

*Vol. 14*

*56-156*

*Serial 2851-3001*

Department of Justice

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COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
*James Earl Ray*

**INVESTIGATION**

Bureau File Number *62-587*

**DO NOT DESTROY - 277 210**

**PENDING LITIGATION 277 167**

*189, 198, 167, 277, 277B, 67, 210*  
See also Nos. *277, 279*

*104*

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DATE: *3/18/2025*

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6-12720

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Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #
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Vol. 14

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 5/7/69

FROM : SA R. J. LA JEUNESSE, JR.

SUBJECT: KENSALT

On 5/5/69, pursuant to a request on the part of PETE NOYES, a conference was held in the Office of the U.S. Attorney W. MATTHEW BYRNE. Present during the discussion were Mr. NOYES, who is Managing Editor of KNXT TV (Channel 2) which is a CBS owned affiliate, with offices at 6121 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, California (tepehone 469-1212). JACK FOX, also of KNXT TV, accompanied Mr. NOYES, and AUSA ROBERT L. BROSIO, the writer, and U.S. Attorney BYRNE were present.

NOYES explained that he had been attempting to contact Mr. BYRNE for quite some period of time, relative to information he and FOX had developed, which might possibly be pertinent to the current investigation being conducted, surrounding the assassination of the late ROBERT F. KENNEDY. At the outset of the discussion, NOYES mentioned the names of JAMES M. ARNOFF, GERALD CHASE and WALLACE WHITE. He stated these men occupy a business address at 280 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California, room 402. He explained that ARNOFF was involved in the recent investigation conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, pertaining to the TOM SHEPPARD case. He also mentioned the name of EUGENE HALE BRADING, also known as (aka) Jim Braden and Gene Bradley. He explained that BRADING, on 9/10/63, officially advised the Department of Motor Vehicles, in California, that he had legally changed his name to JIM BRADEN.

BRADEN, according to NOYES, is personally known to Sheriff WILLIAM DECKER of Dallas, Texas, and was personally run out of Dallas by DECKER in 1952.

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*recovered*  
*Desk #4*  
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*56-156-2857*  
*RL La fol*  
*RH PI*  
*La Jeunesse*

Xerox copies made & routed  
To desk 6 & Desk 4 5/13/69

*Desk #6*  
*note ref to*  
*5/13/69*

*Secure copy of Paul report on this & furnish to...*

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NOYES claims to have had access to the arrest record of BRADEN and the last reported arrest was in 1964, at which time he was charged with shoplifting.

NOYES explained that BRADEN was present in Dallas, Texas on the day that President JOHN F. KENNEDY was assassinated, and was present in either the Texas Book Depository building, or a building across the street from it.

NOYES went on to explain that one VICTOR EMANUEL PERERERIA was a friend and associate of BRADEN in Texas, and associated with the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and is now in Denver, Colorado. Both BRADEN and PERERERIA were referred to by NOYES as the "Lovebird Swindlers", and are known as such to Sheriff DECKER of Texas.

NOYES cited a situation whereby one Mrs. GERTRUDE JOYCE, a wealthy New Mexico widow, married PERERERIA. PERERERIA, according to NOYES, married Mrs. JOYCE to get to her immense fortune. BRADEN and PERERERIA were subsequently arrested by the FBI in New York City, where they were in the process of preparing another marriage scam. Both were returned to El Paso, Texas, where they stood trial in Federal Court; were found guilty, and sentenced to serve 12 years in the penitentiary. The case was appealed during which time both BRADEN and PERERERIA were free on appeal bond, and during the investigation and or prosecution of these two men, Mrs. JOYCE divorced PERERERIA. According to NOYES, the case was subsequently reviewed by the United States Supreme Court, and the conviction of PERERERIA reversed, presumably because of his marital status to Mrs. JOYCE. The conviction of BRADEN was allowed to stand, and he subsequently served a prison sentence in several federal institutions.

In approximately 1952, PERERERIA married a Mrs. A.D. LITTLE, who was the widow of the former president of the Magnolia Petroleum Company in Cheyenne, Wyoming. BRADEN was his best man at the wedding, following which all three went to Dallas, Texas, where they occupied a residence on Turtle Creek Road, in the University Park area of Dallas.

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According to NOYES, BRADEN is know to FORREST KEENE, Chief of Police of the University Park, Texas Police Department.

With respect to GERALD CHASE, mentioned above, NOYES characterized him as an accountant who was tied to the TOM SHEPPARD investigation and was a partner in the Big A Department Store, along with WALLACE WHITE and J.M. ARNOFF. During the investigation of the THOMAS SHEPPARD case by Los Angeles authorities, according to NOYES, it was determined that Big A Department Stores desired a two million dollar loan and ARNOFF allegedly had to pay \$20,000 to some unknown person for the alleged cooperation of Mayor SAM YORTY, in order to get the loan. It is not known to NOYES who the \$20,000 went to, but he suggested a possibility being MEL PIERSON. PIERSON is currently under prosecution by Los Angeles County authorities.

In their investigation, NOYES stated he and FOX have determined that JIM BRADEN is alleged to be running a gambling operation in Beverly Hills, California, presumably at 280 South Beverly Drive, which is the office of ARNOFF, CHASE and WHITE. They have determined that BRADEN renewed his California Driver's License in Oceanside, California, in 1966. They have also determined that there is in existence the name of a company known as Empire Oil, which name was used by the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and the address given was 280 South Beverly Drive, room 402, again the offices of ARNOFF, CHASE, and WHITE.

NOYES stated the files of Dun and Bradstreet reflect that JIM BRADEN is engaged in the oil property leasing, and or managing business; is married, and is in his mid 40s.

During the course of the discussion, noyes mentioned that Al Fatah, an Arab Intelligence Organization, has come into their inquiry. He stated he has discussed the foregoing with the Deputy Chief, ROBERT HOUGHTON, of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). According to NOYES, HOUGHTON

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stated that if the existence of Al Fatah could be established further investigation would then have to be conducted by the LAPD. NOYES stated that Dr. SALRI EL FARRA is the head of Al Fatah in Los Angeles; has an office on Hollywood Boulevard, is the CBS "house doctor" and as such, has an office at the CBS studio. He also has an uncle with the Lebanese Delegation to the United Nations, New York.

NOYES explained that he has learned information from an extremely confidential source who he characterized as the "ex-head" of the Black Panthers, in Los Angeles. He stated that his source was present at a Black Panther meeting on Central Avenue, in Los Angeles, one month prior to the assassination of ROBERT KENNEDY. According to NOYES, his source told him that SIRHAN was present at the meeting. The source specifically stated to NOYES that he recalled SIRHAN because SIRHAN gave his name, at that time, as "SIRHAN SIRHAN", which the source thought this was unusual. NOYES further characterized the former Black Panther member as a college graduate, who is in hiding, because of suspected reprisals he believes will befall him by his former Black Panther associates. NOYES has attempted to obtain employment for his source in the KNXT studio, but has been unsuccessful in doing so, to date.

NOYES advised he has been contacted by ROBERT KAISER, a member of the SIRHAN defense team, who is currently writing a book. NOYES explained that KAISER told him he had seven reasons for feeling that a conspiracy existed in connection with the assassination of ROBERT KENNEDY. According to NOYES, KAISER was desirous of exchanging information with him concerning the results of their respective investigations. NOYES readily admitted KAISER is in an enviable position concerning the obtaining of information since he has had access to all of the defense files, as well as interviews with SIRHAN and members of his family.

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Consideration may be given as to why MICHAEL MC COWAN was specifically selected as the defense investigator in the SIRHAN investigation.

According to NOYES, MC COWAN is a former member of the LAPD, and when employed as such, became involved along with numerous police officers, in land purchase swindles in the San Fernando Valley area. One of the individuals behind that particular operation is one DAVID KASAB, an Arab, who was subsequently prosecuted by Los Angeles authorities. When the Internal Affairs Bureau of the LAPD conducted an inquiry into the alleged activities of MC COWAN, he immediately tendered his resignation from the LAPD.

NOYES also expressed considerable suspicion as to how and why RUSSELL PARSONS was selected to represent SIRHAN in the recent trial. He stated that it has come to his attention that PARSONS had a considerable dislike for ROBERT KENNEDY, because of KENNEDY's alleged investigation of PARSONS when he, KENNEDY, was with the United States Senate Rackets Committee.

NOYES also advised that he has listened studiously and many times to the tape recording made of the interview with SIRHAN by Dr. DIAMOND, at which time SIRHAN was under hypnosis. One of the names mentioned by SIRHAN, while under hypnosis, was "KATHLEEN". According to NOYES, when the name of "KATHLEEN" was mentioned by SIRHAN, Dr. DIAMOND immediately made a reference to one KATHLEEN RAFFERTY, not further identified, by NOYES. NOYES suggested that the "KATHLEEN" mentioned by SIRHAN could be a reference to the late KATHY FULMER, recently found a victim of an overdose of narcotics in a Los Angeles motel, and who dies in the Los Angeles County General Hospital. On the morning that FULMER died at the hospital, JACK FOX received anonymous telephone call advising him that KATHY FULMER was dead. The anonymous caller furnished no further information and the caller has not been identified. NOYES has determined that one JOSE ONILLA visited FULMER while she was in the hospital and prior to her death. He did not, however, have an opportunity to talk with her since she was comatose, and never regained consciousness before she died.

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With respect to the recent prosecutive activities conducted by District Attorney JIM GARRISON of New Orleans, Louisiana, NOYES suggested that GARRISON failed in his prosecutive efforts because the EUGENE BRADLEY of North Hollywood which GARRISON suspected was in reality JIM BRADEN, mentioned above, who has also used the alias of Gene Bradley.

NOYES explained that on the day of the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY, in Dallas, BRADEN was present in that city, was interviewed by a Deputy Sheriff of the Dallas Sheriff's Office, at which time he advised that he had been in the Texas Book Depository building or some other building, attempting to make a telephone call.

Upon learning of the foregoing, NOYES telephonically contacted Sheriff BILL DECKER of Dallas, approximately one week ago, at which time DECKER expressed surprise to be advised that BRADEN had been in Dallas on the day of the assassination. NOYES desired to know if JIM BRADEN and EUGENE HALE BRADING were known to authorities to be one in the same person. Since the writer was not knowledgeable concerning the two names, no comment was made regarding that specific question.

The foregoing is being made the subject of this memorandum, for whatever possible future value it may have.

FBI

Date: 5/9/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (56-156)  
FROM : SAC, Indianapolis (62-1957) (P)

KENSALT

OO - LA

Re LA airtel to IP, CG, PD and WFO, 4/22/69.

All persons mentioned on Pages 2 and 3 of FD-302 regarding interview with CHARLES D. WHITE, enclosure to referenced airtel, were in the immediate area of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, at the time of the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and should be interviewed if interview not already conducted.

CHICAGO, at Chicago, Illinois, will interview RUSS DAVIS and KATHY CWIK.

WASHINGTON FIELD, at Washington, D. C., will interview JOE HIGDEN and KENNETH F. FUSSELL.

INDIANAPOLIS will handle interviews of individuals at Evansville and St. Meinrad, Indiana.

- 2 - Los Angeles
- 2 - Chicago
- 1 - Portland (Info)
- 2 - Washington Field
- 2 - Indianapolis

RJE:fjm  
(9)

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Approved: [Signature] Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney  
600 Hall of Justice  
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman  
News Secretary  
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., April 30,  
1969 After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #47

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 47th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, APRIL 21 -- Jurors in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case deliberated for two hours and 25 minutes today, without reaching a decision on whether the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy should face death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment.

Arguments and legal advice concluded at 11:49 a.m. today, after the jurors heard from Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, defense lawyers Grant B. Cooper and Russell B. Parsons and the defendant's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

Howard, citing 10 months of special precaution to insure a fair trial for Sirhan, told the jury that now that he has been convicted of first-degree murder, "he has no special claim to further preservation."

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"Without asking for a death verdict in so many words, Howard made it clear that was what the prosecution sought as he urged the jury

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'that each of you in your hearts have the courage of your convictions, the courage to write the end to this trial and to apply the only proper penalty for political assassination in the United States of America.'

"Howard, in a brief argument, told the jury:

"'Mitigation of political assassination to any degree sooner or later spell an end to the traditional democratic election process we now enjoy.'

"Howard conceded that Sirhan is mentally ill and said, 'We have never disputed that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is abnormal -- only the extent of his abnormality, and its legal significance, if any.'

"But, said Howard:

"'You should be reminded that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan reached this shore at the indulgence of a nation which takes pride in providing refuge to the oppressed. There may well be a substantial number in this courtroom who need look no farther back than one generation to find themselves.. strangers in a new society which offered greater opportunity for the individual to achieve success within the limits of his capacities. For this defendant, that was not enough.

"'History may well record that but for this defendant, Sen. Kennedy might have succeeded to the highest honor and responsibility which the American democratic process can bestow.

"'Beyond doubt, the tragedy which occurred in the early morning hours of June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel was politically motivated. The question now to be resolved is the proper penalty for political assassination in the United States.'

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"Howard reminded the jurors they had been asked to consider what 200 such assassinations might do to the country, then added: 'A half-dozen would suffice to leave this country bereft of democratically endorsed leadership.'

"Sirhan has shown no remorse, Howard said, adding, 'Perhaps you observed his reaction when Attorney Russell Parsons, in his address to you, urged in all sincerity that Americans pray for the ill-starred Kennedy family.' (Sirhan smiled and covered his mouth). You could not have failed to observe the defendant's smile when he declared from the witness stand, 'I don't know who shot Kennedy.'"

The same newspaper (Times) reported as follows on remarks made by Cooper, Parsons and Mrs. Sirhan:

"Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper urged the jury, 'as a kind of posthumous tribute to Sen. Kennedy,' to spare Sirhan's life.

"In a quiet, final plea for mercy for Kennedy's murderer, Cooper read from Kennedy's own statement of April 5 -- one day after (Martin Luther) King's death, and exactly two months before he himself was fatally shot.

"Cooper told the jury that Kennedy told a crowd in Cleveland:

"'Whenever any American's life is taken by another American unnecessarily -- whether it is done in the name of the law or in the defiance of law, by one man or a gang, in cold blood or in passion, in an attack of violence or in response to violence...the whole nation is degraded...'

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"...We must recognize that this short life can neither be enobled nor enriched by hatred or revenge. Our lives on this planet are too short and the work to be done too great to let this spirit flourish any longer in our land..."

"Cooper said that he believed that if Kennedy himself had been in the courtroom Monday, he would have asked the jury to spare Sirhan's life.

"In a dramatic closing moment, Cooper turned to face the tiny Palestinian Arab, who sat chewing gum, his eyes large and somber, and told him:

"And now, Sirhan Sirhan, I've done all the best that I could do for you..."

"Shifting his gaze to Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 56, in the second row of the court, Cooper said, 'Mary Sirhan, I now entrust the life of your son to this American jury. And, Mary Sirhan may your prayers be answered.'

"Mrs. Sirhan was the only witness in the penalty phase of the trial. Cooper called her to the stand and asked just one question: 'In his entire life before the shooting, has Sirhan ever been in trouble with the law?'

"Mrs. Sirhan answered in a solemn voice: 'He has never been. And that is not from me and not from him. This is because I raise him up under the law of God and in His love.'

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"Cooper stressed repeatedly that while the law prescribes either death or life imprisonment for first-degree murder, the law states no preference.

"If Kennedy's life must be avenged, Cooper suggested, Sirhan's conviction and a sentence of life imprisonment is vengeance enough.

"To execute Sirhan cannot bring Kennedy back, Cooper said, but to sentence Sirhan to life in the California Medical Facility at Vacaville would enable penologists and psychiatrists to study the defendant, to see 'what more can be learned about the human mind, and what makes people want to kill.'

"Such a study, Cooper said, could help prevent further such crimes as Sirhan's.

"Copper's plea followed an impassioned plea for mercy by defense attorney Russell E. Parsons, who told the jurors that a verdict of death would be, in effect, telling the world that justice isn't possible in America.

"'This man is sick,' said Parsons, 'and I don't believe we've got to the bottom rung yet, where we execute sick people in California.'

"To do so, he said, would be 'to follow Hitler, who believed in killing the lame, the halt and the sick.'"

Reported another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner):

"The jurors asked for nothing -- nor did they seek any further advice from (Superior) Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding, over the trial, during their afternoon session.

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"At 3:50 p.m., Sheriff's Inspector William Conroy told waiting newsmen the jurors were retiring for the night.

"He disclosed that they had chosen Dr. Bruce D. Elliott as their foreman. Dr. Elliott, TRW Systems programmer, an emigrant from the Middle West, also presided over the jury when it found Sirhan guilty of first-degree murder in the June 5, 1968, Ambassador Hotel shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

"At that time the jury had a number of choices ranging from first-degree murder through manslaughter to an acquittal -- which no one sought.

"Should it be unable to agree on either, the choice could be left to Judge Walker. State and defendant alike could choose him to select the penalty.

"Sirhan awaits his fate in the isolation cell on the Hall of Justice's 13th floor, where he has been confined for the past 10 months.

"He sat there... clad only in underwear staring at the barred door of his cell and the armor plate which covers its windows. He had no visitors and spoke only briefly to the squad of sheriff's deputies who keep him under constant surveillance.

"His only relative in the heavily-guarded courtroom was his brother, Adel. Another brother, Munir, had taken his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, home.

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TUESDAY, APRIL 22 -- The jury in the Sirhan B. Sirhan murder trial deliberated for two and one-half hours today and then returned to their quarters in a Los Angeles hotel.

They have deliberated on the penalty for Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, a total of eight hours and 44 minutes today and yesterday.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner):

"Court attaches pooh-poohed speculation" late today "that the jury was deadlocked. There is, they averred, no set of standards by which to judge a murder jury.

"But the strain of the long deliberation showed on their faces as it did on the faces of the jurors who were bundled into a barred Sheriff's Department bus at 4 p.m. for the trip to the Biltmore Hotel where they are quartered.

"Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel, was clearly disturbed. He told newsmen:

"It is obvious there are people on the jury who are demanding that Sirhan get the death penalty. Whether they are in a minority or a majority, I have no idea."

"Equally disturbed was Adel Sirhan, the defendant's 30-year old brother. Only member of the family to wait out the jury in the grim, armor-plated eighth floor Hall of Justice courtroom, the nattily dressed Arab immigrant said:

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"I have run out of patience."

The same newspaper said, "It is believed they (the jurors) have taken several ballots. Law requires that their verdict -- life or death -- be unanimous. There is no majority rule in the decision as to whether a man convicted of first-degree murder shall live out his life in prison or die in the gas chamber.

"Should the jurors be unable to agree, the procedure would be as follows:

"Judge (Herbert V.) Walker would have to summon them into court to inquire of them how the matter stood. This could involve a poll of the 12 as to their position on life or death.

"If he determined the jury to be hopelessly deadlocked he could then:

"Ordain a life sentence for Sirhan.

"Call for a new penalty jury, which would have to hear the arguments in the case in reprise.

"Enter into an agreement with defense and prosecution lawyers by which they left the issue of penalty up to him."

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was sentenced today to death in the gas chamber for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The jury, composed of seven men and five women, signaled it had reached a verdict at 11:04 a.m., after 12 hours deliberation since the penalty phase began at noon Monday.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"The 25-year old Palestinian's face was ashen but impassive as he heard the death verdict. Moments later he told his visibly shaken defense attorney, Grant B. Cooper, 'Don't be concerned. Even Jesus Christ couldn't have saved me.'"

Appeal of a death sentence is automatic in California and Sirhan's defense said it will stay with his case through the appeal," according to Dave Simth, staff writer for the newspaper.

Meanwhile, the same newspaper reported that "the final life-or-death decision concerning" Sirhan "may be made by Gov. Reagan, who has the power either to commute the death penalty to life in prison, or to grant an outright pardon.

"The governor, who has publicly expressed the view that the death penalty is a deterrent to crime, has used this power only once since taking office.

"He commuted the sentence of condemned slayer Calvin Thompson on grounds that psychiatrists said the prisoner was a mental defective.

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"Two months earlier, on April 2, 1967, he refused clemency for Aaron Mitchell, who was executed for the murder of a Sacramento policeman.

"Mitchell was the last man executed in California. There are 81 men now on San Quentin's death row and 500 are awaiting execution in the nation.

The jury entered the courtroom of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker at 11:34 a.m. today and the judge asked, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have a verdict?"

"We have, your honor," said the foreman, Bruce D. Elliott.

Reported Smith in the newspaper:

"He (Elliott) handed the verdict to bailiff Willard Polhemus, who passed it to Judge Walker.

"The 69-year old jurist, presiding over his final and most celebrated case before retiring in July, scanned the verdict and handed it to court clerk Alice Nishikawa, who read aloud:

"The people versus Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. We, the jury, in the above entitled action, having found the defendant guilty of murder in the first-degree as charged...now fix the penalty as death."

"She paused, then continued, 'Is this your verdict, ladies and gentlemen of the jury? So say you one, so say you all?'

"The jury unanimously spoke its assent. Polled individually, each juror replied firmly, 'Yes.'

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"Sirhan, chewing gum, as he had last Thursday when the first-degree murder verdict was returned, paled as he listened to the jurors affirm their belief that he should die for the assassination of the New York senator.

"Less than five minutes before, he had entered the courtroom trailing smoke from one last puff on a cigaret and smiling boyishly at co-defense counsel Russell E. Parsons.

"Others were more visibly affected by the verdict.

"Cooper, 66, who never had a death verdict returned against one of his clients before Wednesday, appeared on the verge of tears. His eyes reddened and his jaw muscles twitched as he gave notice in a husky voice of a motion for a new trial.

"Judge Walker set a hearing on Cooper's motion for May 14."

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) related that Cooper "would seek the new trial on the basis of errors he claims the judge made during the lengthy trial."

Wrote John Douglas, staff writer:

"Two of these, the grizzled defense lawyer said, were:

"The judge's refusal to dismiss the indictment against Sirhan after Cooper charged that the Grand Jury which returned it was unrepresentative.

"Walker's denial of defense attempts to let the jury know that Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger had once agreed to let the young Arab plead

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guilty to first-degree murder in consideration of a guaranteed life sentence.

"This will be the first of a long series of moves on Sirhan's behalf. There is also every indication that Cooper and his associate, Russell E. Parsons, will carry the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Appeal time could easily run several years and be further lengthened by stays of execution.

"Judge Walker also has the power to reduce the jury's verdict to life imprisonment. This is considered unlikely. Walker has handled 19 death penalty cases in his more than 16 years on the bench. In only one of these cases has he reduced the verdict."

After the verdict was returned, both the prosecution and defense held press conferences.

Coverage of the prosecution conference in the Los Angeles Times by Ron Einstoss, staff writer, included the following:

"Sirhan B. Sirhan's own conduct during his trial, as much as the enormity of the crime, may have been the decisive factor which led the jury to return a death penalty verdict.

"That was the opinion Wednesday of Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, who headed the three-man team which prosecuted the 25-year old Palestinian Arab.

"Asked following the return of the indictment whether anything at the trial might have given him reason to believe a death penalty verdict would be returned, Compton said:

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"I don't believe the defendant's conduct was such as to evoke sympathy or endear him to the jury."

"Compton obviously based his evaluation on the fact that in death penalty cases juries often are swayed by the personal actions and testimony of the defendants as they are by the evidence against them.

"Compton said he felt the verdict was 'proper' and that it expressed the jury's attitude toward 'this particular crime.'

"It also, according to the prosecutor, was the one 'the great majority of the American people' who, he said, favor capital punishment would have voted for if they had been sitting on the jury.

"In the opinion of Compton, a veteran of many death penalty cases, the jury's verdict may serve as a deterrent to others who consider violence to accomplish their ends.

"I hope it is a deterrent...I hope it puts people on notice that we simply can't tolerate this kind of action as solution to our political or social problems," he declared.

"It was left to Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, who with Compton and Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard prosecuted Sirhan, to comment on the psychiatric testimony on which the defense relied heavily to save Sirhan's life.

"In this case, to some extent," said Fitts, "it (the testimony)" was not as worthy of respect as I might have anticipated when the trial began."

"Howard, a great admirer of Sen. Kennedy, offered no comment following the verdict.

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"On Monday in his argument to the jury, Howard had asked that the jurors have 'the courage to write the end to this trial and to apply the only proper penalty for political assassination in the United States of America.

"Compton, asked to speculate on whether Sirhan would ever be executed, said that based on 'the pattern of these things' in recent years, 'I don't think it would be in the very near future.'"

At the press conference held by the defense, and reported in the Los Angeles Times by Lee Dye, staff writer, Cooper said the jury was deciding issues.. far greater than the trial itself.

He said that jurors were influenced by student and civil unrest across the country and by the identity of the victim.

Continued Dye:

"He said several times during the press conference that he was not charging that the jurors had been unfair, but he said that 'the underlying feeling of the entire United States (regarding unrest in the universities and civil disobedience) caused a backlash that has seeped into the minds of the jurors.

"The jurors are governed by the same emotions -- love and hate -- that you and I have, and they can't help but be affected by unrest,' Cooper said.

"Russell E. Parsons, Cooper's associate in the defense of Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, made several emotional statements much to the same effect.

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"'Things are bad in this country,' Parsons said, in reference to the unrest and lawlessness, 'and it's very difficult to get a fair trial.'

"Cooper then repeated his claim that no member of the defense team was saying that Sirhan did not have a fair trial.

"Cooper said the identity of Sirhan's victim greatly influenced the outcome of the trial."

He told reporters: "Of course, I am disappointed. I believed in our defense, and I believed he should not be executed. I feel very bad."

One juror, George Stitzel, told reporters, "As long as we have capital punishment what other crime would justify it if this didn't".

"That seemed to be the general feeling Wednesday of the seven-man, five-woman jury who decided the fate of Sirhan B. Sirhan," reported David Larsen, staff writer, in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

He continued:

"From the start, most of the jurors favored a conviction on first-degree murder, Stitzel revealed. It was then a matter of converting those few who leaned to a verdict of second-degree murder.

"Stitzel, a pressroom supervisor at the Times, said five formal ballots were taken during the 12 hours of the penalty deliberations, although oral votes were taken from time to time to see how the count stood.

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"What did the jury feel was the most damaging evidence against Sirhan?

"As far as I was concerned, it was the notebook," said Stitzel, referring to the writings of the defendant that 'Kennedy must die.'

"What about the psychiatric evidence?

"Stitzel said the jury felt Sirhan was mentally ill, but not to a degree that would affect the verdict.

"I think the jury took the testimony of the psychiatrists and psychologists into consideration fairly," he said.

"Was the jury convinced that Sirhan had lied?

"I think they believed he told lies," the juror replied.

"Did his courtroom outbursts have any effect?

"No."

"As were other jurors, he was startled when informed of a deal that had at one time been made between the defense and prosecution, a piece of information that the panel hadn't received.

"The defense was willing to enter a plea of guilty to first-degree murder with the understanding that Sirhan would receive a life sentence, an arrangement to which the prosecution had agreed, feeling they might have a hard time convincing the jury that the defendant deserved to die for his crime.

"Judge Walker, however, rejected the bargain.

"When Stitzel was asked what penalty he would have favored

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if he had known this, he replied: 'I honestly don't know.' That was the same reaction of Bruce D. Elliott, a systems analyst and the foreman of the jury.

"Another juror, Gilbert Grace, a city Water and Power Department employee, said 'the victim could have been anyone' and the verdict would have been the same. 'It was just the circumstances of the crime,' he said.

"Benjamin Glick, retail clothier and the only Jew on the panel hearing the case of the Arab defendant, said he feels the verdict 'expresses my opinion for American justice.'

"Albert N. Frederico, a plumber, made no secret of his feelings about the psychiatric testimony.

"All those psychiatrists -- they really had us all stirred up,' he said. 'It was confusing. It stunk.'"

In conclusions, Stitzel told reporters:

"We felt we should stand behind our laws. There seems to be a tendency in some areas not to do this."

In addition to the slaying of the senator, Sirhan was charged with assault with a deadly weapon to commit murder on five others.

Ira Goldstein, 20, said, "Death is too good for him. It would be better for him to stay in jail for good and know why he's there."

William Weisel, 31, said, "I think the trial brought out that the shooting was premeditated, and in a case like that, I think the death penalty is the proper penalty."

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Mrs. Arthur W. Evans, 43, declined comment because she has a legal suit pending against Sirhan.

Paul Schrade, 44, and Irwin Stroll, 17, were not available for comment.

\* \* \*

THURSDAY, APRIL 24 -- Costs of Sirhan's arrest, investigation, security, trial and conviction "have soared to nearly \$1 million," a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) reported today.

Noted the article:

"By the time the Superior Court jury arrived at its death verdict to end the penalty phase of the trial yesterday, more than \$900,000 had been spent by the city and county of Los Angeles and the city of Pasadena since Sirhan's arrest last June 5.

"Costs continued to mount today as Sirhan's lawyers prepared to appeal the first-degree murder conviction and the death penalty verdict."

The same newspaper, in a story by Myrna Oliver, staff writer, commented that Sirhan "pallid and drawn" has not seen the sun for 10 months and will soon be "on his way to the California Medical Facility at Vacaville or to death row at San Quentin.

"Even if the ultimate sentence is death, Sirhan may still spend but a short time in San Quentin where he would be scheduled to die in the state's apple-green gas chamber.

"A bill now pending in the California State Legislature would allow Sirhan to await his death in a special three-room suite already

abstract...

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constructed for him at Vacaville.

"Philip D. Guthrie, spokesman for the State Department of Corrections, indicated the department hopes the Legislature grants permission to house Sirhan at Vacaville while he awaits the death penalty.

"We think we could do a better job (of protecting Sirhan) if he goes to Vacaville,' he said.

"Special protection is needed for Sirhan because authorities say it is dangerous for him to be mixed with hardened prisoners who have violent feelings about the assassination of the New York senator.

"Guthrie, who said many prisoners -- including informers, homosexuals and former police officers -- remain in protective custody at all times, added in an understatement:

"The prison population is probably more inclined toward violence than the general population.'

"He said the 'really unprecedented notoriety' of Sirhan's case had caused the state to seek special protection for him."

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FRIDAY, APRIL 25 -- The request of Grant B. Cooper, one of three attorneys representing Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, to change the date when arguments on a series of defense motions and formal sentencing will take place was granted by Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, representing the prosecution, did not oppose the request for a change.

The new date is May 21, instead of May 14, as originally requested by Cooper, after the jury returned a death penalty verdict last week.

Today's court session was held in a makeshift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice -- the scene of earlier pre-trial matters -- and took five minutes.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"Sirhan was smiling much of the time. He grinned at the 40 spectators, about evenly divided between newsmen and security officers, and acknowledged his brother, Munir, the only member of his family present, by lip-speaking to him."

Cooper told newsmen that Sirhan "feels pretty good" and that he is hopeful the judge will grant him a new trial or reduce his penalty to life in prison.

Cooper also related that Sirhan "is still holding up like a man" and said Sirhan objected to Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard's penalty

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argument in which the prosecutor said he showed no remorse over his act.

The attorney added that Sirhan told him, he "broke down and cried like a baby when he heard Kennedy had died."

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) quoted Cooper as stating he and Russell E. Parsons, another attorney, told Sirhan, "This is a fine time to be telling us that."

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) published the following editorial on the case:

"The jury that convicted Sirhan Sirhan of the willful and pre-meditated murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has now determined that he should be executed for this crime.

"This is not, to be sure, the final word on the case. The law provides for an extensive appeals process, and at some point higher authority may commute Sirhan's sentence to something other than death in the gas chamber.

"The long, costly and thorough trial which has just ended can properly be regarded as justice exercised as it should be.

"Within our legal system this is not something that should cause special comment. Yet, in view of how other cases involving notorious political murders have recently been handled -- one thinks of the Oswald-Ruby circus in Dallas and the abortive James Earl Ray trial in Memphis -- the conduct of the Sirhan case is a source of some satisfaction.

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"Judge Herbert Walker's decision early in the proceedings not to permit Sirhan to plead guilty and thereby obviate a full trial was sound. The defense and prosecution had agreed on a plea of guilty to first-degree murder, with an understanding that a life sentence would be imposed.

"But Judge Walker said no. He wanted a full trial, with all evidence presented and all witnesses heard.

"Sirhan thus had his day in court, and the requirements of justice were served. No grounds were provided for any charges of conspiracy or coverup that would predictably have resulted if the trial had been ended abruptly. Sirhan's rights were fully and scrupulously heeded.

"Of equal importance, so were the rights of the People.

"The jury's findings of first-degree murder was based on overwhelming evidence of premeditation, and its imposition of the death penalty was in keeping with the law. In California, the alternative penalty, life imprisonment, really is not that at all.

"Parole is possible within as few as seven years. Sirhan is not the sort of man most persons would want free in society again.

"During the trial questions were raised, and remain, about Sirhan's mental state. The contradictory testimony of expert psychiatric witnesses did little to resolve these questions. What did emerge clearly is that Sirhan is a wretched and ultimately pathetic little man, who would have remained deservedly obscure except for the tragedy he caused. That tragedy cannot be erased.

"One can only pray that others like it can be prevented."

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney  
600 Hall of Justice  
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman  
News Secretary  
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., May 7, 1969  
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #48

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 48th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, APRIL 28 -- The California Federation of Young Democrats meeting in Los Angeles have adopted a resolution calling for life in prison for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who has been condemned to death for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"About 200 delegates to the quarterly meeting adopted the resolution asking the court to commute the sentence."

Sen. Kennedy was slain by Sirhan on June 5, 1968, after Kennedy was successful in California's Democratic Presidential primary election.

Sirhan was found guilty of first-degree murder by a jury and also condemned to death by the same jury.

Arguments for a new trial and formal sentencing is expected to take place in the courtroom of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker on May 21.

"Rumors" of possible prison retaliation against Sirhan B. Sirhan were disclosed today by an official of the state's prison system, accord-

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*Boyd*

ing to United Press International.

Lawrence E. Wilson, deputy director of the State Department of Corrections, told newsmen the hints were "nothing that you could put your finger on."

The prison official spoke with newsmen in Sacramento after a State Assembly committee rejected the state's request to house Sirhan, convicted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, in a special high-security call at the Vacaville Medical Facility.

Continued the UPI story:

"Sirhan, a Jordanian immigrant, was condemned to the San Quentin gas chamber last Wednesday in the assassination of Sen. Kennedy, gunned down as he celebrated victory in California's 1968 primary election.

"Phillip D. Guthrie, spokesman for the Department of Corrections, told newsmen Sirhan would be confined at San Quentin.

"At San Quentin, the state's maximum security prison north of San Francisco, the state plans to establish what Wilson called a "buffer zone" for Sirhan that would place him in the middle cell of three and keep the two on either side empty.

"He will be totally isolated,' Guthrie said.

"Guthrie noted that the 79 prisoners now on death row must walk across an open prison 'yard' -- a huge area where inmates get exercise in full view of other inmates.

"It is right through the main compound -- right through the

more --

entire population,' Wilson said. He said Sirhan would be escorted 'fore and aft' in front and to the rear -- by security guards and have special guards in his cell block."

Meanwhile, a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) said Guthrie indicated that the department wanted to keep Sirhan at Vacaville because the department is "less well suited at San Quentin to exert the precautions that will be necessary."

5/9/69

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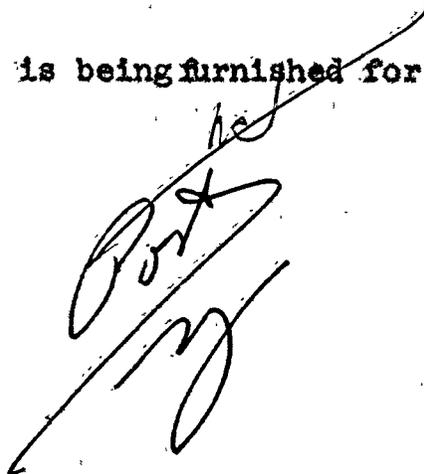
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)  
RE: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 4/25/69 .

RE: WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE FROM  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Attached herewith are two copies of two separate weekly summaries of information prepared for the benefit of the news media by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, one dated 4/30/69 and the second dated 5/7/69.

The above is being furnished for the information of the Bureau.

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly "Port", is written over a diagonal line. Above the signature, the word "re:" is written in small letters.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
1 - Los Angeles

AOR/bje  
(3)

# THE LOST SIGNIFICANCE OF SIRHAN'S CASE



● الخيام والبؤس والمرض والذل

- Tents, misery, disease and humiliation.
- Zelte, Elend, Krankheit und Erniedrigung.
- Les tentes, la misère, la maladie et l'avanie.



"The official transcript of Sirhan's testimony  
on the Palestine problem with a forward  
written by a member of the Defense Team."

● ●

PREPARED BY  
**ORGANIZATION OF ARAB STUDENTS**

University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, California

## FOREWORD

The *New York Times* of February 22, 1969, in an editorial entitled THE PALESTINIAN DIASPORA stated, in a moment of profound clarity, and, in a sense, reflecting the nagging reality that Israel will have no peace until the Palestinian people are allowed to return to their homes:

"No amount of condemnation will stop the terrorists . . . the situation has been immensely complicated by the necessity for recognizing that the Palestinians can no longer be regarded as mere tools of the leaders or Arab states. Arab leaders have now become captives of the Palestinian zealotry they once encouraged for their own ends. The Palestinians have emerged as a force in their own right. As Prof. Malcolm H. Kerr of the University of California has observed, "We are witnessing a kind of 'zionist' movement in reverse, on behalf of a Palestinian Arab diaspora, insisting on its right to return to its homeland."

"No reasonable person can deny that Palestinians have endured grievous wrongs, least of all the Israelis, who have suffered similar frustrations and who in the past have reacted in not dissimilar ways recall the deeds of the Stern Gang and Irgun Nai Leumi."

The comparison by the *New York Times* of the resistance activity of a people who have been physically evicted from their homes and whose land has been colonized by a European race-supremacist settler movement, on the one hand, with the Zionist Stern Gang and Irgun, on the other, should not surprise or disturb the thinking reader of the *New York Times*. Nor should the fact that the *New York Times* advises its readers in Washington and New York that the only way to deal with such bothersome Palestinian "terrorists" is to "isolate them and remove their sources of power by engaging more moderate leaders of the Palestinian diaspora." That the power of Palestinian resistance springs from the people, the *New York Times* has apparently not discovered although it has discovered that the "Palestinians have endured grievous wrongs." Indeed, the

most salient aspect about the editorial is its recognition that, after twenty years of exile, poverty and desperation, the Palestinian people have "endured grievous wrongs" and the Palestinian resistance has indeed been effective in calling the attention of the gentlemen sitting in the editorial offices of the *New York Times* to the fact that there is a Palestinian people who once inhabited a region called Palestine.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was only four years old when he and his family crawled out under the barbed wire strung down St. Paul's Street in the New City of Jerusalem. Zionist terrorism against the indigenous Palestinian populace and the British occupying forces had reached such proportions that the Sirhan family, like many of their neighbors, friends, and countrymen, where no longer safe. The Sirhans had been living comfortably in a five room apartment on St. Paul's Street. The father, Bishara Sirhan, was employed in the Water Supply Department of the English Mandatory Government. While the Zionists had smuggled arms into Palestine for some time and had well-trained paramilitary forces, the Palestinians were completely without means to defend themselves from Zionist terrorism or resist the Zionist program of establishing a Zionist Jewish State in Palestine.

The Sirhan family, like hundreds of thousands of other Palestinians, was forced out of its home, its land, its means of livelihood, with only the clothes they wore on their backs, perhaps a few pieces of bread in their pockets. They fled to an old orthodox convent in the Old City where they remained for nineteen days, sleeping on the cold stone floors of the convent with the hundreds of other refugees that it housed. Locating a small windowless room in a centuries-old and dilapidated building actuated in the ex-Jewish Quarter of the Old City. Bishara and Mary Sirhan took their family there where they were to remain until they had left for the United States some eight years later. Death, disease and hunger plagued the neighborhood and the hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees who crowded into the Old City and the camps on the West Bank of the Jordan River. Behind them, securely occupied by the Zionist flood-tide from Europe, the Palestinians left well-tended citrus groves, olive groves, gardens, villages, homes, farms and personal possessions. Now, they had nothing, no homes, no citrus groves, no possessions, insufficient food, water, medicine, and clothing.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was too young when he and his family were driven out of the New City into the Old to understand

what was happening but he witnessed many terrorist acts and bloodshed that had a traumatic effect on him and on his development. Early in 1947, while Sirhan and his father were walking toward the Post Office in the Old City, the Zionists rolled a barrel of dynamite from the back of a truck near the Damascus gate, killing and wounding many people. Sirhan saw the streets filled with blood and pieces of flesh. Also, early in 1947, Sirhan's older brother, Munier, was killed in front of the Sirhan home by a passing truck. Near the end of 1947, Sirhan saw the leg of a British soldier, who had been blown up by the Zionists near the Sirhan home, swing from a church steeple. In April of 1948, Sirhan was with his mother when a truck passed by carrying young Arab girls from the village of Deir Yassin where the Zionist Irgun gang has massacred some 250 villagers in cold blood. The Zionists were shouting "this is what will happen to you!" These were but a few of the atrocities witnessed by Sirhan. Each time he would shake and become pale, frightened and nervous. Moreover, as Sirhan grew up he came to learn many things about what had happened to him, his family, his relatives, his neighbors, and his countrymen. This sensitive and impressionable youth was to grow up in exile as a member of the Palestinian diaspora.

The evil that man does to his fellow men reaches down to us in our time and we have not yet heard the last tragic echo of what happened to the Palestinian people in 1948. On June 4, 1968, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a 24 year old Palestinian refugee who immigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1957, shot and killed Robert Kennedy. He was reported to have said in the police car on the way to the Ramparts station, "I did it for my country."

The case and Sirhan's motives remained shrouded in a great deal of mystery until the point in time when the defense started examining its witnesses. At that time it became clear that the tragedy of Robert Kennedy was preceded by the tragedy of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. The trauma experienced by Sirhan throughout the course of his life made him identify Robert F. Kennedy with a moral contradiction of such enormous proportions that it made Sirhan burn with anger, a rage, a sense of deep personal desperation. Sirhan and two million other Palestinians were asked by the West to acquiesce in their own physical eviction and political extermination to pay for crimes committed in the West, by the West, against Western Jews.

Anyone who knew Sirhan was aware that this was a sensitive young man whose sense of injustice perhaps went beyond that of most men. As a child, Sirhan would become angry at his childhood friends who would lie to him or ask him to steal. As a young adult, Sirhan was always careful to maintain honest dealings with those with whom he dealt. Those who knew him, knew him to be a kind and gentle person.

But somehow many of these facts were obfuscated in the public mind by the burden of psychiatric testimony. Those few days of testimony in which the family told their story somehow became lost in the deluge of other testimony about the defendant.

Probably no more dramatic moment occurred during the course of the trial than when Sirhan responded to Defense Counsel Grant Cooper's question, "Now tell me, what have you read about the Palestine problem?" Sirhan, according to one news report, "astonished spectators at his murder trial with an impassioned — and accurate — discourse on the growth of Zionism, Palestinian history and England's behind-the-scenes agreement on Palestine's future." And yet, with but a few exceptions, what the *Los Angeles Times* saw fit to headline in its March 5, 1969 *Preview Edition* as SIRHAN'S STORY, little of his testimony reached the American people. The *New York Times* chose to dismiss it as Sirhan's "version of the Arab-Israeli conflict" and the *Washington Post* made passing reference. The primary reason that this testimony was not reported was probably the emotional bias of the correspondents. Certainly the reporters of the *Associated Press* and *Newsweek* should have declined the assignment if any emotional bias on their part would ultimately lead to the unconscious — or conscious — suppression of some of the testimony in the trial. The AP sloughed off Sirhan's accurate detailing of what he had come to learn about the Palestine problem as being "a forum for invective against Jews." Dave Smith, with no emotional bias, reported in the *Los Angeles Times*, however that:

"Sirhan's hatred of Zionists — which he took pains to differentiate from non-Zionist Jews — cropped up over and over as he testified that 'prior to 1948, before the Zionists,' the Jews and Arabs of Palestine 'were living very amicably, in great harmony.'"

Printed in the following pages is the verbatim testimony of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan on the Palestine problem. Had this testimony received the media coverage that other matters receive, perhaps there would not be a necessity for presenting

this pamphlet. Zionism and its supporters and benefactors have effectively withheld the very personal tragedy of the Palestinian people, and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, from people of compassion and goodwill.

Nor has the last reverberation of the tragedy of Sirhan and his people been heard. The desperation of a whole people will continue to ring in the ears of the world.

Abdeen M. Jabara  
Detroit, Michigan  
April, 1969

Q. All right. Now, let me take you back again now to the political matters that you have read about. I take it that from what you have told us you read everything about the Arab-Israeli situation that you could lay your hands on?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you ever read any books about it?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Do you remember any of the books you have read on the Arab-Israeli situation?

A. I have read many of the pamphlets that are put out by the Arab Information Center in the United States here. I have read many of their magazines, their newsletters, their special editions of whatever — anything that they put out, sir, and I could get my hands on it, I read it.

Q. Now, let me ask you this — there came a time when obviously your mind crystallized, first, as to who was right and who was wrong?

A. Yes, sir, it did.

Q. Did it ever change?

A. No, sir, it never did.

Q. Became strengthened, would you say?

A. Very much so, sir.

Q. Now, whom did you feel was right?

A. I felt that the Palestinian Arabs were right.

Q. Now, will you explain, please, in your own words what your state of mind was with respect to the Arab-Israeli situation, why you felt they were right? The things that went to make up your mind?

A. Well, sir, when you move — when you move a whole country, sir, a whole people, bodily from their own homes, from their own land, from their businesses, sir, outside their country, and introduce an alien people, sir, into Palestine — the Jews and the Zionists — that is completely wrong; sir, and

it is unjust and the Palestinian Arabs didn't do a thing, sir, to justify the way they were treated by the West.

Q. Let me ask you this. As a result of your reading, were you aware of whether the Arabs and the Israelis were able to live side by side in peace?

A. Sir, the Arabs and Jews — let me say this, qualify it — that the Jews, sir, prior to 1948 and prior to the interests of the Zionists in Palestine were living, sir, very amicably, in great harmony, sir. There was no conflict as such, sir, before the Zionists began showing interest in Palestine.

Q. Were there some other thoughts that occurred to you that went to make up your state of mind, Sirhan, with respect to that situation?

A. Yes, sir, it did. In 1967, during the Arab-Israeli war in June of that year, the way the Zionists in this country, sir, brain-washed the American public that Nasser is trying to push them into the sea and that the Arabs are going to just wipe them out completely, sir; and then just turning around and doing the very opposite, sir, to the Arabs — it was completely unfair. It was all a misconception, really.

Q. Let me ask you this. You read in your books, periodicals and everything, about the strength of the Arab bloc — if I may put it that way.

A. Yes, sir. No, sir, I shouldn't say you should use "the Arab bloc" even. I am fighting you, Mr. Cooper. It was the Palestinian, the Arab people of Palestine, versus the Israelis; not the Arab bloc. Nassar has nothing to do, sir, with the struggle with the Palestinian people.

Q. Did you come to the conclusion at least that the Palestinians plus the Arabs were stronger than the Zionists, prior to the 6-day war?

A. I didn't so much think they were stronger, sir. I thought that they were in a greater position, sir, and a more advantageous position, sir, to force Israel to accept, to help the refugees, sir, to return to their homes, their property and their land.

Q. You felt that was what —

A. Yes, sir, that was the main — yes, sir, that it what all the struggle is about, to regain whatever was stolen from them.

Q. Regain your home and the homes of others —

A. Yes, and our country and nationality.

Q. Now, did you also have a point of view with respect to the amount of money that is going over there?

A. Yes, sir, I did. I had occasion to read a book written by obviously some Zionist organization in the U.S. about the

6-day war with a picture of Moshe Dayan on it. I read that in a book store in Pasadena. "The Bungalow News" was the name of it.

Q. What was the name?

A. "The Bungalow News" in Pasadena, wherein, sir, they describe how the Zionists in America, sir, were very instrumental in pressuring the United States, sir, in having a favorable foreign policy towards Israel.

Q. How did this affect you?

A. It affected me, sir, very deeply. I didn't like it. Where is the justice involved, sir? Where is the love, sir, for fighting for the underdog? Israel is no underdog in the Middle East, sir. It's those refugees that are underdogs. And because they have no way of fighting back, sir, the Jews, sir, the Zionists, just keep beating away at them. That burned the hell out of me.

Q. Now, when you saw this picture of Moshe Dayan on the cover of some magazine, what magazine was it, do you remember?

A. The picture that I saw on the magazine, sir, was of the Israeli soldiers, sir, on the eastern bank of the Suez Canal.

Q. How did that affect you?

A. It burned me up.

Q. Well, how?

A. They were victorious, sir. They were the winners. They just blasted the hell out of the Arabs and they are out of the Suez Canal. They can tell Nasser what to do now.

Q. What were your feelings at the time, sir?

A. At the time, sir, if I had seen those guys in person, I would have blasted them. I would have killed them, period.

Q. That was your feeling at that time?

A. Yes, sir, it was.

Q. With respect to the monies that were being sent over there?

A. That burned me again. In this book they said that the Zionists and the Jews in America, sir, had collected some \$370,000,000 after the war and gave it to Israel so that Israel could revitalize her economy, to subsidize all the military operations which she undertook, sir, against the Arabs. And that burned the hell out of me again, sir.

Q. Why?

A. When President Johnson at the time, sir, was trying to bring back all these military troops from Germany and Europe so that we can keep the dollar at home; when he was limiting the amount of money that the tourists, American tourists

abroad can spend to \$7.00 so that we can keep the money at home, sir, these God-damned Zionists —

Q. Pardon me, Sirhan —

A. Excuse me. That's me, sir.

They pick up \$370,000,000 cold cash, tax-deductible, out of the back door of the United States to give to Israel. What gives? We were having these riots in Newark, New Jersey. Why? They were all basically economically motivated, the riots, and here they take the money by the truck load, sir, for another government and another country — what gives?

Q. Did that upset you?

A. Sure it did. I was unemployed. I didn't have a damn job, sir. I was looking for work. And here's the money getting out of the country. Why?

Q. Let me ask you this. Do you remember a period of time; do you remember a period of time when John Kennedy was President of the United States before his assassination?

A. Yes, I do, sir.

Q. What were your feelings toward John Kennedy?

A. I loved him, sir.

Q. Why did you love him?

A. I loved him more than any American would have.

Q. Why did you love him?

A. Because just a few weeks before his assassination he was working, sir, with the leaders of the Arab Government, the Arab countries, to bring a solution, sir, to the Palestine refugee problem, and he promised these Arab leaders that he would do his utmost and his best to force or to put some pressure on Israel, sir, to comply with the 1948 United Nations Resolution, sir; to either repatriate those Arab refugees or give them back, give them the right to return to their homes. And when he was killed, sir, that never happened.

Q. Now tell me, what have you read about the origin of the Palestine problem?

A. This all starts, sir, with when the Europeans, Zionists, Theodore Herzl, the head of the World Zionist Movement, sir, in 1897, had a conference or a congress in Switzerland where they said that the Jews all around the world, sir, cannot be saved because of the anti-Semitic feelings that the Western cultures, that the gentiles had against them; and that the Jews cannot really be saved living in the West as minority people and being hated by the gentiles, and that the only way that the Jews could live and live safely and develop themselves would be if they had a country of their own. And that is when

they decided to develop or annex or take or acquire a country of their own; and that is when they decided on Palestine. They planned to use.— they had two goals as a means of achieving that program.

First they sought to buy land in Palestine; secondly, they sought the aid of the Western, the great powers of the time; they solicited the aid of the Western powers, the great powers at the time, to pressure, to help them acquire Palestine.

And they did that, sir, by pressuring the Jews who were the citizens of these respective countries, who were the great powers at the time — England, France, the United States.

Theodore Herzl — he was one of the founders of this Zionist Movement. And he died in 1904, so another man of that same Zionist organization, sir, whose name is Weizman, took over and he sought the British support in getting Palestine as a Jewish national home, as a Jewish State; and he used as a means of doing that, sir, to pressure at the time to — at the time he wanted to — I'm too nervous.

MR. COOPER: Take your time.

Q. Does this discussion about this upset you, do you want some more water?

A. Please.

(The bailiff then brought the defendant a glass of water.)

Q. Sirhan, can you continue on your background as you saw it in your readings and experiences?

A. Well, anyway, sir, the Balfour Declaration, this was an agreement, sir, that England had concluded with the Zionists that, if the Zionists would try to pressure the American Jews, to persuade the United States to enter the war and the support of England as a member of the allies that England in turn would provide for a National Jewish home in Palestine.

Now, before this, sir, England had concluded another deal with the Arabs, sir, by which it was agreed that if the Arabs would help England against the Turks and the Germans in the Middle East that they would be granted independence in Palestine and again England had an agreement with the French, the Sykes-Picot Agreement.

MR. COOPER: Can you spell that?

THE WITNESS: S-y-k-e-s; P-i-c-o-t, where England, and that was a secret agreement, sir, where England and France would split up the area of the Middle East and the land of the Middle East would continue, according to, you know, it would split between them and they made the deal that the power of Palestine would go to England and Lebanon and Syria and

some other countries, and, well after the war, England, well, England had this commitment to the Arabs of granting them independence but she had to make good her agreement with the Zionists, that they would provide for a new Jewish home, according to the Balfour Declaration.

The population of Palestine was 700,000 people, 700,000 Palestinians and five hundred and seventy thousand were Arab Palestinians and there were some 70,000 which were Christians, of whom I am one or my father's were, and some 56,000 were Jews, Jews not Zionists.

This was in 1917 and the Zionists, having the protection and support of the Balfour Declaration, sir, has started this immigration or importing European Jews into Palestine.

This all kept going through the period that Palestine was under British Mandate, was under British rule.

Now, the Zionists had increased their population 56,000 in 1917 to about 650,000 in 1948 and the Arab population meantime had increased to one point three million and through this time the Arabs were becoming more aware of the plans of the Zionists to take over their country.

When the Zionists came in there, sir, they would team together, they would try to have their own schools, their own businesses, their own everything and they would just leave the Arabs apart.

They were trying to develop everything as Zionists and the Arabs saw what was really happening, and that the Palestinian Arabs would be turned over to the Jews and, once taken over, run by the Jews and Zionists.

This brought along, sir, great hostility between the Zionists and the Palestinians and at this time the Arabs throughout the whole world, but now, sir, at the time that they did this, they lacked the approval of whatever they needed on the part of the Westerns, that is what I would call it and in 1948, sir, when the Zionists felt they were strong enough to proclaim their own state of the military and morale and the political support of the Western powers they sought to establish their own independent state.

Q. Now, as you look back on it. Sirhan, you know historically from your being there that you were removed from your home when you were four years of age and that is a part of what you are now discussing?

A. Yes, sir. That is what brought about, sir, my final refuge from where we were in the New City to the Old City.

Q. You believe that as far as the Zionists were concerned they had no right to do that?

A. They had no right to do that, no, sir. They still didn't have any right to do what they did to the Arab refugees since 1967.

Q. What was the impact of this Palestinian problem on your life and your thinking and your being?

A. Through my life in this country and back there I always felt that I had no country, that I had no place that I could call really my own and I was just sick and tired of being a foreigner. It is as simple as that.

I wanted a place of my own where the people would speak my own language, where they would eat my own food, where I could share my own politics, something that I could identify as Arab, a Palestinian-Arab, and have my own country, my own city, my own land, my own business and my own everything, sir.

Q. Now, Sirhan, you had some notebooks —

This would be a good time, your Honor please, a good breaking point.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, you are again admonished that you have a duty not to converse among yourselves or with anyone else on this matter or anything pertaining to it; you are not to form or express an opinion on this matter until it is finally submitted to you for that purpose.

We will now recess until 1:45.

Defendant is remanded.

(Whereupon an adjournment was taken until 1:45 p.m. of the same day, Tuesday, March 4, 1969.)

Now, let me ask you this.

On People's Exhibit 71-39 there are words in there "Ambassador Goldberg must be illiminated, Ambassador Goldberg must die." Do you recall at one time being angry at Ambassador Goldberg?

A. Yes, I was angry at Goldberg.

Q. Did you watch on television at some time the meeting of the United Nations?

A. Yes, I watched all of them.

Q. And did you observe a proceeding where Ambassador Goldberg was the Ambassador from the United States to the United Nations?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Were these some of the debates during or after the Arab-Israeli conflict?

A. Yes.

Q. In 19 --

A. 1967.

Q. 1967, and that was the six-day war?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, do you remember, what was it that you say bugged you?

A. Again, sir, when President Johnson said that the United States supported, and this is his quotation —

Q. Yes.

A. —“the United States supported territorial limits of all nations” and he referred to Ambassador Goldberg at the time as his Ambassador to the United Nations and when he said these words, I remember, sir, hearing this, vividly; and to me, sir, this was only in the respect, sir, that he was on the side of Israel.

Q. What did Ambassador Goldberg ever do or anything that you ever heard him say that bugged you?

A. I didn't like what he said at the United Nations, sir, and what President Johnson said that the United States supported the territorial limits of all nations. He said “all nations,” and he said that all along. And he said that still, sir, a year later.

Q. Did you think he should die?

A. Why not, sir. I did not like his words.

Q. Well, did you have in mind at the time you wrote that of killing Ambassador Goldberg?

A. Well, I remember when I saw that on television, when I was watching it, I got very emotional.

Q. Do you remember writing that?

A. I don't exactly remember the writing, sir, but I remember the emotion that I had at the time.

Q. All right. When you say “at the time,” if you don't remember writing it, how do you remember having that emotion at the time?

A. Because of Goldberg.

\*BY MR. COOPER: Now, I show you Page 18 of Part 1 of that June 4th edition, and ask you if you see on that page the ad that you had seen?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Now, will you read that for us, please, that ad?

A. “Join in the” and then in smaller letters, “Miracle March, for Israel”—in very bold type, “On Miracle Mile tomorrow” in the same size type, “Wednesday, June 5, 6:30 p.m., Wilshire Boulevard and Detroit Street. Parade moves west to” and this is in bold type “on the steps of the L.A. County Art Museum. Sheldon L. Pollack, Chairman.”

MR. COOPER: I offer these pages from People's Exhibit 41 heretofore marked for identification in evidence.

THE COURT: N.

MR. COOPER: With the Court's permission, may I pass this to the jury?

THE CLERK: N?

MR. COOPER: May it still be marked 41 or marked as Defendant's N?

THE COURT: Defendant's N, in evidence.

Any objection?

Q. BY MR. COOPER: Now, when you saw that article, what was your reaction to it?

A. That brought me back to the six days in June of the previous year.

Q. You are talking about the six-day war?

A. Yes, sir. And like I told you when you were upstairs, Mr. Cooper.

Q. You mean in the jail?

A. Yes. And had I been dead during those days, the six days in June of 1967, sir, it would have been better for me because I was completely, and forgive me for saying this, Judge, I was completely pissed off at American justice at the time.

Q. When you read this on the night of the 4th of June, what was your reaction to it then?

A. I had the same emotion, the same feeling, the fire started burning inside of me, sir.

Q. Now, as a result of your reading and what people told you—

A. And my experiences—

Q. And your experiences, you developed quite an interest in the subject of the whole problem of the Middle East?

A. Yes, sir, I did. Naturally, I would have. I am an Arab just as they are.

Q. You have a great interest in trying to solve that problem?

A. Yes, sir, I did, very much so.

Q. You still do?

A. I do.

Q. You would like to do something about it?

A. Surely.

Q. And as a matter of fact, you wanted to be a diplomat?

A. Yes, sir, I did, very much.

Q. As I understand it, the reason that you wanted to be a diplomat is that you were quite impressed by this teacher you had in the Old City, right?