they determined that there was no record of this call. The F.B.I. indicated that if a call of this nature had been received, the files would so indicate.

On June 14, Mrs. Teresi advised investigators that on the evening of June 12, while she was driving to a friend's house, she was followed for several blocks by a man driving an expensive dark sedan. This man did not attempt to contact her nor did he commit any overt acts. Mrs. Teresi took a zig-zag route to her friend's house but was unable to evade the following vehicle. When she stopped at her friend's house, the vehicle which had been following her passed and she did not see it again. Mrs. Teresi had no further information about this car or the driver.

On June 16, Mrs. Teresi contacted investigators by telephone and reported that on June 15 at approximately 7:00 p.m. a female Caucasian approximately twenty-five years of age had knocked on her door and attempted to engage her in conversation. Mrs. Teresi refused to open the door. The female remained standing in front of Mrs. Teresi's apartment for approximately five minutes and then left on foot.

On June 18, 1968, at 6:00 a.m. Mrs. Teresi contacted investigators by telephone and stated she had received a threatening note. During the conversation she was crying. She stated that she was very frightened. It appeared to investigator that she was in a highly emotional state of mind. She refused to discuss the details of the incident by telephone and asked the investigator to come to her home as soon as possible.

When the investigator arrived at Mrs. Teresi's home, she showed him a photograph that had been clipped from a local newspaper. This photo showed Senator Kennedy lying on the floor of the kitchen

at the Ambassador Hotel following the shooting. The word "triumph" appeared at the top of the picture and attached to the photo with scotch tape were additional words apparently clipped from newsprint. These words were "Don't talk or I do anything to prevent it." Mrs. Teresi stated that upon arising at 6:00 a.m., she had discovered the clipping on the living room floor inside the front door. She assumed that it had been slipped under the door during the night.

The Polygraph Examination

During this interview, it was suggested to Mrs. Teresi that it might be helpful if she would submit to a polygraph examination. She consented to do so.

During the examination, Mrs. Teresi was questioned regarding the statements she had made about the three men in the car and about the threatening note. Some of the questions were: "Did you see a man with a gun on Monday, the day before Senator Kennedy was shot?" "Did you see Sirhan on Monday, the day before Senator Kennedy was shot?" "Is everything that you have told the police the truth?" To these questions she replied, "Yes." To the questions: "Do you know who made this note?" and "Did you make this note?" she replied, "No." The results of the examination indicated that Mrs. Teresi was not being truthful when she answered the questions.

Mrs. Teresi's Admission of Fabricating Incidents

At the conclusion of the interview, Mrs. Teresi was confronted with the results. She became very emotional and admitted that

her entire story was false. She stated that none of the incidents which she had related to investigators had actually occurred. She also admitted that she had constructed the "threatening note" herself.

During the post examination interview, Mrs. Teresi stated that she was ashamed of what she had done and sorry for the trouble she had caused. The only justification she could offer was that prior to the shooting of Senator Kennedy she feared for his safety and when the shooting actually occurred, she wanted to do whatever she could to assure that the incident would be thoroughly investigated.

Background Information

During the investigation, the following was disclosed: Mrs. Teresi is a female Caucasian, 5-7½, 127, blonde hair, green eyes, date of birth [REDACTED]. She shares an apartment at 714 3/4 North St. Andrews Place with her mother Mary Luckenback.

She is married to Tony Teresi who has been in the Army for approximately three months and is presently stationed at Ft. Ord, California. Mr. Teresi is attempting to get a discharge from the army. Mrs. Teresi would not discuss his reason for doing so. She works on a part-time basis for Affiliated Artists Agency at 1136 North La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles. She stated that she is not a member of any political organization. She was a supporter of Senator Kennedy but had done no campaign work for him.

She is a pacifist and often makes peace and love posters which