

Action - Henry  
Copy - [Signature]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE REA305

PAGE 01 PRAGUE 00395 201938Z

83  
ACTION SY 04

INFO /004 W

034125

R 201545Z FEB 69  
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
TO AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6227

Rec'd from  
L. [unclear], State  
2/25/69  
BAR

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRAGUE 0395

REF: VIENNA 0809

SY CHANNEL

DEPT FOR SY/I

VIENNA  
FOR RSO

KENSALT  
CASE

5-R.D. [unclear]  
①  
②  
③  
[Signatures]

1. PRESS AND CULTURE ATTACHE AMEMBASSY PRAGUE HAS  
QUIRIED HIS CONTACTS WORKING FOR THE STATE RADIO STATION  
IN PRAGUE. STATION OFFICIALS DENY EVER HAVING TRANSMITTED  
A BULLETIN SUGGESTING SENATOR KENNEDY HAS BEEN  
ASSASSINATED ON MAY 15.

2. ONE EMBASSY OFFICER DID REPORT HEARING 0800 NEWSCAST  
(DATE APPROXIMATELY MAY 15) ORIGINATING FROM DEUTSCHLAND  
FUNK. STATION RELEASED THE BULLETIN BASED ON INFORMATION  
RECEIVED FROM UNKNOWN NEWS SERVICE. SEVERAL MINUTES LATER  
A RETRACTION WAS MADE CLAIMING THE ORIGINAL REPORT WAS  
INACCURATE REPORTING OF INCIDENT IN WHICH SENATOR FLINCHED  
FROM GLARE OF NEARBY PRESS FLASHBULBS.

3. POSSIBLE REPORT HEARD VIA BROADCASTING CHANNELS  
IN PRAGUE ORIGINATED OUTSIDE OF CSSR.

4. UNABLE TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON ORIGIN OF  
REPORT OR FACTS WHICH MIGHT SHED ADDITIONAL FACTS  
ON SUBJECT.

BEAM

REC-12 62-587-1122

DIVISION 2  
13 03 BH

MAR 3 1969

To FBI  
[unclear] 2/24/69

EX-101

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

FBI

Date: 2/28/60

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (62-8651) C

FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON, aka  
Frederick Alexander Michelson  
ASSASSINATION OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, DOCTOR MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, AND SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

*Sh. [unclear]*  
*McShaw*  
*Sell*  
*Raf*  
*5- [unclear]*

*h*  
*st*  
*s.t.*

*Kensalt*

Re Kansas City report of SA WEEETER S. POND 2/10/69.

Dallas, Los Angeles, Indianapolis, and Memphis were furnished one Xerox copy of letter written by MICHAELSON to the U. S. Marshal, Kansas City, Missouri.

On 2/24/69, U. S. Marshal OWENS, Kansas City, Missouri, made available a letter which he had received from FRED MICHAELSON, a federal prisoner located at Liberty, Missouri. This letter was dated 2/5/69. In this letter to the U. S. Marshal, MICHAELSON claimed to have valuable information concerning the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. A review of referenced report reveals that FREDERICK ALEXANDER MICHELSON, the subject of Kansas City file # 87-21205, Bureau file # 87-95561, and that MICHELSON indicated to Bureau Agents on 10/2/68, that he had information concerning the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY on 11/22/63, of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING on 4/3/68, and of the subsequent assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. MICHELSON stated his information "goes to the scale of great national importance." While he realized this information had been held too long, MICHELSON refused to discuss it while confined in the county jail at Liberty, Missouri. He indicated a full disclosure will be made if and when he is removed from the jail and placed in a penitentiary or hospital where he might receive treatment for his nervous stomach.

- 3-Bureau
- 1-Dallas (Info)
- 1-Indianapolis (Info)
- 1-Los Angeles (Info)
- 1-Memphis (Info)
- 1-Kansas City

*62-587-87-95561-*

NOT RECORDED

MAR 1 1969

46 MAR 6 1969

*67 Paul*

BMC/sd  
54 MAR 2 1969

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

ORIGINAL FILED IN 87-95561-17

The above information has already been furnished to the Memphis Division and it was noted that MICHELSON has made claims of being psychotic, however, he was incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary from 6/25/65 to 8/26/68, and both MICHELSON and JAMES EARL RAY were in the Missouri State Penitentiary at the same time.

On 1/31/69, MICHELSON was sentenced to the custody of the Attorney General for a period of six years on three counts each to run concurrently for a violation of Title 18, Section 2314, U. S. Code.

On 2/27/69, MICHELSON was interviewed at the Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, and stated that he had important information concerning the assassination of JOHN F. KENNEDY and ROBERT F. KENNEDY. It is noted that at this time MICHELSON did not mention the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. MICHELSON stated that he had written a letter to JIM GARRISON, Prosecuting Attorney, New Orleans, Louisiana, in which MICHELSON had stated the same information was furnished to U. S. Marshal, OWENS, by letter on 2/5/69. MICHELSON stated that both these letters to GARRISON and OWENS had been mailed on the same day.

MICHELSON stated that he might be willing to furnish information concerning the assassination of the KENNEDY brothers to the FBI if a psychiatrist of MICHELSON's choosing was present along with an attorney to represent MICHELSON. MICHELSON stated that he had gathered the information concerning the assassination of the two KENNEDYS from various individuals in prison, but MICHELSON would not elaborate on what prisons or what individuals.

MICHELSON stated that he had a nervous stomach and was extremely high strung, and if the FBI would arrange for MICHELSON to be sent to the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, rather than the U. S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana, he might consider divulging his important information concerning the assassinations. MICHELSON at this time refused to divulge any other information and on 2/27/69, he was removed from Jackson County Jail, Kansas City, Missouri, by U. S. Marshals and transferred to U. S. Penitentiary Terre Haute, Indiana.

Unless advised to the contrary, Kansas City is conducting no further investigation in this matter.

VIA TELETYPE  
MAR 1 1969  
ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHDC---2---  
 954PM DEFERRED 2-28-69 RJM  
 TO DIRECTOR (62-587) (PLAINTEXT)  
 FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156) (3P)

KENSALT

*Self*

FOLLOWING CONSISTS OF ACTIVITIES IN SIRHAN TRIAL  
 FEBRUARY TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT--

PROSECUTION RESTED CASE AND DEFENSE OPENED. FIRST  
 WITNESS WAS BARON SARKEES NAHAS, A WRITER, BORN IN  
 JERUSALEM AND COMPLETELY FAMILIAR WITH THAT COUNTRY. NAHAS,  
 USING AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY MAP OF JERUSALEM, TESTIFIED AS TO  
 CONDITIONS EXISTING DURING PERIOD OF CONFLICT BETWEEN  
 ISRAELIS AND ARABS IN NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT.

*K*

SECOND DEFENSE WITNESS WAS SAID HASHIMAH, A BOYFRIEND OF  
 SIRHAN WHOSE FAMILY RESIDED IN SAME BUILDING AS DID SIRHAN  
 FAMILY IN NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT. HASHIMAH PLAYED AS CHILD  
 WITH SIRHAN UNTIL SIRHAN FAMILY LEFT FOR UNITED STATES IN  
 NINETEEN FIFTY SIX. HASHIMAH TESTIFIED TO CONDITIONS  
 EXISTING IN PALESTINE DASH ISRAELI WAR; ABJECT POVERTY OF

REC 44 62-587-1123

17 MAR 4 1969

*6-11-69*

57 MAR 1 1 1969

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

LA 56-156

PAGE TWO

SIRHAN AND OTHER FAMILIES AND CRUELTY ON PART OF SIRHAN'S FATHER TOWARD SIRHAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY.

AFTERNOON SESSION CONTINUED WITH WITNESS FROM PASADENA SCHOOL SYSTEM OUTLINING ACADEMIC RECORD OF SIRHAN. DURING THIS TESTIMONY, SIRHAN STOOD UP TO ADDRESS JUDGE. HIS ATTORNEYS SEATED HIM AND REQUESTED PERMISSION TO APPROACH BENCH AND THE JURY WAS EXCLUDED.

SIRHAN REQUESTED PERMISSION TO MAKE STATEMENT AND INDICATED DESIRE TO CHANGE PLEA TO GUILTY TO MURDER IN FIRST DEGREE. SIRHAN ALSO REQUESTED TO BE EXECUTED AND TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEYS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION WHY FROM JUDGE, SIRHAN ANSWERED THAT HE HAD WILLFULLY KILLED SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY AFTER TWENTY YEARS OF PREMEDITATED MALICE AFORETHOUGHT.

SIRHAN INSISTED HE REPRESENT HIMSELF AND JUDGE ASKED HIM TWO SIMPLE LEGAL QUESTIONS WHICH HE COULD NOT ANSWER AND JUDGE DECLARED HIM INCOMPETENT TO DEFEND SELF.

JUDGE RULED THAT TRIAL WOULD CONTINUE AND ADMONISHED SIRHAN THAT IF THERE WERE FURTHER OUTBURST, HE WOULD BE PHYSICALLY RESTRAINED IN COURT BY BEING STRAPPED TO HIS CHAIR AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO WEAR A FACE MASK TO PRE-

LA 56-156

PAGE THREE

VENT HIM FROM TALKING. COURT TEMPORARILY RECESSED.

WHEN COURT RECONVENED, DEFENSE ATTORNEY GRANT COOPER SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF AND THE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, MADE A MOTION TO THE COURT THAT ALL DEFENSE COUNSELS BE DISASSOCIATED FROM THE CASE DUE TO DIVERSIONS OF OPINION BETWEEN THEMSELVES AND SIRHAN AS TO PROPER CONDUCT OF THE TRIAL. MOTION WAS DENIED BY JUDGE AND TRIAL ORDERED TO PROCEED.

JURY WAS RECALLED AND MARY SIRHAN'S MOTHER OF SIRHAN, WAS CALLED TO STAND. AFTER A FEW QUESTIONS BY DEFENSE ATTORNEY PARSONS CONCERNING BIRTH PLACE OF SIRHAN AND EARLY RESIDENCE OF FAMILY, SHE BECAME EMOTIONALLY UPSET. ATTORNEYS APPROACHED BENCH AND THE JUDGE RECESSED THE TRIAL TO MONDAY, MARCH THIRD NEXT, DUE TO EMOTIONAL STATE OF MARY SIRHAN.

END

FJB

FBI WASH DC

F B I

Date: 3/4/69

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

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

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau, 2/25/69.

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

Attached herewith are two copies of a sixteen-page weekly summary of information prepared for the benefit of the news media by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. This release is dated 2/26/69 and is being furnished for information of the Bureau.

22

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

ENCLOSURE

EX-105

AOR/yfs  
(5)

REC 49

62-587-1124

MAR 6 1969

[Handwritten signature]

54 MAR 12 1969

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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., Feb. 26, 1969  
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #38

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 38th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 -- The prosecution today called seven witnesses in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Roosevelt Grier, former Los Angeles Ram tackle and now host of a TV show, told the court that he folded Sirhan's leg around his (Grier's) arm "and put him on top of a table."

Soon after grabbing Sirhan, Grier related, he saw "one guy hurting his leg and some people coming at him from the front, so I swung on them and kicked the guy back and they seemed to realize we were trying to save the guy, so they stopped."

Another witness was Assemblyman Jesse Unruh, who said he was "terribly aware that we could have a repeat of the Oswald situation," and shouted repeatedly, "Don't kill him, don't kill him, we've got to keep him alive."

(Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy in November, 1963, was murdered before being brought to trial).

Unruh also declared that he shouted, "If the system works at all,

**ENCLOSURE**

62-587-1124

at all, we are going to try this one" -- presumably Sirhan, reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The newspaper also related that "defense questioning of both Grier and Unruh brought out that Sen. Kennedy's detour through the kitchen corridor where he met death was a last minute change of plan."

Also testifying was Vincent DiPierro, a part-time waiter at the hotel.

The newspaper noted that he had acknowledged seeing a "girl in the polka dot dress" and further acknowledged that on July 1 he admitted his story was false.

"Monday DiPierro testified that he had seen a girl in a polka dot dress earlier that night, and that after talking to another witness, Sandra Serrano, he had 'injected' the girl into the events immediately surrounding the shooting.

"At that time both Miss Serrano and DiPierro described the girl as wearing a black and white polka dot dress and standing near Sirhan, perhaps even talking to him.

"Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts produced seven photographs of Valerie Schulte, whom Di Pierro said he believed was the same girl. In the photographs, however, Miss Schulte's dress was of yellow polka dots on a golden background. No further connection was made between Miss Schulte and the shooting scene."

Other witnesses today included John W. Gallivan, Jr., an advance man for the late senator; Jesus Perez, Ambassador Hotel kitchen worker; Martin Patrusky, a hotel bartender; and Frank J. Burns, Jr., a Kennedy campaign worker.

"All gave eyewitness accounts of the slaying, Perez and Patrusky

more--

testifying that Sirhan had loitered in the corridor for about half an hour before Sen. Kennedy came through, repeatedly asking if they knew whether he planned to come that way," reported Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

\* \* \*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 -- Testifying today for the prosecution in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case were:

Everett C. Buckner, rangemaster of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club where Sirhan went target-practicing June 4, the eve of the assassination;

Valerie Schulte, 22, former manager of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's campaign office in Goleta, and who was identified from photographs as the girl Vincent DiPierro, a witness yesterday, thought he saw near the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel;

William Barry, chief of security for the slain senator; and

Rafer Johnson, former Olympics decathlon champion.

Reported Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper--

"The cross-examination of witnesses helped dismiss for awhile the underlying fact that the outcome of this phase of Sirhan's trial -- now seven weeks old -- is a foregone conclusion: Sirhan did kill Sen. Kennedy and will not be acquitted; the only point at issue is determining the penalty.

"En route to that point, the prosecution is laying out its entire case in an effort to show that Sirhan's act was sufficiently premeditated to warrant a conviction of first-degree murder.

"The defense is bearing with the testimony on the uncontested point in order to undermine whatever evidence of premeditation they can and, if necessary, discredit witnesses who could strengthen the prosecution claim of malice aforethought."

The newspaper reported that Defense Atty. Grant B. Cooper "employed this tactic" on Buckner. In attacking his credibility, "Cooper also wrote the finish to a statement that months ago provided slight fuel to speculation that Sirhan might have been part of a conspiracy."

This came about when Cooper cited a statement of Buckner's last summer.

"Didn't you say that a lady was with him (Sirhan)?" Cooper asked. The witness replied, "No, I said a lady came up and he showed her how to shoot."

Continued Cooper to Buckner, "Did you or did you not say at that time that the lady told Sirhan, 'Get out of here, God damn you. Somebody will recognize us?'"

Buckner denied making the statement, then said he had told police "it sounded that way," and that "I couldn't hear them that well."

Cooper then asked Buckner if he had not taken a lie detector test and flunked it. Buckner answered he had "just flunked on that question."

At this point, Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Pitts objected to the lie detector tests, stating they were inadmissible. The exchange was stricken from the record.

Miss Schulte told the court that she couldn't have run at all last June 4, because she was on crutches as the result of a skiing accident, and still wears a brace on her right leg.

(DiPierro and Sandra Serrano, a witness yet to be called, told investigators last summer they had seen a girl in a black and white polka dot dress, talking to Sirhan and that she later ran from the scene, shouting, "We shot him.")

Miss Schulte said she was wearing a polka dot dress, but not black and white. She exhibited the garment she wore that night. It was a

March 1, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Incoming summarizes events at trial of Sirhan Sirhan, United States District Court, Los Angeles, 2-28-69.

Judge denied request by Sirhan to change plea to guilty and to disassociate himself from his attorneys. Sirhan also stated he wanted to be executed.

Motion by defense attorneys to disassociate themselves from case due to diversions of opinion between themselves and Sirhan was also denied by judge.

Trial to continue Monday, 3-3-69.

DAS:erg

*V. Paul*

*ds*

*RDS*

*D. J. [unclear]*

lime green mini-dress with canary yellow polka dots.

The witness also related she never even noticed Sirhan until the first shot was fired.

Barry described in a subdued and halting voice how he got separated from Kennedy, and explained that the Senator after finishing a victory statement jumped from the back of the stage instead of returning in Barry's direction.

(He said he was back in the crowd, assisting Mrs. Kennedy and trying to catch up when the first shot was fired).

Johnson told of his part in the struggle to subdue Sirhan after the first shot was fired. Johnson related that he took possession of Sirhan's gun, after Roosevelt Grier, former Los Angeles Rams tackle, who testified yesterday, disarmed the suspect.

"One brief flurry of excitement interrupted the trial when (Superior) Judge Herbert V. Walker ordered the courtroom cleared after Bailiff Willard Polhemus reported a ticking noise in his desk," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

"After a short search, it was discovered that telephone repairs in the building were causing a solenoid in Polhemus' desk phone to click at regular intervals."

\* \* \*

more--

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 -- The prosecution in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy today called the following to testify:

George Plimpton, author, editor and Kennedy supporter;

Paul Schrade, regional vice president of the United Auto Workers and a member of the senator's entourage, who was among those injured.

Larry Kenneth Arnot, a former clerk at a Pasadena gun shop;

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, who was injured the night of the assassination.

Ira Goldstein, who was also injured;

Irving Stroll, another person who sustained injuries;

George C. Erhard, Jr., who sold the gun used in the assassination to Sirhan's brother, Munir;

William Price, who accompanied Erhard and another man to the scene of the gun sale; and

Mrs. Albert Leslie Hertz, who said she gave the gun to her daughter, Mrs. Dana Westlake, who also testified today.

Plimpton, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), said that after Sirhan shot Kennedy and was grabbed by aides of the senator, Sirhan was, "compared to the circle of people around him . . . enormously composed. . .

"Amid this hurricane of sound and feeling, he seemed like the eye of the hurricane . . . He seemed purged," the newspaper quoted Plimpton.

The author told the court that immediately after the shooting he grabbed for the gun along with several others, but didn't see the senator

more --

fall to the floor.

"I didn't have enough courage to look back in that direction," he added.

Schrade testified about being seriously wounded in the hail of gunfire and when walking with the senator he observed "all hell breaking loose. I heard some crackling noises, like electricity, and I saw some flashes. I was badly shaken and I thought we were being electrocuted."

He was shot in the head, just above the hairline, but has since recovered.

Arnot, acknowledged under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts that he sold two boxes of .22-caliber ammunition to Sirhan.

"Then," related a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) "he began to tell of three men -- one of them presumably Sirhan -- who entered the shop on the date of the sale.

"Arnot was quickly interrupted by Fitts, who asked him if a lie detector test later administered to him had not cast doubt on that story.

"Arnot admitted that this was true.

"Defense Atty. Grant B. Cooper then asked Arnot: 'The truth of the matter is, you don't remember to whom you sold that ammunition, do you?'

"'No,' said Arnot."

Erhard said he and Price and another person, whom he could not remember, met Munir Sirhan on a Pasadena street corner and sold the gun to Munir for \$25, after originally demanding \$30.

more--

Price related that Munir Sirhan borrowed \$5 from Sirhan Sirhan when Munir purchased the gun. Price also recalled holding the weapon and turning it over to Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Tracing the history of the gun was Mrs. Hertz who said her husband originally purchased it following the Watts riots of 1965. She testified she gave the gun to her daughter, Mrs. Westlake, and told her to "throw it on the dump," according to a story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Mrs. Westlake testified she didn't throw the gun on the dump but instead stored it in the attic of her home.

In the fall of 1967, she gave it to Erhard, the newspaper related.

\* \* \*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 -- "Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's insistence that the jury determine any penalty in the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has all but eliminated the possibility of a guilty plea by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan," a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported today.

Continued the article:

"Sirhan and his attorneys were willing to plead guilty to first degree murder last week -- on condition that the defendant be guaranteed a life term rather than the death penalty.

"But Sirhan balked at the last minute, when Judge Walker refused to give his required consent to the arrangement. The 69-year old jurist indicated he would accept a guilty plea only on condition that the penalty be set by the jury.

more--

"Later he is said to have confided that his reason for this was a resolve to guarantee a full airing of the facts surrounding the senator's assassination.

"Sirhan then reportedly took the position, after consulting with his lawyers, that the jury might vote the death penalty even if it were not sought by the prosecution."

The article then raised the question of why the prosecution and defense decided to take the proposal of a change of plea to Judge Walker."

Said the newspaper:

"The defense attorneys conceded that Sirhan did the shooting. They have publicly stated that their main goal in the case is to save his life.

"By agreeing to a change in plea, with a guaranteed life prison term, they would have accomplished such a mission.

"The prosecution, on the other hand, fully intended from the beginning to seek the death penalty -- and felt there was a good chance of success.

"However, psychiatric reports furnished to both prosecution and defense reduced these chances.

"The prosecution is said to have felt that if it had only a marginal chance of securing the death penalty for Sirhan, the interest of the public might best be served by accepting a guilty plea, with life in prison, thus saving a great deal of time and expense and personal anguish for the families and individuals involved.

"And the prosecution has indicated that it would make public the full record of its investigations in the event of a guilty plea.

"Presumably there still could be a change of plea. But that is unlikely unless either Judge Walker or Sirhan reverses his present thinking.

"Meanwhile, the prosecution is pushing ahead with its case against Sirhan."

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Daily Journal) today reported that the estimated cost to Los Angeles County for the trial reached \$395,960, as of January 31.

They quoted County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn as noting he thought the expense was worth it if it would prevent the necessity of preparing another Warren Commission report. However, he said, he would continue to watch the expenses.

more --

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 -- Defense attorneys for Sirhan today made a second motion for a mistrial on grounds their client's defense was prejudiced by a story in the Los Angeles Times (see above for details).

Superior Judge Walker, reported the newspaper, 'denied the motion at an in-chambers session highlighted by a prosecution request that such closed proceedings, both past and future, be made public.'

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, who heads the three-man prosecution team, said, "We think one of the vices of the whole situation . . . and what creates a problem, is the idea of sealing (transcripts) and secret sessions.

"We just feel that everything has got to be on the record and public and that there should be no secret negotiations, conferences or matters which are in that category.

"I would oppose any further . . . proceedings which are sealed, secret or otherwise handled in that fashion," Compton concluded.

Meanwhile, Grant B. Cooper, one of the three defense attorneys, answered that in plea bargaining, "it is always a secret matter."

In open court, the prosecution continued its case against the accused assassin of Sen. Kennedy and called the following to testify:

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, who was one of five persons injured at the Ambassador Hotel, where the senator was assassinated;

Ira Goldstein, former newspaperman who was also injured;

Officer James E. Claborne and Sergeant Riley W. Maxwell, Los Angeles Police Department fingerprint experts;

Judy Royer, a secretary for former California Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who worked for the Kennedy campaign and witnessed the slaying.

more --

Telling of the shooting, Goldstein said he "heard loud popping noises."

In response to a question from Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, Goldstein said he heard "two of them at first. I quickly moved to my left. I stepped over someone who had fallen to the ground."

Mrs. Evans, under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, said she "heard a sound like firecrackers. I lost my shoe. Everything happened very fast."

She told of being taken to a table and finally by ambulance to a hospital, where she underwent surgery for the gunshot wound.

(Sirhan is on trial for the assassination of Sen. Kennedy, and is also charged with five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder against Mrs. Evans, Goldstein, Irwin Stroll, Paul Schrade and William Weisel).

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), "Police Officer Travis White . . . scored an important point for the prosecution" today.

In his opening statement, Defense Atty. Emile Zola Berman told the jury the defense intended to prove that Sirhan was "in a trance and intoxicated" when he admittedly shot Kennedy, said the newspaper.

However, White testified that a pupil-reaction test of Sirhan's eyes, taken minutes after his arrest, indicated he was not drunk.

Explaining the test, White said he shined a light in Sirhan's eyes in a darkened room and that the pupils contracted normally. An indication of intoxication, he said, would have been a slow contraction. White also looked for other indications of intoxication -- eyes watering,

more --

weaving, blurred speech and alcoholic breath -- and could find none.

Sergeant Maxwell and Officer Claborne testified to discovering Sirhan's fingerprints on his car parked three blocks from the hotel. In the car was a sales slip for ammunition purchased at a Pasadena gun shop for Sirhan's .22-caliber revolver used to shoot Kennedy.

The sergeant also related that he found Sirhan's fingerprints on the sales slip.

Miss Royer testified to seeing Sirhan hanging around press headquarters for the Kennedy campaign before the shooting. She told him to go away and he did, she revealed.

\* \* \*

more --

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 -- The prosecution in the case against Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, today called the following to testify:

Alvin Clark, a Pasadena trash collector befriended by the accused assassin;

Irwin Stroll, who was among the five wounded on the night the senator was killed;

William Weisel, who was also injured;

Dr. Stanley Abo, a physician who attended the Kennedy victory party, and who aided the stricken senator moments after the shooting; and

Mrs. Miriam Davis, a Kennedy campaign worker.

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), Sirhan was arguing with Clark soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Clark testified.

Sirhan, related Clark, said:

"What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him."

Continued the newspaper:

"Sirhan did, less than two months after that conversation, and prosecution witness Alvin Clark testified to defense attorney Emile Zola Berman Friday that he told the FBI the following September that he was unwilling to testify against his accused friend -- but the reason was not friendship now.

"'Didn't you tell the FBI you did not want to take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you'd do anything to see him convicted?'" asked Berman.

"Yes, I did," said Clark.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts quickly interjected: "Have you told the truth here, sir?"

"Yes," Clark replied firmly. "I have."

Sirhan, Clark related, according to the newspaper, fell into the habit of providing coffee, soft drinks and sandwiches to Clark when he made the usual Wednesday trash pickup at the Sirhan home. "I thought very much of him," said Clark.

Stroll testified that he was a Kennedy volunteer worker guarding a doorway when he was cut down by a bullet in his left calf.

"I felt someone kick me," said Stroll, adding that he didn't know at first he had been shot. "Then I noticed -- because I had on blue pants -- that one of my legs was red."

One of the defense attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, cross-examined Stroll, and asked if he (Stroll) had brought an action of a million and a half dollars against the defendant for the injury to his leg.

Stroll answered that he had.

(The suit, filed earlier this month, actually seeks \$1,050,000.)

Dr. Abo said Kennedy's right eye was open, "staring aimlessly," and the left eye was closed. As he bent to see if Kennedy needed artificial respiration, Abo related, the senator's left eye opened "very quickly with a puzzled look."

He also said that when Mrs. Ethel Kennedy arrived at her husband's side, the senator "reached out and took her hand and spoke to her."

"The defense objected that the conversation was immaterial and the objection was sustained," reported the newspaper.

more --

Mrs. Davis told of seeing Sirhan in a kitchen in the Ambassador hotel on June 2, 1968 -- some 47 hours before Kennedy was shot. The prosecution contends he was 'casing' the place,' said a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Meanwhile, Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, county chief medical examiner-croner, who was in charge of conducting the autopsy on the senator, may face ouster proceedings, a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported.

... dissatisfaction arose over Dr. Noguchi's asserted delay in handling the autopsy . . . , stated the newspaper, referring to a statement by L. S. Hollinger, county chief administrative officer, that he has asked Noguchi to resign.

Dr. Noguchi said today that no one could have done a more thorough job in the autopsy.

'We did everything that should be done,' he insisted. 'If there was a delay, it was indeed justifiable.'

##

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., Feb. 26, 1969  
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #38

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 38th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17 -- The prosecution today called seven witnesses in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Roosevelt Grier, former Los Angeles Ram tackle and now host of a TV show, told the court that he folded Sirhan's leg around his (Grier's) arm "and put him on top of a table."

Soon after grabbing Sirhan, Grier related, he saw "one guy hurting his leg and some people coming at him from the front, so I swung on them and kicked the guy back and they seemed to realize we were trying to save the guy, so they stopped."

Another witness was Assemblyman Jesse Unruh, who said he was "terribly aware that we could have a repeat of the Oswald situation," and shouted repeatedly, "Don't kill him, don't kill him, we've got to keep him alive."

(Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy in November, 1963, was murdered before being brought to trial).

Unruh also declared that he shouted, "If the system works at all,

at all, we are going to try this one" -- presumably Sirhan, reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The newspaper also related that "defense questioning of both Grier and Unruh brought out that Sen. Kennedy's detour through the kitchen corridor where he met death was a last minute change of plan."

Also testifying was Vincent DiPierro, a part-time waiter at the hotel.

The newspaper noted that he had acknowledged seeing a "girl in the polka dot dress" and further acknowledged that on July 1 he admitted his story was false.

"Monday DiPierro testified that he had seen a girl in a polka dot dress earlier that night, and that after talking to another witness, Sandra Serrano, he had 'injected' the girl into the events immediately surrounding the shooting.

"At that time both Miss Serrano and DiPierro described the girl as wearing a black and white polka dot dress and standing near Sirhan, perhaps even talking to him.

"Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts produced seven photographs of Valerie Schulte, whom Di Pierro said he believed was the same girl. In the photographs, however, Miss Schulte's dress was of yellow polka dots on a golden background. No further connection was made between Miss Schulte and the shooting scene."

Other witnesses today included John W. Gallivan, Jr., an advance man for the late senator; Jesus Perez, Ambassador Hotel kitchen worker; Martin Patrusky, a hotel bartender; and Frank J. Burns, Jr., a Kennedy campaign worker.

"All gave eyewitness accounts of the slaying, Perez and Patrusky

more--

testifying that Sirhan had loitered in the corridor for about half an hour before Sen. Kennedy came through, repeatedly asking if they knew whether he planned to come that way," reported Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

\* \* \*

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 -- Testifying today for the prosecution in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case were:

Everett C. Buckner, rangemaster of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club where Sirhan went target-practicing June 4, the eve of the assassination;

Valerie Schulte, 22, former manager of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's campaign office in Goleta, and who was identified from photographs as the girl Vincent DiPierro, a witness yesterday, thought he saw near the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel;

William Barry, chief of security for the slain senator; and

Rafer Johnson, former Olympics decathlon champion.

Reported Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper ("...")

"The cross-examination of witnesses helped dismiss for awhile the underlying fact that the outcome of this phase of Sirhan's trial -- now seven weeks old -- is a foregone conclusion: Sirhan did kill Sen. Kennedy and will not be acquitted; the only point at issue is determining the penalty.

"En route to that point, the prosecution is laying out its entire case in an effort to show that Sirhan's act was sufficiently premeditated to warrant a conviction of first-degree murder.

"The defense is bearing with the testimony on the uncontested point in order to undermine whatever evidence of premeditation they can and, if necessary, discredit witnesses who could strengthen the prosecution claim of malice aforethought."

62-587-1124

The newspaper reported that Defense Atty. Grant B. Cooper "employed this tactic" on Buckner. In attacking his credibility, "Cooper also wrote the finish to a statement that months ago provided slight fuel to speculation that Sirhan might have been part of a conspiracy."

This came about when Cooper cited a statement of Buckner's last summer.

"Didn't you say that a lady was with him (Sirhan)?" Cooper asked. The witness replied, "No, I said a lady came up and he showed her how to shoot."

Continued Cooper to Buckner, "Did you or did you not say at that time that the lady told Sirhan, 'Get out of here, God damn you. Somebody will recognize us?'"

Buckner denied making the statement, then said he had told police "it sounded that way," and that "I couldn't hear them that well."

Cooper then asked Buckner if he had not taken a lie detector test and flunked it. Buckner answered he had "just flunked on that question."

At this point, Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts objected to the lie detector tests, stating they were inadmissible. The exchange was stricken from the record.

Miss Schulte told the court that she couldn't have run at all last June 4, because she was on crutches as the result of a skiing accident, and still wears a brace on her right leg.

(DiPierro and Sandra Serrano, a witness yet to be called, told investigators last summer they had seen a girl in a black and white polka dot dress, talking to Sirhan and that she later ran from the scene, shouting, "We shot him.")

Miss Schulte said she was wearing a polka dot dress, but not black and white. She exhibited the garment she wore that night. It was a

lime green mini-dress with canary yellow polka dots.

The witness also related she never even noticed Sirhan until the first shot was fired.

Barry described in a subdued and halting voice how he got separated from Kennedy, and explained that the Senator after finishing a victory statement jumped from the back of the stage instead of returning in Barry's direction.

(He said he was back in the crowd, assisting Mrs. Kennedy and trying to catch up when the first shot was fired).

Johnson told of his part in the struggle to subdue Sirhan after the first shot was fired. Johnson related that he took possession of Sirhan's gun, after Roosevelt Grier, former Los Angeles Rams tackle, who testified yesterday, disarmed the suspect.

"One brief flurry of excitement interrupted the trial when (Superior) Judge Herbert V. Walker ordered the courtroom cleared after Bailiff Willard Polhemus reported a ticking noise in his desk," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

"After a short search, it was discovered that telephone repairs in the building were causing a solenoid in Polhemus' desk phone to click at regular intervals."

\* \* \*

more--

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19 -- The prosecution in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy today called the following to testify:

George Plimpton, author, editor and Kennedy supporter;

Paul Schrade, regional vice president of the United Auto Workers and a member of the senator's entourage, who was among those injured.

Larry Kenneth Arnot, a former clerk at a Pasadena gun shop;

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, who was injured the night of the assassination.

Ira Goldstein, who was also injured;

Irving Stroll, another person who sustained injuries;

George C. Erhard, Jr., who sold the gun used in the assassination to Sirhan's brother, Munir;

William Price, who accompanied Erhard and another man to the scene of the gun sale; and

Mrs. Albert Leslie Hertz, who said she gave the gun to her daughter, Mrs. Dana Westlake, who also testified today.

Plimpton, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), said that after Sirhan shot Kennedy and was grabbed by aides of the senator, Sirhan was, "compared to the circle of people around him . . . enormously composed. . .

"Amid this hurricane of sound and feeling, he seemed like the eye of the hurricane . . . He seemed purged," the newspaper quoted Plimpton.

The author told the court that immediately after the shooting he grabbed for the gun along with several others, but didn't see the senator

more --

fall to the floor.

"I didn't have enough courage to look back in that direction," he added.

Schrade testified about being seriously wounded in the hail of gunfire and when walking with the senator he observed "all hell breaking loose. I heard some crackling noises, like electricity, and I saw some flashes. I was badly shaken and I thought we were being electrocuted."

He was shot in the head, just above the hairline, but has since recovered.

Arnot, acknowledged under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts that he sold two boxes of .22-caliber ammunition to Sirhan.

"Then," related a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) "he began to tell of three men -- one of them presumably Sirhan -- who entered the shop on the date of the sale.

"Arnot was quickly interrupted by Fitts, who asked him if a lie detector test later administered to him had not cast doubt on that story.

"Arnot admitted that this was true.

"Defense Atty. Grant B. Cooper then asked Arnot: 'The truth of the matter is, you don't remember to whom you sold that ammunition, do you?'

"'No,' said Arnot."

Erhard said he and Price and another person, whom he could not remember, met Munir Sirhan on a Pasadena street corner and sold the gun to Munir for \$25, after originally demanding \$30.

more--

Price related that Munir Sirhan borrowed \$5 from Sirhan Sirhan when Munir purchased the gun. Price also recalled holding the weapon and turning it over to Sirhan B. Sirhan.

Tracing the history of the gun was Mrs. Hertz who said her husband originally purchased it following the Watts riots of 1965. She testified she gave the gun to her daughter, Mrs. Westlake, and told her to "throw it on the dump," according to a story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Mrs. Westlake testified she didn't throw the gun on the dump but instead stored it in the attic of her home.

In the fall of 1967, she gave it to Erhard, the newspaper related.

\* \* \*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 -- "Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's insistence that the jury determine any penalty in the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy has all but eliminated the possibility of a guilty plea by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan," a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported today.

Continued the article:

"Sirhan and his attorneys were willing to plead guilty to first degree murder last week -- on condition that the defendant be guaranteed a life term rather than the death penalty.

"But Sirhan balked at the last minute, when Judge Walker refused to give his required consent to the arrangement. The 69-year old jurist indicated he would accept a guilty plea only on condition that the penalty be set by the jury.

more--

"Later he is said to have confided that his reason for this was a resolve to guarantee a full airing of the facts surrounding the senator's assassination.

"Sirhan then reportedly took the position, after consulting with his lawyers, that the jury might vote the death penalty even if it were not sought by the prosecution."

The article then raised the question of why the prosecution and defense decided "to take the proposal of a change of plea to Judge Walker."

Said the newspaper:

"The defense attorneys conceded that Sirhan did the shooting. They have publicly stated that their main goal in the case is to save his life.

"By agreeing to a change in plea, with a guaranteed life prison term, they would have accomplished such a mission.

"The prosecution, on the other hand, fully intended from the beginning to seek the death penalty -- and felt there was a good chance of success.

"However, psychiatric reports furnished to both prosecution and defense reduced these chances.

"The prosecution is said to have felt that if it had only a marginal chance of securing the death penalty for Sirhan, the interest of the public might best be served by accepting a guilty plea, with life in prison, thus saving a great deal of time and expense and personal anguish for the families and individuals involved.

"And the prosecution has indicated that it would make public the full record of its investigations in the event of a guilty plea.

"Presumably there still could be a change of plea. But that is unlikely unless either Judge Walker or Sirhan reverses his present thinking.

"Meanwhile, the prosecution is pushing ahead with its case against Sirhan."

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Daily Journal) today reported that the estimated cost to Los Angeles County for the trial reached \$395,960, as of January 31.

They quoted County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn as noting he thought the expense was worth it if it would prevent the necessity of preparing another Warren Commission report. However, he said, he would continue to watch the expenses.

more --

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20 -- Defense attorneys for Sirhan today made a second motion for a mistrial on grounds their client's defense was prejudiced by a story in the Los Angeles Times (see above for details).

Superior Judge Walker, reported the newspaper, "denied the motion at an in-chambers session highlighted by a prosecution request that such closed proceedings, both past and future, be made public."

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, who heads the three-man prosecution team, said, "We think one of the vices of the whole situation . . . and what creates a problem, is the idea of sealing (transcripts) and secret sessions.

"We just feel that everything has got to be on the record and public and that there should be no secret negotiations, conferences or matters which are in that category.

"I would oppose any further . . . proceedings which are sealed, secret or otherwise handled in that fashion," Compton concluded.

Meanwhile, Grant B. Cooper, one of the three defense attorneys, answered that in plea bargaining, "it is always a secret matter."

In open court, the prosecution continued its case against the accused assassin of Sen. Kennedy and called the following to testify:

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, who was one of five persons injured at the Ambassador Hotel, where the senator was assassinated;

Ira Goldstein, former newspaperman who was also injured;

Officer James E. Claborne and Sergeant Riley W. Maxwell, Los Angeles Police Department fingerprint experts;

Judy Royer, a secretary for former California Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who worked for the Kennedy campaign and witnessed the slaying.

more --

Telling of the shooting, Goldstein said he "heard loud popping noises."

In response to a question from Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, Goldstein said he heard "two of them at first. I quickly moved to my left. I stepped over someone who had fallen to the ground."

Mrs. Evans, under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, said she "heard a sound like firecrackers. I lost my shoe. Everything happened very fast."

She told of being taken to a table and finally by ambulance to a hospital, where she underwent surgery for the gunshot wound.

(Sirhan is on trial for the assassination of Sen. Kennedy, and is also charged with five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder against Mrs. Evans, Goldstein, Irwin Stroll, Paul Schrade and William Weisel).

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), "Police Officer Travis White . . . scored an important point for the prosecution" today.

In his opening statement, Defense Atty. Emile Zola Berman told the jury the defense intended to prove that Sirhan was "in a trance and intoxicated" when he admittedly shot Kennedy, said the newspaper.

However, White testified that a pupil-reaction test of Sirhan's eyes, taken minutes after his arrest, indicated he was not drunk.

Explaining the test, White said he shined a light in Sirhan's eyes in a darkened room and that the pupils contracted normally. An indication of intoxication, he said, would have been a slow contraction. White also looked for other indications of intoxication -- eyes watering,

more --

weaving, blurred speech and alcoholic breath -- and could find none.

Sergeant Maxwell and Officer Claborne testified to discovering Sirhan's fingerprints on his car parked three blocks from the hotel. In the car was a sales slip for ammunition purchased at a Pasadena gun shop for Sirhan's .22-caliber revolver used to shoot Kennedy.

The sergeant also related that he found Sirhan's fingerprints on the sales slip.

Miss Royer testified to seeing Sirhan hanging around press headquarters for the Kennedy campaign before the shooting. She told him to go away and he did, she revealed.

\* \* \*

more --

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21 -- The prosecution in the case against Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, today called the following to testify:

Alvin Clark, a Pasadena trash collector befriended by the accused assassin;

Irwin Stroll, who was among the five wounded on the night the senator was killed;

William Weisel, who was also injured;

Dr. Stanley Abo, a physician who attended the Kennedy victory party, and who aided the stricken senator moments after the shooting; and Mrs. Miriam Davis, a Kennedy campaign worker.

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), Sirhan was arguing with Clark soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Clark testified.

Sirhan, related Clark, said:

"What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him."

Continued the newspaper:

"Sirhan did, less than two months after that conversation, and prosecution witness Alvin Clark testified to defense attorney Smile Zola Berman Friday that he told the FBI the following September that he was unwilling to testify against his accused friend -- but the reason was not friendship now.

"Didn't you tell the FBI you did not want to take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you'd do anything to see him convicted?" asked Berman.

"Yes, I did," said Clark.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts quickly interjected: "Have you told the truth here, sir?"

"Yes," Clark replied firmly. "I have."

Sirhan, Clark related, according to the newspaper, fell into the habit of providing coffee, soft drinks and sandwiches to Clark when he made the usual Wednesday trash pickup at the Sirhan home. "I thought very much of him," said Clark.

Stroll testified that he was a Kennedy volunteer worker guarding a doorway when he was cut down by a bullet in his left calf.

"I felt someone kick me," said Stroll, adding that he didn't know at first he had been shot. "Then I noticed -- because I had on blue pants -- that one of my legs was red."

One of the defense attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, cross-examined Stroll, and asked if he (Stroll) had brought an action of a million and a half dollars against the defendant for the injury to his leg.

Stroll answered that he had.

(The suit, filed earlier this month, actually seeks \$1,050,000.)

Dr. Abo said Kennedy's right eye was open, "staring aimlessly," and the left eye was closed. As he bent to see if Kennedy needed artificial respiration, Abo related, the senator's left eye opened "very quickly with a puzzled look."

He also said that when Mrs. Ethel Kennedy arrived at her husband's side, the senator "reached out and took her hand and spoke to her."

"The defense objected that the conversation was immaterial and the objection was sustained," reported the newspaper.

more --

Mrs. Davis told of seeing Sirhan in a kitchen in the Ambassador Hotel on June 2, 1968 -- some 47 hours before Kennedy was shot. The prosecution contends he was 'casing' the place,' said a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Meanwhile, Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, county chief medical examiner-coroner, who was in charge of conducting the autopsy on the senator, may face ouster proceedings, a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported.

... dissatisfaction arose over Dr. Noguchi's asserted delay in handling the autopsy . . .," stated the newspaper, referring to a statement by L. S. Hollinger, county chief administrative officer, that he has asked Noguchi to resign.

Dr. Noguchi said today that no one could have done a more thorough job in the autopsy.

'We did everything that should be done,' he insisted. 'If there was a delay, it was indeed justifiable.'

##