



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 7, 1968

The Attorney General



Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
were furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at the
White House and to the Vice President.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 7, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Intensive investigation is continuing in order to determine the complete circumstances surrounding the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy by an individual who has been charged by Los Angeles, California, authorities as his assailant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

School records in Pasadena, California, described Sirhan prior to 1963 when he graduated from John Muir High School as "friendly, co-operative, well mannered, has adjusted very nicely to his new environment and making many new friends." Continuing investigation into Sirhan's background indicates, according to his brother Sharif Bishara Sirhan, the assailant had little association or communication with the rest of the family. He had few male associates and since his fall from a horse in September, 1966, had been more withdrawn.

The FBI Laboratory has conducted an examination of the handwriting appearing on papers found after a search of Sirhan's room in the Pasadena family home which bore notations advocating the overthrow of the President of the United States and other statements alluding to the necessity of assassinating Robert F. Kennedy. The handwriting could not be identified as Sirhan's because of the lack of adequate known handwriting samples. Additional samples of Sirhan's known handwriting are being obtained for comparison purposes.

A copy of this material is attached.

Investigation is continuing in an effort to account for Sirhan's activities directly prior to the shooting of Senator Kennedy. Individuals who were in attendance at the ballroom in the Ambassador Hotel at the time of the shooting are being located and interviewed in detail. Two

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

witnesses, Humphrey Cordero and Enrique Rabago, identified Sirhan as being at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 9:30 p. m., Pacific Daylight Time, on June 4, 1968, at which time Sirhan is alleged to have made derogatory comments regarding "rich people" in general and Senator Kennedy in particular. It was alleged Sirhan stated that Senator Kennedy was going to "buy the presidency" for personal purposes, and that he (Sirhan) was looked down upon because of his clothing. Both Cordero and Rabago were of the opinion based on their conversation with Sirhan that he had come to the Ambassador Hotel alone since no one appeared to be accompanying him during their approximate ten-minute conversation with him.

Three of the five individuals who were wounded during the shooting were interviewed, but none observed the assailant. The remaining two who were more seriously wounded will be interviewed as soon as their condition permits.

Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, Los Angeles, California, was reported by the news media on June 6, 1968, as stating Sirhan was associated with the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America. The Los Angeles Police Department advised that on January 16, 1966, a vehicle registered to Sirhan's brother Adel was observed in the vicinity of Baces Hall, Sunset and Vermont, Los Angeles, California, where a meeting sponsored by the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America was being held.

FBI files based on available data failed to establish Sirhan was a member of such an organization.

A reliable source has indicated that Dorothy Healy, Los Angeles Communist Party leader, has stated the assassin is unknown as a member of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America in the Los Angeles area. The W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America is a Marxist-orientated youth organization whose leaders in 1967 were Communist Party, United States of America, members. It was indicated that the Communist Party, United States of America, intends to issue a press release denying Sirhan has had any connection with the Communist Party and, in fact, is considering a legal suit against Mayor Yorty with respect to his allegations.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

FBI Agents, on June 5, 1968, located a 1956 DeSoto registered to Sirhan Sirhan at Wilshire Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue a few blocks from the Ambassador Hotel. An examination of this vehicle, after a search warrant was obtained, resulted in the location of one empty box of .22 caliber bullets in the glove compartment. In addition, a sales receipt was located in the glove compartment showing the purchase of four boxes of .22 caliber bullets for \$3.99 paid for in cash on June 1, 1968. A wallet containing identification in the name of Sirhan Sirhan was also located in the glove compartment.

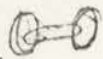
Enclosure

May 18 9.45 AM-68

my determination to ~~eliminate~~
eliminate R.F.K. is becoming
more the more of an
unshakable obsession

p Please pay to the Order

plea



port wine

R.F.K. must die - R.F.K. must be killed Robert
J. Kennedy must be assassinated R.F.K.
must be assassinated R.F.K. must be
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Kennedy Robert F. Kennedy, Robert
F. Kennedy must be assassinated
assassinated Robert F. Kennedy
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Robert F. Kennedy must be
assassinated before 5 June 68
Robert F. Kennedy must be
assassinated I have never heard
please pay to the order of of of of of

of of of of of this or that

HE

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00 00 00 00 00

Please pay to the order of

1

the so called president of the
United States of America must be advised
of their punishments for their ~~own~~
treasonable crimes against the the
the state more over we believe that
the glorious United States of America will
eventually be felled by a blow of an
assassins bullet - 6 bullets
by an assassins bullet

Today I must plan to come home in
a new car today I must plan to
drive home in a new new new Mustang
in in a new Mustang in a

Tonight ¹⁰ I must by a new Mustang tonight

Tonight tonight tonight

tonight ^{no} meet me tonight

00

Tonight come home
tonight tonight
Mush Mush

Chonce is a word said of dance

Saffire Stone Stone
Saffirestone Tom —
Lodestone Eleven Dollars—

Dollars—

Would like to come

Would you up— for several days—

Ambassador Goldberg Stone—

Must die die on yoke die meet
die die die mee at the airport—

Ambassador Goldberg must die

Stone I
Ambassador Fine thank you

Stone goldberg must be eliminated— Stone

Fine fine thank you Stone

Stone SIRHAN IS AN ARAB
Stone you you you you
SIRHAN ARAB ARAB you

Sirhan Sirhan Sirhan

Sirhan Sirhan
66 E 110 Howard St.

Sirhan PASADENA, CALIF.

Sirhan/O# you Sirhan Sirhan
Perhaps you could use the

Sirhan

enclosed \$ Sirhan Sirhan Sirhan

Sirhan green Sirhan St

Stone Stone Sirhan green port Stone
Stone

△ △ L Z □ + 56
Kennedy must fall Kennedy must fall
please pay to the order of Sirhan Sirhan

A the amount of Sirhan Sirhan and do not
forget to become any more of a

△ he ~~poor~~ Senator R. Kennedy
Second group of American Sailors -
must must be disposed of
We believe that Robert F. Kennedy must
be sacrificed for the cause of the
~~poor~~ poor exploited people

we believe that we ~~so~~ can effect
such action and produce such results -
the hand that is writing doing this
writing is going to do the slaying of
the above mentioned victim
One wonders what it feels like to do any
assassination that might do some
illegal work - ~~please pay to~~

I believe that I can effect the
death of Bert C. Allfillisch

Kennedy must die | Kennedy must fall
Kennedy must fall Kennedy must fall
Kennedy must fall Kennedy must
fall - Kennedy must fall

intentional - vs - extentional.

connotation vs - denotation -

implicit = Equality before and after the law

I advocate the overthrow of the current president of the fucken United States of America, I have no absolute plans yet - but soon will compose some

I am poor - This country's propoganda says that she is the best country in the world - I have not experienced this yet - the U. S. - Says that life in Russia is bad - Why - ~~the~~ supposedly No Average American has ever lived in a slavie society so how can he tell if it is good or bad - isn't his goat patting words in his mouth.

Anyway - I believe that the U. S. is ready ~~to start~~ to start declining, not that it hasn't - it began in Nov 23, 63 - but it should decline at a ~~fast~~ faster rate so that the real Utopia will not ~~be~~ be too far from being realized during the early 70's in this country.

I firmly support the communist cause and its people - whether Russian, Chinese

we know what we are doing in
viet Nam - were keeping the
economy going through our war spending -
we will keep busy here working
on pragmatic matters. To impress you -
all what we really want to do is
fuck you as up - get fat and then
quit.

Well, my solution to this type of
government that is to do away
with its leaders - and declare
anarchy the best form of govt - or no
govt.

~~I contend that what is most democratic
is to shoot for president~~

the President ^{is best} is your best friend until
he gets in power then he is your
~~most explosive fucker~~ suck every
drop of blood out of you - just it and
if he doesn't like you - you're dead.

U. S. TREASURY DEPARTMENT
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE-DISTRICT DIRECTOR
300 NORTH LOS ANGELES STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

RFK must be disposed of like his brother was



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D-680606001 Q4 AT
FBI
LABORATORY

in memory of
ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

a service

June 10, 1968

12 noon



Memorial Church
Harvard University

R F Kennedy

A MEMORIAL SERVICE in honor of Robert Francis Kennedy (A.B. '48) was held at the Memorial Church of Harvard University at noon on June 10, 1968. This booklet contains the texts of five brief addresses presented on that occasion.

REV. CHARLES P. PRICE
Preacher to the University

Order of Service

REV. CHARLES P. PRICE, *Preacher to the University*

ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>Fantasy in C Minor</i>	J. S. Bach
CHORAL PRELUDE	<i>Wenn Wir in Höchsten Nöten Sein</i> (When We in Deepest Trouble Were) from <i>Orgel Büchlein</i>	J. S. Bach
PSALMS	<i>One-hundred-and-thirty</i> <i>Twenty-three</i>	
LESSON	<i>Romans 8:14-23, 31-39</i> <i>Revelations 21:1-5a</i>	
ANTHEM	<i>Ave Verum Corpus</i>	William Byrd
ADDRESSES	DON K. PRICE <i>Dean, John Fitzgerald Kennedy</i> <i>School of Government</i> JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH <i>Paul M. Warburg Professor of</i> <i>Economics</i> PETER A. GAGLIARDI <i>Harvard College, Class of 1968</i> ADAM YARMOLINSKY <i>Professor of Law</i> RICHARD E. NEUSTADT <i>Director, Institute of Politics,</i> <i>John Fitzgerald Kennedy</i> <i>School of Government</i>	
HYMN	<i>The Battle Hymn of the Republic</i>	
PRAYERS		
HYMN	<i>Our God, Our Help in Ages Past</i>	
BENEDICTION		

I

MOST OF the others who will speak here today can add, from their own close personal association with Robert Francis Kennedy, to our appreciation of his character as a man and his contribution to our public life. If we were to share time in proportion to our intimacy with Senator Kennedy, I would already have been silenced. Yet the role that he played in the designation of the John Fitzgerald Kennedy School of Government as Harvard's memorial to his brother was a crucial one, and in that role — as trivial as it may seem on the stage of the world events in which he was a leading actor — I had some reason to appreciate the qualities which we may well recognize as we meet today in his memory.

For the past few days a national torrent of eloquence has paid tribute to his courage and his compassion. But for him these were not only the virtues of a brave and good man — they were the virtues of the citizen, a citizen who is aware of his own high talents and determined to use them for the public good. It is easy either for a man of wealth and social status, or for a young rebel against injustice — and he was both — to assume an attitude of superiority to public service and especially to the kind that involves a perpetual contest for power, namely, politics. But such a moral posture was not to his taste. He sought not only power but the responsibility that should go with it, and that can convert power from a source of corruption to an instrument of brotherhood. It was this union of power with compassionate public purposes, this insistence on facing hard facts with a tender conscience, that I took him to mean by the phrase that he used on the last night of his campaign — “the politics of reality.”

Although he received plenty of advice in the process, it was Robert Kennedy's decision that the memorial to his brother, President Kennedy, should be more than a monument and more than an archive of past accomplishments — should be, indeed, an institution to encourage and foster the kind of public service to

which he and his family had been dedicated. And it was his personal decision — at least it was without benefit of any agreement from his advisers, for he knew when it was important to wait for a consensus and when it was essential to accept responsibility and to act — to help Harvard University establish as the living memorial to his brother the Kennedy School of Government.

It was at the point of this decision, four years ago this summer, that I found no basis for the political legend of Robert Kennedy's arrogance and ruthlessness. In a fundamental sense, a politician most surely reveals arrogance by showing a greater respect for power and status than for truth and learning, or by seeking to manipulate the institutions of education in the interest of political advantage. Among political leaders of various parties and all shades of opinion, I have never known one who showed more complete understanding of the need for the independence of academic institutions and for the integrity of scholarship, or more resigned and good humored tolerance for the vagaries of scholarly opinion. The line to be followed by a university that wishes to safeguard intellectual integrity and still make a contemporary contribution to society is not easy to define; it would be far easier if all political leaders could display Robert Kennedy's understanding and his generosity of spirit.

It was in honor of John Fitzgerald Kennedy that he helped Harvard create a living memorial, dedicated to the kind of public service in which he so deeply believed. And now the Kennedy School of Government will serve as well to perpetuate the memory of Robert Francis Kennedy. Harvard and the nation — indeed the world as a whole — will long mourn his loss.

— DON K. PRICE

II

I was not a close personal associate of Robert Kennedy although I have often seen word in the newspapers to the contrary. Serving under him on the floor at the Los Angeles convention in 1960, I remember that I was the only person he addressed as Sir. So it might be more illuminating this afternoon if I were to offer a fragment of testimony of another who knew him well. That was his brother, John F. Kennedy. The story is a small one and has not, I believe, been earlier told.

It was at dinner in Florida a few weeks after the 1960 presidential campaign. Since there was no more favorite topic in the Kennedy family, the campaign was being vigorously refought. I ventured the suggestion that its high point had been the prompt and simultaneous response of both brothers to the jailing of Martin Luther King — something which had occurred not long before the election. The President-elect picked up the comment.

"Like all great political strategies, it was accidental and uncoordinated," he said. "Each of us behaved in character. I telephoned Mrs. King. Bobby moved in on the authorities to get her husband out of jail."

The President was perhaps unfair to himself but right on his brother. Bob Kennedy was a man of quick indignation, and of quick response. His response was not alone to injustice under law which arouses the more reputable forms of anger. It was to economic deprivation and racial deprivation and it came with a special force where these afflicted the young. In such matters, response is not always convenient. It involves the discomforts of action.

This instinct for action accounted, I have always thought, for one part of Kennedy's reputation. In our day, we honor, above all, the men who are able to grace extreme social convenience with high moral purpose. Even the better universities sometimes show talent in this regard. By such standards, those like Kennedy,

who wish to do something, are bound to seem aggressive, at least until after they are dead.

Indeed often when I read about Robert Kennedy, I wondered if the humorless, self-centered man there described could bear any relation to the one I knew. Could it be that he was the least known public figure of our time? Could this be the price for action against the social convenience? For he was, his friends all knew, amused and amusing. He found great gaiety, and rich, rewarding irony in his own relation to life and politics. And so far from being self-centered, he was the most warmly compassionate of men. But now we know that he *was* known. All could see it in the faces of the men and women, and especially the youngsters who lined the track all the way from New York to Washington. All saw it in one crudely lettered sign held up by Negro children on the Baltimore platform. It said, "We loves you, Bobby." There is an instinct that tells the people who need a friend who is a friend.

— JOHN KENNETH GALBRAITH

[6]

III

TODAY I speak for those who never met Bobby Kennedy but for whom he was very much alive. We were offered the Bobby of the press and the Bobby of the campaign leaflets, but we perceived more. Behind the commentator's opinion and the campaigner's image, we felt a man who was real.

In him, we saw a pragmatic politician, but sometimes we called him ruthless. In him, we saw idealism, but sometimes we called him opportunistic. In him, we saw the will and the vigor to attack the problems which he saw, but sometimes we called him ambitious.

We could agree with him or argue with him, support him or work for his opponents. Yet always he was one of us. We listened to him; we worked for him; and we believed in him.

Bobby Kennedy saw the world as we see it. He shared our humanity. He loved as we love. He felt the suffering which we feel. He hated the war which we hate. He saw that this was a revolutionary world with promises and dreams to fulfill, and he planned as we plan. Bobby was our companion, though distant, our friend, though we never met him.

Some of us were disenchanted with what we have alternately labelled "The Establishment" or "The System." For the disaffected, Bobby was a viable hope because he combined our ideals with the system's way. Through his commitment and his ambition, his dream and his style, he would make concerned activism possible through established channels.

Bobby was hope for divided America. He could speak for the poor, the blacks, and the young while dealing with the affluent, the whites, and the over-thirty on their terms. The assassin's bullet struck not only our candidate — it struck the divided Americans whom he sought to reconcile and represent.

It would be easy and an excuse to say that the dream died with the man. Bobby is dead, and our hope in his dream momentarily

[7]

falters, but we will continue. We mourn his absence, but we rejoice that we witnessed the life of Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being.

— PETER A. GAGLIARDI

[8]

I V

THE LAST TIME I saw Robert Kennedy was the afternoon before his television debate, in a big square room at the top of the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, with the sun flooding in across the Golden Gate. He was curled up on a couch in a characteristic attitude, listening intently to the people grouped around him. He was always a good listener. He listened patiently and purposefully, as a good student, in order to increase his capacity to do what he believed needed to be done in the world.

He was extraordinarily open to new ideas. He used them in his own work, and he passed them on freely and eagerly to others who might use them too. The idea of community action first found its way into government through him when he was Attorney General, before the poverty program was even conceived. And the idea of federal incentives for private enterprise to take in the unemployed and the underemployed has found the fullest and the most painstaking expression in his work as a Senator.

What Robert Kennedy added to an idea was a vivid concern for making it happen. His unique contribution grew out of his awareness of the gap between the proposal and its execution, and his determination to bridge that gap. When confronted by a problem, his constant question was "What can I do about it?", and he was never satisfied until he had a positive answer.

His ability to listen and his capacity to use what he heard made him a rewarding student. But he was also a great teacher. And his first pupil was always himself. He never schooled anyone more rigorously. Events conspired with him to make that schooling painful but effective so that he continued to grow in understanding and in wisdom as long as he lived. He loved to quote Aeschylus: "In our sleep, pain that cannot forget falls drop by drop upon the heart, and in our despair, against our will, comes wisdom through the awful grace of God."

[9]

He taught those around him by example and by quiet questioning. What he taught best were the lessons of individual growth and maturity, and everyone who worked with him came away having discovered new capacities within himself.

Like every great teacher, he taught many whom he never saw or spoke with. The power of his words reached across the country and across the world, carrying a lesson of concern and commitment to the afflicted and the rejected.

His teaching, like all great teaching, was suffused with passion. It was a passion for excellence and against bombast and shoddiness and cruelty and injustice. It found expression when he told the American people that it was "unacceptable" that children should go hungry in the United States today; it was "unacceptable" that an education should not be freely available to those who are qualified; it was "unacceptable" that we should, as if by divine right, select villages in Asia for destruction.

His sense of outrage was very near the surface. It responded particularly to instances of overbearing conduct by powerful groups and individuals at the expense of the powerless. I remember riding with him in a taxi into New York City late at night through the streets of Spanish Harlem, and asking him about the satisfactions of public office. He swept his arm around the bleak prospect and replied, "If only I could do more."

Yeats' epitaph on Jonathan Swift fits Robert Kennedy:

"[He] has sailed into his rest;
Savage indignation there
Cannot lacerate his breast.
Imitate him if you dare,
World besotted traveller; he
Served human liberty."

But for those of us who loved him, and who were the beneficiaries of his talent for friendship and for love, he is best remembered in his own words, spoken after the death of his friend, Martin Luther King:

[10]

"Let us dedicate ourselves to what the Greeks wrote so many years ago: to tame the savageness of man and make gentle the life of this world."

— ADAM YARMOLINSKY

[11]

V

A LOT of things don't seem to matter very much right now.

Bob Kennedy was a friend, a good friend and a strong one, but what friends feel we leave to their own thoughts.

Whether he was driving or driven, we can leave to the historians — and so with other aspects of his complex, deeply interesting personality.

Whether he could have been nominated for the Presidency in this year — something I doubt and so I think did he — we can leave to the soothsayers.

What he would have done inside the Presidency had he got there — how above all else he would have sought to end the war — we can leave to the makers of myths. There is no means of knowing and it does not matter now.

What matters — what at least I find impelling — are the faces in the crowds along the railroad tracks last Saturday. In my own incidental exposures to our public life, I have never seen a spectacle more moving or more meaningful.

At every station and every crossroads, lining overpasses, crowding bridges, all the way from Newark to suburban Washington, we passed silent, serious, absorbed, and concerned people.

Their faces, their stances, their patience — some must have waited five hours — these were almost uniform in the expression of one purpose. They were there, it seems, in the words of a sign, hand-lettered, held up proudly by three kids along the tracks, they were there to say "Goodbye, Bobby."

The mood of those quiet, patient people evokes all that we have read about the crowds which waited patiently for Lincoln's train a century ago. But there is one striking difference between the people Saturday and those who waited to pay last respects to Lincoln. Then we had apparently, by all accounts, a great cross-section of Americans. Now, this time, we had by all appearances,

by every sign of face and dress, primarily the urban poor, predominantly the ghetto poor.

Surely more than half — by some proportion I don't know — more than half those faces were black.

Thus visually, impressionistically, we have a confirmation of the stories from the campaign trail in Indiana and in Omaha and in Los Angeles:

Bob Kennedy had won a Constituency.

He had become what the historians may some day call the first Urban Populist. From the streets of Bedford-Stuyvesant to the streets of Watts, he had become a Representative.

If this is so — I think it is — that train ride offered overwhelming signs of it — then we can measure Bob's accomplishment by the size of the gap his passing leaves in our national life. Among our institutions, within the circle of our politicians, white and black, where is there now a Representative for Bob's Constituency?

For he had grasped the central point that the dissenters in this country have been making: Namely, that our institutions — our parties, legislatures, civil services, our unions, corporations, banks, even our universities — are far too little open to the poor, offer far fewer means of access and advantage to the northern ghetto dweller — or the California grape picker — than middle-class Americans have dreamed of or can readily believe.

And grasping this, Bob sought to make himself a means of access, a communicator, and a doer.

He sought power for their purposes.

He was not moved to be charitable; he was moved to be political. He acted out of conscience and concern, but he acted to gain power through politics. If he found a constituency outside the system, he sought to represent it in the system, to force its needs upon the system, through the system.

And we have no one on the scene to take his place.

The gap left by his passing is a big one, but *he* made it. In that there lies encouragement for us. He lived by the belief that individuals can make a difference, that individual will *can* be imposed on situations, that a man *can* matter if he mobilizes all

his effort, focusses his mind and stamina and influence, holds nothing back.

I think Bob had no naive confidence that effort on his part could guarantee success, but I think he had enormous confidence that effort, focussed effort, could impose upon the world some share of the conditions making for success — and thus could move us forward — and those crowds along the railroad vindicate his confidence.

No man has lived his life in vain if he can leave that testimony for the rest of us.

He was one individual, yet he did make a difference. He made a dent on the world.

What he did, other men can do — there lies our hope — provided each can bring himself to act in Bob's way, the way of those extraordinary brothers: Putting it out, putting it all out, holding nothing back.

The campaign crowds would call to Bob: "Tell it like it is!" He did.

— RICHARD E. NEUSTADT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO:	NAME	DIVISION	BUILDING	ROOM
1.	Warren Christopher			
2.	Mr. Lindenbaum			
3.	Attorney General			
4.				

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

RECEIVED

JUN 12 1968

REMARKS

Deputy Attorney General

This is a copy of the memorandum I have prepared on the Sunday meeting. Sol Lindenbaum advised me that he would like to see this when it was prepared. Would you please send it on to him when you have finished with it.



FROM:	NAME	BUILDING & ROOM	EXT.	DATE
	Bill Lynch			6/12/68

ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

William S. Lynch

On Sunday, June 9, 1968, in Room 618 of the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters I met with United States Attorney Matt Byrne, Bob Brosio, his chief of the Criminal Division, and with representatives of the LAPD, and LA sheriff's office and the District Attorney's office. The meeting lasted from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Bill Nolan (ph) one of the FBI supervisors in charge of the Robert Kennedy Assassination investigation was there. The meeting was presided over by Chief of Detectives Houghten (ph) and the Chief Assistant DA Buck Compton, who was there with John Howard, one of his assistants.

Initially, we discussed the interests of the various participants in the conference. Mr. Byrne assured the LAPD and DA's offices that the Federal interest was assisting in whatever way possible with the realization that there was a Federal investigative interest. However, as Mr. Christopher had emphasized the previous Friday in a meeting with LAPD representatives even if evidence of accomplices in the killing were to be uncovered we would consider the primary prosecutive responsibility in the LADA's office and would do whatever we could to assist in any way possible.

Mr. Houghten and Mr. Compton suggested that we review the facts of the killing of Senator Kennedy first including the physical evidence, then go into the question of the background facts of that incident, and then into the question of what indications there were of the involvement of others.

A representative of the LAPD was familiar with the autopsy facts and medical facts advised that Senator Kennedy had sustained three gunshot wounds. No. 1 wound (designated as such for the purpose of discussion and without in any way expressing an opinion on the sequence of the wounds) was a head injury caused by a bullet striking the right mastoid process shattering bone and bullet fragments into the brain. We did not discuss the details of the wounds which are part of the medical report. Various fragments of the bone and bullet embedded in the bone were removed in surgery and these fragments are in the LAPD evidence locker. The surgical incisions made in the attempt to save Senator Kennedy's life destroyed the entry wound in the head. This, of course, was part of the emergency treatment

RFK assassination

accorded Senator Kennedy. There is a photo of the wound, and it was pointed out that midway on Senator Kennedy's right ear there were indications of powder burns. There were numerous pictures taken of the autopsy in order to get complete and accurate photos for future reference. Three different photographers were used so that if one picture failed the other would have it. We were advised by the DA's office that for the grand jury presentation that resulted in the indictment they used one photo of Senator Kennedy for identification purposes and that only verbal descriptions were used in describing his injuries. Therefore, the photographs are not part of any public record as yet.

Wound No. 2 was from a bullet that entered the right armpit and exited through the right shoulder. No fragments were found of the bullet that caused this wound.

Wound No. 3 is from a bullet which entered the right armpit very close to wound No. 2 and proceeded up and out to the center of the upper back where it lodged near the cervical vertebrae. This bullet was recovered by the surgeons and is an excellent comparison bullet. This bullet is identified as having been shot from the gun that was recovered.

LAPD Lab representative Mr. Wofford (ph) advised that the weapon given over to them by Mr. Rafer Johnson was an eight-shot Ivor-Johnson pistol with a 2" barrel. He pointed out that this was^a somewhat unusual weapon in that there were not very many of these guns in existence and he would try to find out how many had been manufactured.

Eight expended cartridges were found in the gun. The cartridges used were a type that was described in detail but basically they are known as CCI cartridges and have a hollow nosed bullet. Bullet fragments from the head wound were not available as of the time of the conference to the Science Lab for comparison purposes. They are going to obtain them and make comparison. As noted above, the bullet from wound No. 3 was recovered from the body of Senator Kennedy. It is described as a very good comparison bullet and came from that particular weapon. Similarly, a bullet recovered from the leg of one of the victims, Mr. Goldstein, has been positively identified as having come from that gun. There is some break in the chain of custody in the Goldstein bullet but that does not appear to be of major consequence at the present time. The Science

Lab ventured the tentative opinion that the bullet that struck Senator Kennedy's head was destroyed because (1) it struck head on, trapped air in the hollow nose of the bullet as the bullet is designed to do and therefore exploded, and (2) it struck the boney process behind the right ear. The wounds in the armpit were described as wounds of entry. One wound in the shoulder is described as a wound of exit of one of the bullets that entered in the armpit. Nitrite tests were made on the clothing and the results of the nitrite tests confirm that the armpit wounds are wounds of entry. Similarly there is evidence of muzzle blasts on the right ear of Senator Kennedy. The gun had not at that point been tested for range of muzzle blast but a tentative opinion was ventured (based on the nature of the weapon) that the gun was anywhere from 2" to 4" away from the entry wound when fired.

It was pointed out that by the time the Science Lab people arrived the blood had been mopped up. As of the time we spoke no one seemed to be certain whether photographs had been taken to show the victims where they had fallen - general thought was that photographs had not been taken. They have made a scale drawing of the scene which is the kitchen area behind and off to the side of the ballroom in which Senator Kennedy spoke prior to the shooting.

It was thought it would be well to construct a mock up of the area and all TV tapes made of the scenes will be reviewed to assist in the construction. A fireman on the scene took several photographs at the time the members of the Kennedy party were struggling with Sirhan for possession of the gun. In one picture that was shown he was stretched on a kitchen table still in possession of the gun. Two men, one of whom was identified as George Plimpton, were struggling with him. This photograph showed Rosie Grier apparently approaching the struggling group. We were told that the witnesses generally indicated that the struggling was going on when Rosie Grier came charging in, bowled him over and took hold of the suspect. However, insofar as anyone knows Rafer Johnson was the only one who took possession of the pistol, held it until the police arrived and then turned it over to the police.

In addition, there was a fourth shot which did not strike Senator Kennedy but penetrated his clothing in the area of the right shoulder pad. They have no mock up to trace the projectory of these shots as yet but will undertake to do so. Nitrite tests on this bullet hole also indicate close proximity of the pistol at the time it was fired. While struggling with the assailant at least one shot was discharged that ranged up into the ceiling through the celotex or composition material of the ceiling, ricocheted off the plaster above and back down through the ceiling some distance away from where the gun was fired to the vicinity of the entry door near the ballroom. This bullet undoubtedly caused injury to one of the victims but this will have to be sorted out upon further investigation. As of the time of the conference the composition material from the ceiling had been taken as evidence but had not been examined for lead traces. They will, of course, as soon as time is available run element traces on these materials in order to come up with some physical evidence to support what apparently was a shot which ricocheted off the ceiling.

The DA's office made the point that the eyewitnesses to the events that have been interviewed thus far give varying distances of the assailant from Senator Kennedy when the shooting occurred. The reconciliation of these witnesses may never occur because of the confusion of the moment and the varying accuracy of the memories involved.

The area of the corridor and kitchen involved is extremely battered with chips, holes, scratches completely covering the area. There were in fact several holes in a doorjam that were marked by the LA sheriff's office as possible bullet holes. Examination by the Police Lab ascertained that while these holes resemble bullet holes these were not bullet holes but had been punched in there by some apparatus used in the kitchen. They are trying to ascertain how these holes occurred and to account for the battering of the kitchen area. The Police Science Lab people went through the area on several occasions making a thorough inspection according to their representatives. The only thing they picked up was a sliver of lead apparently from the ceiling inspection but this will be in the report. There is another hole through the ceiling material that may be a bullet hole but that also will have to be verified through the Science Lab.

We were advised by the LAPD representatives concerning the fingerprints taken that there were no prints on the gun or any of the shell casings. The suspect's automobile, a Desoto, was recovered. Various items were found inside including a receipt from the sale of ammunition of the type used in the gun and a receipt for a repair bill on the automobile as well as a box of ammunition and several cartridges. The interior of the car was dusted and seven prints of the defendant were picked up. In addition one unidentified print was picked up. A number of unidentifiable fragments of prints were picked up. The receipt for the purchase of the ammunition which was dated June 1 has the print of Sirhan on it. A very poor fingerprint was raised on the box of ammunition and at the time of the conference it was unknown whether or not they could identify the fingerprint. Several newspapers were found.

It developed that investigation thus far indicates that Sirhan was identified as using a gun range known as the Fish Canyon Range that afternoon. He signed in in his own name. We were advised that witnesses who put him there were attracted by the fact that he was practicing rapid fire of the pistol which is against range regulations. One or more of the witnesses identified the pistol that he was using as an eight-shot Ivor-Johnson 22. Sirhan can next be placed in the vicinity of the Pasadena City College where he had a conversation with a casual acquaintance from his Pasadena City College days. That person advised that he was fidgeting with an object which in retrospect the witness believes to have been a bullet. They parted somewhere about 7 o'clock when the witness declined to engage in a game of pool with Sirhan. Sirhan is next found in the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 9:30 p.m. where he was described as having a drink with a couple of individuals in the course of which he made some sort of derogatory remark about Senator Kennedy.

A fireman was stationed in the kitchen to guard against possible fire regulations' violations. He had with him a camera to record any such violations. He is described as a very solid witness. (In all of these descriptions we had a brief summary of what the evidence was and this did not purport to be a detailed exposition of the witness' statements.) The fireman says that he observed Sirhan in the kitchen area at the time that the Kennedy party including Senator Kennedy came in the back way through the kitchen area to the ballroom

where Senator Kennedy was to address the campaign workers. The last the fireman recalls seeing Sirhan was approximately 15 minutes before the shots and at that time Sirhan seemed to be following the party toward the ballroom. Whether he actually entered the ballroom the fireman does not know since he was not keeping track of him. The fireman retired to an area where coffee was being served and when the shooting started he was drawn to the area and took several pictures including the pictures of Sirhan and those trying to wrest the revolver from his hand.

Of the estimated 40 or so people in the kitchen area, at the time of the conference, less than 20 had been thus far interviewed. The rest apparently being members of the Kennedy party who went back to participate in the funeral services for the Senator. According to the LAPD the plan of the Kennedy party to go through the kitchen area where Sirhan was located was a spur of the moment decision. Initially it was intended to leave the ballroom and go left downstairs to where other campaign workers were located. Had that path been taken the party would not have walked into the area where Sirhan was located. On the other hand several witnesses stated that they expected Senator Kennedy to exit through the kitchen. According to LAPD information members of the Kennedy party decided that since it was getting late they had better have a press conference instead of going downstairs. The press room was located in an area, the uncongested path to which went through the corridor and kitchen area where Sirhan was waiting. One witness says he was leading Senator Kennedy by the hand when he felt the hand let go, when he turned around Kennedy was shaking hands with another individual and at this point a body hurtled by him and the shooting commenced.

After the assailant had been disarmed two patrolmen who had been in the vicinity on the complaint of an improperly parked car, were called to the scene and took the defendant into custody. He was brought to the station house of the Rampart Division of the LAPD by two vice squad people in plain clothes. It is believed that Mr. Jesse Unruh accompanied them in the police car to the Rampart Division Station. From there Sirhan was sent to the Central Station where he was interrogated. All interrogations at the Central Station are on tape.

At the time of our meeting no one knew what, if anything, Sirhan may have said from the time of the shooting until the interrogation at Central. This is being checked out. The items found on his person are generally a matter of public knowledge and appeared in newspapers. These items included four \$100 bills. Sirhan was paid a little over \$1700 in May by the Argonaut Insurance Company for injuries sustained when he fell off a horse in 1966. The Secret Service traced the four \$100 bills as coming from shipments of money coming into the LA area in the last two years. Investigation is being made to determine whether the insurance check was cashed and if so in what demoninations the money was received.

A girl by the name of Serrano was located on the floor below and was one of the Kennedy campaign workers. She identified Sirhan as having gone up the stairs at approximately 12:05 a.m. She described him as accompanied by a dark male and a girl in a polka-dot dress. Her attention she says was drawn to the dress because she babysits for someone who had the same dress and she admired it. The dress has been obtained and leads are being followed as to the outlet, etc. The LAPD were unable to tell us at the meeting whether she had talked to them before or after she had talked to the news media. Another witness who places Sirhan in the kitchen area just before the shooting says he was accompanied by a girl whose description roughly fits that of the girl described by Serrano.

Serrano's description of the time, however, is totally inconsistent with the story of the fireman placing Sirhan in the kitchen before Senator Kennedy appeared to make the speech.

In addition, a man by the name of Huntley in Portland, Oregon has identified Sirhan's photograph as a man he observed at a rally for Senator Kennedy in Portland, Oregon the precise date of which will be in the report. According to Huntley he (Huntley) was one of the bodyguards for Senator Kennedy. He pushed the man whom he now identifies as Sirhan away as Senator Kennedy was coming through and at that time felt what ^{appeared to be} ~~was~~ a gun under the coat of the individual. This individual was accompanied by another young male generally described by Huntley. He never told anyone of this incident prior to the time of the shooting at which time he called the FBI and advised them of the incident.

There was mention in the newspaper of possible subversive connections with Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. The LAPD people say that Sirhan's brother, Adel Sirhan, had an auto the license of which was picked up in the vicinity of a W. E. DuBois Club meeting. The exact date is unknown. However, on the same block is located a nightclub "The Fez" which features belly dancers. Adel Sirhan was supposed to be dating a belly dancer during this period of time. This is being checked out.

LAPD representatives expressed satisfaction with the cooperation given them by federal agencies particularly the Secret Service and the FBI.

Excerpts From Testimony Before Jury T

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13—Following are excerpts from testimony of some of the 23 witnesses who testified last Friday before the grand jury that indicted Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the first degree murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The transcript of the grand jury proceedings was made public today. Questions were put to the witnesses by various members of the District Attorney's staff.

VINCENT T. DI PIERRO, college student and Ambassador Hotel part-time waiter, son of the hotel's banquet manager, Angelo Di Pierro:

I got separated from Senator Kennedy by about five feet [as the Senator entered the Ambassador Hotel pantry, where he was shot] and I walked with him up to the ice machine. And it was there that I noticed there was a girl and the accused person standing on what we call a tray stacker.

Whether or not the second person was involved, I don't know. . . . The only reason I noticed him—there was a very good-looking girl next to him. . . . He was grabbing on with his left hand [to a pipe on the tray stacker]. I could not see his right hand. He looked as though he were clutching his stomach, as though somebody had elbowed him.

Q. Was he in a straight up position or was he crouched or semi-crouched? A. Semi-crouched. . . . From that moment on, I just looked at the girl, and I saw him get down off the tray stand. And when I went to turn, the next thing I saw was him holding the gun.

Q. How close did—we will call him the suspect—get to the Senator? A. It couldn't have been more than six feet.

Q. How close to the Senator was the suspect when this gun started firing?

A. Four feet—four to six feet. . . . He kind of went around Mr. Uecker, and he from here—he looked like—though he pulled his hand out from here and came around. . . . And then the other boy that got shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me, and they pushed me down, they fell on top of me.

Senator's Hands Went Up

Q. Did you see what happened to the Senator before you went down? A. He was on his way, falling—he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back very, very sharply.

Q. Did you see any movement of the Senator's arms after the first shot? A. Both hands went up like that [indicating].

Q. As near as you can, will you recall for the jury the events immediately after the shooting? What happened?

A. Well, the suspect turned almost immediately; and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to escape. He tried very, very hard to get away. But Mr. Rafer Johnson [the athlete, a member of the Kennedy party]—and by this time Mr. [Roosevelt] Grier [the athlete, also in the Kennedy party] and Mr. Uecker were all holding him



TESTIFIES ON ASSASSINATION: Vincent T. Di Pierro, part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, stands at spot where Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot. He appeared before grand jury dealing with the murder.

against the heater. It's the stainless steel table. And people were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean, everyone was trying to kill him. . . . I tried to help keep the suspect subdued, but it was, you know—wasn't really worth it because everyone else grabbed him already and were beating up on him.

Q. But he was apprehended at this time? A. Yes, almost instantly.

Q. Did some police officers arrive? A. Yes, they did, but at the time involved, I have no idea.

Q. Now going back to just before this shooting, you observed a nice looking girl [in the hotel pantry where Senator Kennedy was shot]? A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Could you identify her again if you saw her? A. To some degree, yes, sir, I could. I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good looking figure—and the dress was kind of lousy.

Q. Flousy? A. Lousy.

Missing After Shooting

Q. Now, after the shooting, you remained at the scene; did you happen to see this girl again? A. No, aafter the shooting I did not see her. I only saw her before.

Q. You didn't ask her name or anything? A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q. Did any of the fellows or guys you work with by chance—? A. No, no one had, other than myself, had seen her, I don't believe.

Q. You have inquired around, I take it, since? A. I have only talked to one fellow that was across from

me, that had seen me, that was with me the whole time. I asked him, and he said that he had seen her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name was.

Q. Could you describe what she was wearing? A. Yes. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka-dots on it. It kind of had — I don't know what they call it, but it's like—looked like a bib in the front that kind of went around. It's just like that [indicating].

Q. A lace dickey, probably?

A. It was like over the material itself; it was the same as the clothing. And she was—she—the person who is accused of shooting him was—like I say, they were both on the—standing standing together.

Q. Back of the tray stand? A. Yes. And what happened, he looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her, because she smiled. This is just before he got down.

So at least, their association, in proximity of the tray stand, they are smiling, perhaps—? A. Together, they were both smiling. As he got down, he was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that.

Q. Could you describe the facial characteristics first of all of this girl? A. Yes. She had dark hair that was cut, I would say, just above the shoulders, just around in here [indicating]. And it just kind of looked like it was messed up, at the time, I mean. She could have come up with curls. I don't

know, it was just messed up at the time. Her face—facial expression, she had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too pretty. And like I say, figure—she had a very good figure.

JESUS PEREZ, a kitchen helper at the Ambassador Hotel:

Q. Now, you see the two photographs which are in front of you [pictures of the defendant]. Did you see the person that's in those photographs around the hotel that night? A. Yes. He was talking to me about half an hour before the shooting.

Q. And where were you at that time that he was talking to you? A. In the steam table in the front—in the steam table—I was there, and he was close to me here. And he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming through that way. And I answer I don't know because—really, I don't know what way he comes.

Q. But he asked you about three or four times? A. Yes, he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy come through from there, coming out from there. . . . He was there talking with me and other boys. And some Mexican boy, he said something, and the man was—he told me, "What he said?" And I tell him, "He is talking about the beautiful girl. He no talking about you." He said, "Oh."

Q. This was about half an hour before the Senator got shot that night or before the shooting got started? A. Yes. We was about half an hour standing there.

Q. Do you remember when you first saw this person? A. Yeah, I remember him. He was there in the steam table, getting some picture, doing something, you—he was standing there.

Q. How early in the night did you see him there? A. I say 15 minutes before 12.

Mrs. Kennedy Protected

IRWIN STROLL, 19, Kennedy campaign volunteer worker:

I started going through the kitchen door [as the Kennedy party left the ballroom]. . . . I got in front of Mrs. Kennedy by accident. Then we went through the door and all of a sudden the procession stopped and it was like firecrackers, just pop, pop, pop all over the place, and smoke, and, well, I did this, I pushed Mrs. Kennedy—just a reaction, and everyone in front turned around.

I turned around and saw Mrs. Kennedy on the floor with Roosevelt Grier covering her. . . . I saw her on the floor with Roosevelt Grier hovering over her, protecting her.

IRA GOLDSTEIN, 19, radio newsmen:

I was just barely skinned by a bullet . . . in the left thigh. . . . I staggered to a chair . . . and the first thing I said was, "How is Senator Kennedy? What happened to him?"

And this woman walked by, and she said to me, "How dare you talk about my husband that way," and she slapped me across the face.

And I said, "I am sorry,

RFK Assassination

hat Indicted Sirhan for Kennedy Murder

lady, but I was shot, too. I'd like to know how the Senator was . . ." or " . . . is."

And she said, "Oh, I am sorry, honey," and kissed me. This was Mrs. Ethel Kennedy.

At that time she was not in tears. She was a little hysterical, though, but she wasn't crying.

Arthur Placencia, policeman, who, responding to a radio call, arrived in the Ambassador pantry a few minutes after the shooting:

Q. Were you in police uniform? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Telling everyone you were taking him [Sirhan] into custody? A. We had to keep telling them, "We are police, step aside."

And after a while we got tired of telling them. We just started pushing. . . . My partner had him from the right, from my partner's right, and the suspect's left, and [Jesse M.] Unruh [Speaker of the California Assembly] was on the other side—kept hollering, "We don't want another Oswald, we don't want another Oswald."

Because I know I was going to have to make a report on him, I asked him, just like any other suspect, I asked him, "What is your name?" He didn't say anything.

Q. Would he communicate at all with you on the ride to the station? A. Well, when I was giving him—Travis turned around, my partner, White, and told me, "You better give him his rights, partner."

Tells Sirhan of Rights

Q. For the subject—or the suspect, of his constitutional rights? A. Yes. So I took out my officer's Field Notebook, and I started reading off the rights. And after I read them off, I asked him, "Do you understand your rights?" And he looked at me, and I asked him again; and then he mumbled something.

So I told him, "Look, I will give them to you again." So I read them off again. Then I asked him again, "Do you understand your rights?" Then he looked at me and said, "Yes."

And then I said, "Do you wish to remain silent?" And he just didn't say anything. Then he looked at me again and he said, "Yes."

Then I said, "Do you wish an attorney present?" Then at that time he just said, "Yes." So after that I didn't ask him anymore.

And then, after that, I asked Jesse Unruh, I said, "By the way, who did he shoot?"

And he goes, "Bobby Kennedy."

And I said, "Oh."

DR. THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, coroner of Los Angeles County:

Q. And would you tell us how many wounds there were?

A. A total of three gunshot wounds sir. . . . A gunshot wound in the right mastoid; gunshot wound two was found in the back of the right armpit, known as the right axilla; and the gunshot wound 3 was also found very close, approximately — it's about half inch below the gunshot wound No. 2.

Q. So that you would regard wound No. 1 then as

being the wound that did cause death, is that right?

A. That's correct sir. . . . There was an extensive brain damage on the right side of the brain, mainly the brain called cerebellum. . . . There

also was marked swelling of the brain as well as flattening by the pressures inside of the brain and causing a flattening of the brain stem.

Q. Do you have any opinion as to what might have been

the distance from which that bullet was fired?

A. Allowing variation, "I don't think it will be more than two or three inches from the edge of the right ear."





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 13, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
are being furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at
the White House and to the Vice President.

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ATK assumption



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 13, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Interviews with witnesses into the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy continue, as well as interviews with associates and former employers of the accused assailant Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Approximately 207 employees of the Ambassador Hotel have been interviewed to date.

Roosevelt Grier, professional football player who was present at Senator Kennedy's speech in the Ambassador Hotel at Los Angeles, California, during the night of June 4, 1968, related to FBI Agents how he, with the assistance of hotel employees and Rafer Johnson, Olympic champion, disarmed Sirhan after the shooting. Another individual, Louis Shelby, a restaurant owner where Adel Sirhan had been employed, described the assailant as an extremely frustrated individual and one who was convinced the United States was involved in the furtherance of Zionist goals.

Chief Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County, Lynn Compton, has advised our Los Angeles Office that a review of investigation conducted by the investigative staff of the District Attorney's office and the Los Angeles Police Department fails to indicate that there is any evidence to support Sirhan was associated with anyone else or conspired with any other person in the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

With respect to the prosecution of Sirhan, it has been reported that Mr. Wilbur Littlefield, Chief Trial Deputy in the Office of the Public Defender, has been named to represent Sirhan. The news media indicates Sirhan reportedly desires two private attorneys to defend him but alleged he has stated he could not afford to retain private counsel. Littlefield was placed in charge of the case after a meeting of the Los Angeles Bar Association.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: July 3, 1968

FROM : *RM* Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Vincent Thomas DePierro, a waiter at the Ambassador Hotel, previously advised Special Agents of the FBI and officers of the Los Angeles Police Department that he had observed Sirhan Bishara Sirhan shoot Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, and just prior thereto had noted Sirhan engaged in a conversation with an attractive white female attired in a polka dot dress. Our Los Angeles Office has now advised that DePierro was afforded a polygraph examination by Los Angeles, California, authorities on July 1, 1968, following which he admitted the information concerning the female in the polka dot dress was entirely false. DePierro told local authorities he lied solely to make his story more interesting to the news media and police authorities.

Local authorities have advised our Los Angeles Office that DePierro testified before a local Grand Jury identifying Sirhan as the assailant and commented on the fact that he had observed a female in a polka dot dress talking to Sirhan. In view of his current admissions as to the fraudulent nature of a portion of his testimony, local authorities now indicate his value as a witness concerning the actual shooting has now been destroyed.

For your additional information, our Los Angeles Office reports that defense attorneys for Sirhan have engaged one Michael A. McCowan, a former Los Angeles police officer, as an investigator for the defense. According to information furnished by the Los Angeles Police Department, McCowan resigned from the department in 1965 after having been arrested by postal



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The Attorney General

inspectors on a mail theft charge. He received a probationary sentence and remains on probation at this time. Our files contain no additional information concerning McCowan.

Investigation into this matter is continuing.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. William S. Lynch
Special Assistant to the Attorney General

The Attorney General

July 3, 1968

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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The Attorney General

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Special Assistant to the Attorney General

5-141 (6-2-65)
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 2, 1968

The Attorney General



Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

RC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

July 2, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Press reports indicate that Grant B. Cooper, a Los Angeles, California, attorney, will serve as an additional defense counsel for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory reveals one Grant B. Cooper, born in 1903, was admitted to practice in 1927 and attended law school at Southwestern University in Los Angeles, California. For your information, there follows a brief summary of data in our files concerning Grant Cooper.

In 1941 the chief investigator for the Jack Tenny Committee investigating communism in California advised that one Grant Cooper, then on the Los Angeles County District Attorney's staff, and close to Mayor Fletcher Bowron, was married to a daughter of Mrs. Norton, Mayor Bowron's secretary. Phyllis Norton Cooper, the wife, was reportedly a former close associate of Celeste Strack, a prominent Young Communist League leader in Southern California and formerly active in New York City.

News and other sources reported in 1949 that Mr. Cooper was the attorney for a bit actress, Lila Leeds, who was arrested along with Robert Mitchum and others on a narcotics charge. Reportedly Mr. Cooper had as one of his associates in his law firm the son of Los Angeles County Sheriff, Eugene W. Biscailuz.

Mr. Cooper represented one Samuel Jesse Berland in his appearance before the House Committee on Un-American Activities in April, 1956. Berland, according to our files, was prominent in communist activities in the Los Angeles area for an extended period of time.

RKK assass.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Grant Cooper was the attorney in 1957 for one Philip Watler, a business agent of a Local Teamster's Union in California, in connection with a Grand Jury indictment for perjury.

In November, 1960, the Governor of California established a Special Committee on Insanity and Criminal Offenders to study insanity in relationship to law. Attorney Grant Cooper of Los Angeles, who reportedly defended Dr. Bernard Finch for wife murder, acted as chairman of one of the discussions of this committee.

In connection with an investigation of James Riddle Hoffa in 1961, a reliable source advised that he had contacted one Bill Bufalino, Teamster official in Detroit, Michigan, and was instructed to telephonically contact a Mrs. Williams at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, and assist her. The source discovered that Mrs. Williams was in fact Viola Carbo, wife of Paul John (Frank) Carbo, then under prosecution for extortion and anti-racketeering in connection with the boxing racket. Mrs. Carbo requested the source to locate an attorney for her husband. Source took Mrs. Carbo to the home of Grant Cooper, at which time Cooper set his fee for representing Carbo at \$50,000. Mrs. Carbo indicated that she would have to make the payment in cash rather than by check and Cooper advised that he was not interested in handling the case in that manner.

In June, 1962, it was reported that Grant B. Cooper was the Southern Committee Vice Chairman Pro-Tem of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency. The announced purpose of the organization was to formulate a "crash" program to marshal the best know-how and experience in the State to bear on crime and delinquency.

Grant Cooper has represented numerous other individuals in the criminal element as well as one Chinese espionage subject who was under deportation proceedings in the Los Angeles area and is rated as a very prominent capable criminal trial lawyer according to news sources.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: June 26, 1968

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA



You have been previously advised of the circumstances and conditions surrounding the incarceration of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Details concerning this matter are set forth in the report of Special Agent Amedee O. Richards, Jr., dated June 9, 1968, at Los Angeles, California, and captioned "Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Civil Rights," copies of which were previously furnished to the Department.

In addition, Deputy Attorney General Warren Christopher on June 7, 1968, visited the Los Angeles County Jail and observed the area and cell where Sirhan is incarcerated.

Since the incarceration of Sirhan we have had a Special Agent on duty at the jail on a full-time basis in a liaison capacity. No pertinent information has been developed as a result of this arrangement and considering the manpower expenditure on this assignment, this liaison function is being discontinued unless advised to the contrary. The Special Agent in Charge of our Los Angeles Office has stated that Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess has assured him that any pertinent developments resulting from Sirhan's incarceration will be immediately brought to our attention.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. William S. Lynch
Special Assistant to the
Attorney General



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

RC

The Attorney General

June 26, 1968

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

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1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

1 - Mr. William S. Lynch
Special Assistant to the
Attorney General

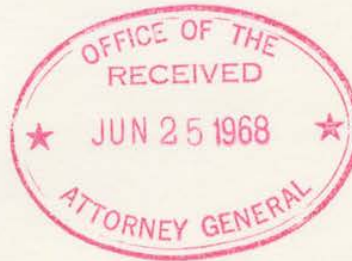
5-141 (6-2-65)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 25, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

RC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 25, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Press reports indicate that Russell E. Parsons, 73-year-old Los Angeles, California, attorney, will serve as Defense Counsel for Sirhan Sirhan, accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. For your information, there follows a brief summary of information in our files concerning Mr. Parsons.

In 1937, a Departmental Applicant investigation of Russell Edward Parsons was initiated, which investigation was discontinued at the request of the Department prior to completion. The investigation which was conducted indicated Mr. Parsons was born in 1893 and attended the University of Southern California Law School for only one year, taking two subjects, one of which he failed. It is noted that Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory indicates Mr. Parsons was born in 1895 and obtained his law degree at the University of Southern California.

During the investigation, it was ascertained that in 1928, warrants for Mr. Parsons' arrest were issued by Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties, California, on bad check charges, which were subsequently dismissed. He reportedly entered a guilty plea in January of 1928 to charges of obtaining property by false pretenses, received a sentence of six months, which sentence was suspended, and Mr. Parsons was placed on probation for two years. In 1934 he filed a petition in bankruptcy, which case was dismissed in March, 1935, without his receiving a discharge. Individuals interviewed during the investigation, including judges, attorneys, clients and friends of Mr. Parsons, advised that they had never known him to be involved in any trouble and considered him capable, energetic, hardworking, forceful, a splendid orator,

Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Los Angeles, California

loyal, trustworthy and honest. One attorney advised the check charges mentioned above resulted from the failure of other individuals to carry out their agreement to deposit money to cover the checks which Mr. Parsons wrote.

Beginning in 1917, for two two-year terms, Mr. Parsons served as County Attorney of Beaver County, Utah, as well as City Attorney for Beaver City, Utah, returning to Los Angeles in the mid-1930's to practice law. According to Los Angeles press reports, Mr. Parsons has become nationally known as a trial lawyer in the area of criminal law. In the late 1930's, Mr. Parsons joined the Los Angeles County District Attorneys Office where he served as a top prosecutor assigned to special cases. These press reports indicate that in recent years he has devoted his time to the practice of both civil and criminal cases.

The files of this Bureau reveal that in 1942 Mr. Parsons was one of the attorneys for the officials of Mankind United who were indicted for violation of the Sedition Statutes. According to press reports in August of 1940, Mr. Parsons, then Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles, California, was interested in prosecuting an old murder case which he stated resulted from the investigation of communist activities in the San Pedro, California, area. Mr. Parsons was quoted as stating the murdered individual had been engaged in anticommunist activities and had been killed during communist attempts to infiltrate and ~~dest~~roy a union.

In 1959, Mr. Parsons was reportedly one of the featured speakers at a State-Wide Conference on Criminal Law Reform under the sponsorship of the National Lawyers Guild of California. The National Lawyers Guild has been cited as a communist front by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1962, information was received from the Internal Revenue Service in Los Angeles concerning an investigation being conducted of Los Angeles attorneys for possible income tax evasion on the basis of "fee-splitting" with local bondsmen. A Federal Grand Jury reportedly failed to develop any evidence to substantiate the allegations.

Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy
Los Angeles, California

As mentioned above, Mr. Parsons has been active in criminal cases and this Bureau's files reveal that among the individuals whom he has represented have been Joseph, Fred and Alfred Sica, who have been described as Los Angeles hoodlums active in criminal activities, including such activities in the field of bookmaking.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 24, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
are being furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at
the White House and to the Vice President.

RFK assns.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 24, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

As mentioned previously, twenty-year-old Sandra Serrano appeared on television shortly after Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot and claimed that immediately after the shooting a woman in a polka dot dress ran by her shouting "We shot him. We shot him." According to Miss Serrano, this woman had entered the Ambassador Hotel prior to the shooting accompanied by two men, one of whom she identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Extensive investigation has failed to substantiate her story.

On June 21, 1968, after being afforded a polygraph examination and an extensive interview by the Los Angeles, California, Police Department, Miss Serrano admitted that her story was a complete fabrication.

An employee of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, Duarte, California, where Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was seen practicing with a revolver on June 4, 1968, claimed that Sirhan talked with a blonde woman at the gun club and it appeared the two had met previously. This woman has been identified as Mrs. Claudia Williams. She advised she was at the gun club with her husband, Ronald, on June 4, 1968, and Sirhan assisted her on the pistol range while her husband was at the rifle range. Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Williams had met Sirhan previously.

The receptionist at the office of Russell E. Parsons, Sirhan's attorney, Los Angeles, received two telephone calls on June 20, 1968, from a person claiming to be John Lawrence of New York City. This caller said he was executive secretary of the Clemency Committee for Sirhan Sirhan and that Los Angeles criminal attorneys are "Crooks" and will take Sirhan "down the river." He also said "We are out to get Mr. Parsons" and claimed that Parsons was being paid \$150,000 to represent Sirhan. He said that there are 250,000 Arabs who are militant and who are not going to let Parsons get away with it. Parsons contacted the Los Angeles Police Department and requested protection. The police suggested that he discuss

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

the matter with the presiding judge, Los Angeles County Superior Court. The presiding judge intends to hold a hearing to determine if Parsons needs protection. The United States Attorney is withholding a prosecutive opinion regarding a possible violation of the Federal Extortion Statute.

Our investigation into the assassination of Senator Kennedy is continuing.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1968

LEE LOEVINGER

Honorable Ramsey Clark
Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20530



Dear Ramsey:

This is to express to you my deep regret for my absence from the Memorial Services for Robert F. Kennedy held at the Justice Department on Saturday. I was out of town last week and did not return to Washington until Monday, when I was informed of these services.

There is nothing that can be said that has not been said and my own feeling of shock, horror and grief at the terrible tragedy of the assassination can add little to the national sense of sharing in these sentiments. Yet it seems appropriate for each of us to express for ourselves our own outrage and sadness at this tragic loss and our resolution to do what we can to change conditions so that we may minimize the possibilities of further tragedies of this kind. So I write to you as the representative of the Justice Department to add my own small note of shock, grief and tribute to the outstanding public figure and political leader who has been lost to us, Bob Kennedy.

Sincerely,

Lee Loevinger

Assassination of RFK

RC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: June 21, 1968

JM
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY



This Bureau has received information alleging that a well-known attorney of the Department of Justice supposedly stated Senator Kennedy's assassin was inspired by a high government official.

We are endeavoring to determine the facts surrounding this purported statement and the identity of the person who made it. You will be advised of the results.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

RFK assassin

The Attorney General

June 21, 1968

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

This Bureau has received information alleging that a well-known attorney of the Department of Justice supposedly stated Senator Kennedy's assassin was inspired by a high government official.

We are endeavoring to determine the facts surrounding this purported statement and the identity of the person who made it. You will be advised of the results.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

RC:FMV:elb
(typed 6/18/68)

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

JUN 19 1968

The Attorney General

Assassination of Robert F. Kennedy

In addition to his other duties, William S. Lynch, Deputy Chief, Organized Crime and Racketeering Section of the Criminal Division, has been designated Special Assistant to the Attorney General.

In this capacity Mr. Lynch is responsible for collecting and collating for me and the Deputy Attorney General all information with respect to the above.

Accordingly, it would be appreciated if you will deliver promptly to Mr. Lynch copies of all reports, memoranda, airtels, etc., relating to this matter. I would also appreciate if you would have someone check with Mr. Lynch to be sure that he has a full set of all such materials to date.

cc: Records
Chrono
Mr. Vinson
Mr. Lynch
✓ Mr. Ramsey Clark



RFK assass.



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

June 20, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: Russell Parsons, Retained Counsel
for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan

Russell Parsons, who has been retained by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, is a run-of-the-mill criminal lawyer in Los Angeles who is generally regarded as honest by judges and fellow lawyers. He is a former Assistant District Attorney of Los Angeles County. Over the years, he has represented a number of bookmakers.

Parsons is known as a bread-and-butter lawyer who works for money. Accordingly, there is some surprise concerning the reports in the Los Angeles press that he is handling the case on a "no fee" basis.

Our information is that Parsons will be the "number two" lawyer for Sirhan. The lead counsel is apparently still to be named.

Parsons has dabbled in various business enterprises, having recently owned part interest in a burlesque house, and in a poker parlor in Gardena. At the present time, he apparently has interest in nursing homes and convalescent homes.

Parsons apparently said in Los Angeles that he is going to use a man named Michael Allen McCowan as his chief investigator. McCowan is a former Los Angeles police department officer who was dismissed from the force after he was convicted in Federal Court of theft from the mails.

WZ
Warren Christopher
Deputy Attorney General

Re

RFK assassinations

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: June 21, 1968

JFM
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

This is in reply to your communication of June 19, 1968, wherein you indicated Mr. William S. Lynch has been designated as Special Assistant to the Attorney General whose responsibility is to collect and collate information with respect to this investigation.

In the past, we have furnished copies of all pertinent memoranda and a report to Assistant Attorneys General of the Criminal and Civil Rights Divisions. Copies of this material have been furnished Mr. Lynch today and in the future, copies of all pertinent material will be delivered to Mr. Lynch as well as the Assistant Attorneys General of the Criminal and Civil Rights Divisions.

- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. William S. Lynch
Special Assistant to the Attorney General



5010-108

RK Ken. Comm.

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

The Attorney General

June 21, 1968

Director, FBI

**ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

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- 1 - The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. William S. Lynch
Special Assistant to the Attorney General

REQUIEM MASS FOR

SENATOR ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY

JUNE 8, 1968

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Mr. Roswell Gilpatrick
124 East 62nd Street
New York, New York

Honorable Quentin N. Burdick
25 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Richard Goodwin
35 Home Street
Middletown, Connecticut

Mr. William Brady
108 West Moreland Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Mr. Arthur Schlesinger
166 East 61st Street
New York, New York

Mr. Walter Sheridan
4901 Edgemore Road
Bethesda, Maryland

Honorable R. Sargent Shriver
U.S. Embassy
Paris, France

Honorable Ben Smith
54 Leonard Street
Gloucester, Massachusetts

Mr. Charles Spaulding
230 Park Avenue
New York, New York

Mr. Gerald Tremblay
105 East High Street
Charlottesville, Virginia

Honorable Joseph Tydings
Havre De Grace
Maryland

Mr. William Vanden Heuvel
135 Central Park West
New York, New York

Mr. Thomas Watson
Meadowcrest Lane
Greenwich, Connecticut

Justice Byron White
6801 Hampshire Road
McLean, Virginia 22101

Mr. Donald Wilson
2809 Dumbarton Street
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Andy Williams
157 Delfern Avenue
Bel Air, California

Mr. William Barry
16 Overlook Road
New York City, New York

Honorable Everett Dirksen
R. 2
Sterling, Virginia 22170

Honorable Ramsey Clark
6393 Lakeview Drive
Falls Church Virginia 22041

Honorable John Sherman Cooper
2900 N Street
Washington, D.C. 20007

Honorary Pallbearers continued....

Mr. John Doar
4514 Drummond Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Justice William O. Douglas
4852 Hutchins Place
Washington, D.C. 20007

Mr. Charles Evers
Fayette
Mississippi

Mr. Fred Dutton
5316 Blackistone Road
Westmoreland Hills
Washington, D.C. 20016

Honorable Mike Mansfield
4500 Dexter Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20007

Honorable Nicholas deB. Katzenbach
3141 Highland Place
Washington, D.C. 20008

Mr. Edwin Guthman
1436 N. Caprice Drive
Los Angeles, California

Honorable George McGovern
3214 Coquelin Terrace
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Mr. Andre Meyer
Carlyle Hotel
35 East 76th Street
New York, New York

Mr. Burke Marshall
Hook Road
Bedford, New York 10506

Mr. John Nolan
24 Grafton
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Louis Oberdorfer
1423 Kirby Road
McLean, Virginia

Honorable Lawrence O'Brien
3019 Normanstone Terrace NW
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Kenneth O'Donnell
56 Lochstead Avenue
Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts 02130

Mr. William H. Orrick
6 Piesidio Terrace
San Francisco, California

Honorable Claiborne Pell
3425 Prospect Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Mr. David Powers
374 Ridge Street
Arlington, Massachusetts

Prince Radziwill
4 Buckingham Place
London, F W 1, England

Mr. Pierre Salinger
9109 Haxen Drive
Beverly Hills, California 90210

Mr. Rafer Johnson
Kingsbury, California

Honorable John McCone
1100 Oak Grove Avenue
San Marino, California

Mr. Herbert J. Miller
10100 Chapel Road
Potomac, Maryland

Mr. Nicholas Rodis
1702 Chesterfield Avenue
McLean, Virginia

Honorary Pallbearers continued.....

Mr. Rushton Skakel
Otter Rock Drive
Greenwich, Connecticut.

Mr. William Walton
16 East 81st Street
New York, New York

Mr. John Bassett
76 Bimscarth
Toronto 5, Canada

Mr. Carmine Bellino
9200 Burning Tree
Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. John Burns
Dryden-East Hotel
150 East 39th Street
New York, New York 10016

Mr. Ceasar Chavez
P.O. Box 130
Delano, California

Mr. Paul Corbin
7108 Sussex Place
Alexandria, Virginia

Mr. Tom Corcoran
Waterville Valley
New Hampshire

Mr. Sammy Davis, Jr.
3 East 93rd Street
New York, New York

Mr. John English
249 Mineola Blvd.
Mineola, New York

Mr. Charles Glynn
85 Mitchell Street
Binghamton, New York

Mr. George Stevens
2903 N Street NW
Washington, D.C.

Mr. James Skakel
660 Hot Springs Road
Montecito, California

Mr. John Douglas
5700 Kirkside Drive
Chevy Chase, Maryland

Mr. Theodore Sorensen
575 Madison Avenue
New York, New York

Mr. George Ross (Barnie)
9912 Pomona Drive
Bethesda, Maryland

Mr. Roosevelt Grier
1148 Spaulding Ave.
Los Angeles, Calif

Mr. William Schaeffler

5-141 (6-2-65)
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 18, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
are being furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at
the White House and to the Vice President.

RFK assass.

nc



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 18, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR
ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

The continuing investigation concerning Sirhan Bishara Sirhan has revealed that he is a member of the Rosicrucian Order, San Jose, California. This order is also known as the Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (AMORC).

An official of this organization has advised that Sirhan had a "corresponding membership" and did not attend regular meetings. Several members of the Pasadena, California, chapter of this order have advised that Sirhan attended a meeting at Pasadena, California, on the evening of May 28, 1968.

Officials of the Rosicrucian Order have advised this is a world-wide fraternal organization operating on a lodge system. They advised it is nonsectarian and is not a religious order although the ethics of the order adhere to Christian principles. They further advised that the teachings of the organization do not interfere with religious freedom of members and only law-abiding citizens over 21 years of age, of good repute, and believing in a "Supreme Being" are eligible for membership. Members reportedly include a cross section of all classes of people and total world membership is claimed at approximately 90,000 people of which 45,000 are in the United States. This order reportedly traces its origin back to the "mystery schools or secret schools" in Egypt approximately 1500 years B.C., and is nonpolitical in nature.

On June 5, 1968, a search of Sirhan's automobile was conducted by the Los Angeles, California, Police Department. This search revealed a sales receipt from the Lock, Stock and Barrel gun store, San Gabriel, California, reflecting the purchase of four boxes of .22 caliber ammunition on June 1, 1968. Intensive inquiries are continuing into this as well as all other phases of this investigation.

4-141 (6-2-65)
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 14, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,


John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
are being furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at
the White House and to the Vice President.

nc



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 14, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

We are continuing interviews with individuals who were at or near the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, during the evening of June 4-5, 1968, in an effort to establish full facts relative to the activities of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Rafer Lewis Johnson, Olympic champion who assisted in subduing Sirhan, advises that while he was holding Sirhan immediately after subduing him he held his fist to Sirhan's head and repeated the question "Why did you do it?" The assailant's only reply to Johnson was "I'll explain it."

Another witness, Jesus Perez, saw Sirhan, gun in hand, immediately after Senator Kennedy had been shot. He stated Sirhan is identical with an individual who talked to him briefly just before midnight June 4, 1968, inquiring as to whether Senator Kennedy would pass their way after his speech.

Investigation indicates that the itinerary for Senator Kennedy was modified somewhat during the evening of June 4, 1968, due to delays in receiving election returns. According to information received from Senator Kennedy's Public Relations Director for the California Campaign, the decision to take the route directly to the Colonial Room at the Ambassador Hotel was made on the stage immediately after Senator Kennedy's speech. Inquiry into this phase is continuing.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR
ROBERT F. KENNEDY

A United Press International release on June 13, 1968, indicated Sirhan Bishara Sirhan had traveled to the Middle East during 1964 and 1966. This information allegedly originated with an unidentified Arab state. According to our investigation, it is completely unfounded since Sirhan had been, during 1964 and 1966, either pursuing his education or employed in the Pasadena, California, area.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 12, 1968



The Attorney General

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Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

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the White House and to the Vice President.

RF K drafting

RC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

June 12, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Investigation is continuing in order to develop full background information concerning Sirhan Bishara Sirhan as well as that of members of his immediate family and associates.

With respect to a previous statement attributed to Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, Los Angeles, California, as reported by the news media on June 6, 1968, alleging Sirhan was associated with the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America, and a vehicle registered to Sirhan's brother, Adel, was observed on January 16, 1966, in the vicinity of Baces Hall, 1528 North Vermont, Los Angeles, California, where a meeting sponsored by that organization was being held, information has been developed indicating Adel Sirhan had previously been employed as a musician at the Fez Restaurant, 1508 North Vermont, adjacent to Baces Hall. Full details are being developed with respect to this phase of our investigation.

On June 9, 1968, a United Press International release datelined Cairo made reference to the arrest of one Soliman Sirhan by Iraqi authorities as an Israeli spy alleging he was a brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. Sirhan's mother, during an intensive interview by FBI Agents on June 10, 1968, volunteered she had heard this newscast and stated she has only five sons, Sirhan, Munir, Sharif, Adel and Saidallah, none of whom are living outside the United States. The individual to whom the United Press International referred was unknown to her.

Interviews are continuing with those individuals who were in or near the Embassy Room at the Ambassador Hotel during the evening of June 4-5, 1968. Several have

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR
ROBERT F. KENNEDY

been located who were witnesses to the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and who positively identify Sirhan Bishara Sirhan as the individual who fired the shots at Senator Kennedy. This phase of our investigation is being exhaustively pursued.

According to information furnished by ambulance attendant Max Alma Behrmann, after responding to the call at the Ambassador Hotel, a distraught Mrs. Kennedy attempted to keep him from assisting the Senator stating "Keep your hands off him, I'm Mrs. Kennedy." As the Senator was placed in an ambulance, an argument ensued between Behrmann and Mrs. Kennedy as to who would accompany the ambulance and again, according to Behrmann, when he questioned Mrs. Kennedy while en route to the hospital as to what had transpired, she stated "I don't give a damn what you say," grabbed his record book and threw it out of the ambulance. Upon noting the Senator was having difficulty breathing and thereafter trying to assist him, Behrmann was told by Mrs. Kennedy "You keep your dirty filthy hands off my husband," and she struck him on the right side of his face stunning him. He further recalls Mrs. Kennedy called to a male associate who was sitting in the front seat to "Come back here and throw this ambulance man out; he's bothering me; he's asking too many questions."

It was further reported by a witness at the hospital that upon arrival there Mrs. Kennedy grabbed a camera from a newsman, knocking it to the floor, and she also swung at the newsman hitting him in the chest area. Senator Kennedy's bodyguard then jumped over the stretcher and punched the newsman in the face.

Of possible significance is the fact that among items found on Sirhan's person when taken into custody was a newspaper article by David Lawrence captioned "Paradoxical Bob" and highlighting the fact that while Kennedy vigorously opposes the war in Vietnam, he has nevertheless recommended full assistance to Israel "with arms if necessary" to meet the threat of the Soviets.

In addition, whereas press reports claim Rafer Johnson, Olympic champion, and Roosevelt Grier, professional football player, subdued the assailant, investigation reveals the first to reach the assailant were two hotel employees. They then were assisted by Grier and Johnson.

June 10, 1968

Dear John: *Jack*

Many thanks for participating in the memorial gathering in the courtyard last Saturday afternoon.

Your tribute to Senator Kennedy was a comfort to all of us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Ramsey
Ramsey Clark

Mr. John H. Davitt
3617 Shepherd Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland 20015

Kennedy File
Cover: Buse

June 10, 1968

Dear Archie:

Many thanks for participating in the memorial gathering in the courtyard last Saturday afternoon.

Your tribute to Bob was a comfort to all of us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

15/ Ramsey

Ramsey Clark

Professor Archibald Cox
Harvard University
School of Law
Cambridge, Massachusetts

June 10, 1968

Dear Harold:

Many thanks for participating in the memorial gathering in the courtyard last Saturday afternoon.

Your tribute to Bob was a comfort to all of us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

151 Ramsey
Ramsey Clark

Honorable Harold Greene
District of Columbia Court
of General Sessions
4th and E Streets, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20001

June 10, 1968

Dear ~~Mr.~~ Williams:

Many thanks for participating in the memorial gathering in the courtyard last Saturday afternoon.

Your tribute to Senator Kennedy was a comfort to all of us.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

/s/
Ramsey Clark

Mr. Thomas H. Williams
5372 Chillum Place, N. E.
Washington, D. C. 20011



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 12, 1968

The Attorney General



Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed information were
also furnished to the Deputy Attorney General
and the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal
Division.

ke

RE. ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR
ROBERT F. KENNEDY

SUMMARY RE FEMALE IN POLKA DOT DRESS

SANDRA SERRANO, AGE TWENTY, INTERVIEWED BY SANDOR
VANOCUR, NBC NEWS, APPROXIMATELY ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS AFTER
KENNEDY SHOOTING. AUDIO TAPE OBTAINED. DURING TV INTERVIEW
SERRANO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN WOMAN AND MAN COMING DOWN STAIRS
SHORTLY AFTER SHOOTING AND THE WOMAN SAID, "WE SHOT HIM - WE
SHOT HIM." SERRANO CLAIMED SHE ASKED "SHOT WHO?" AND WOMAN
SAID "SENATOR KENNEDY". SERRANO CLAIMED WOMAN WORE WHITE
DRESS WITH BLACK POLKA DOTS.

SERRANO SUBSEQUENTLY CLAIMED TO BE SITTING ON FIRE ESCAPE
STEPS OUTSIDE AMBASSADOR BALLROOM. AMBASSADOR HOTEL HAS A NUMBER
OF BALLROOMS AND BANQUET ROOMS, EACH OF WHICH HAS DIFFERENT
NAME AND LOCATION IN HOTEL. EMBASSY BALLROOM, WHERE KENNEDY APPEARED,
IS ON SECOND FLOOR IN RELATION TO FRONT ENTRANCE OF HOTEL.
END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

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DIRECTLY BELOW THAT BALLROOM ON FIRST FLOOR IS AMBASSADOR BALLROOM. VICTIMS WERE SHOT IN KITCHEN AREA LOCATED ON NORTH SIDE DIRECTLY OFF EMBASSY BALLROOM. SERRANO CLAIMS SHE WAS SITTING OUTSIDE OF BUILDING ON FIRE ESCAPE STEPS LOCATED ON FLOOR BELOW ON SOUTH SIDE OF AMBASSADOR BALLROOM. AT TIME OF SHOOTING ABOUT ELEVEN HUNDRED PERSONS WERE IN EMBASSY BALLROOM AND APPROXIMATELY SIXTEEN HUNDRED IN AMBASSADOR ROOM. IN ADDITION A BAND WAS PLAYING IN AMBASSADOR ROOM AND TV SETS WERE STATIONED THROUGHOUT AMBASSADOR ROOM TO ENABLE KENNEDY SUPPORTERS TO VIEW HIS VICTORY SPEECH IN EMBASSY ROOM ABOVE.

SERRANO CLAIMED SHE SAT ON STEPS APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN THIRTY PM AND FEW MOMENTS LATER, TWO MEN AND A WOMAN WALKED UP STEPS PAST HER TO EMBASSY BALLROOM. SERRANO'S OPINION WAS THAT THESE PEOPLE WERE POSSIBLY TOGETHER SINCE WOMAN SAID "EXCUSE US" AND THEY WALKED PAST HER IN GROUP. SERRANO STATED SHE DID NOT KNOW IF ONE MAN AND WOMAN WERE TOGETHER AND THE ADDITIONAL MAN MERELY WALKED IN WITH THEM COINCIDENTALLY OR IF ALL THREE WERE TOGETHER. ACCORDING TO SERRANO, APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, SHE HEARD WHAT SHE THOUGHT TO BE SIX CAR BACKFIRES OR SHOTS. ACCORDING TO AUDIO TAPE OF TV INTERVIEW WITH VANOCUR, NBC NEWS, SERRANO MADE ~~ON~~ MENTION OF
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 56-156

EITHER HEARING CAR BACKFIRES OR SHOTS JUST PRIOR TO THE WOMAN COMING DOWN THE STAIRS.

ABOUT THIRTY SECONDS AFTER BACKFIRES OR SHOTS SAME WOMAN AND ONE OF THE MEN RAN DOWN OUTSIDE FIRE ESCAPE STAIRS PAST HER. SERRANO CLAIMS DOES NOT KNOW WHERE THEY WENT OR IN WHAT DIRECTION. SHE IS UNABLE TO SHED LIGHT AS TO WHETHER THEY RAN TOWARD PARKING LOT, BACK INTO HOTEL AT ANOTHER ENTRANCE, OR IF THEY RAN TO ATTEMPT TO CONTACT POLICE DEPARMENT OR CALL AN AMBULANCE. WOMAN YELLED IN PASSING AS SET OUT ABOVE. SERRANO INSISTS WOMAN USED WORD "WE" RATHER THAN WORDS "HE" OR "THEY". ALTHOUGH INSISTING WORD WAS "WE" SHE STATES "WE" COULD HAVE MEANT WE AS A GROUP, OR WE AS SOCIETY IN GENERAL. SERRANO CLAIMS NOT TO HAVE SEEN DIRECTION WOMAN AND MAN RAN AFTER PASSING HER SINCE SHE LOOKED BACK UP STEPS, SAW NOTHING, AND THEN WALKED BACK INTO HALLWAY AREA OF AMBASSADOR BALLROOM. JUST INSIDE, SHE ASKED UNIFORMED GUARD IF IT WAS TRUE THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT. ACCORDING TO SERRANO, GUARD ACCUSED HER OF HAVING TOO MUCH TO DRINK, ALTHOUGH SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE HAD ONLY ONE DRINK. SHE THEN ASKED A GROUP OF FIVE OR SIX PEOPLE IF IT WAS TRUE. SHE HEARD ONLY A COUPLE OF COMMENTS FROM THE GROUP, ONE BEING "YOU'RE CRAZY" AND THE OTHER BEING

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

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THE EXPRESSION "OH MY GOD."

FOURTEEN AMBASSADOR SECURITY GUARDS INTERVIEWED TO DATE, AND NO GUARD LOCATED WHO RECALLS THIS INCIDENT OR ASSIGNED DOORS TO THESE STAIRS. ONE ADDITIONAL GUARD WHO HAS BEEN UNAVAILABLE TO DATE IS BEING LOCATED FOR INTERVIEW.

AFTER SPEAKING TO ABOVE GROUP, SERRANO CLAIMS SHE LOCATED PUBLIC TELEPHONE TO CALL PARENTS IN OHIO, TO TELL THEM OF SHOOTING. SHE ESTIMATED CALL MADE APPROXIMATELY TWELVE FIFTEEN AM (PDT). CANNOT RECALL IF SHE PAID FOR CALL OR IT WAS COLLECT DUE TO FACT SHE WAS EXTREMELY UPSET AND EMOTIONALLY DISTRAUGHT. SERRANO WAS ASKED WHY SHE MADE LONG DISTANCE CALL TO PARENTS WHEN FACT THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT WAS NOT CONFIRMED BY HER. SHE EXPLAINED THAT BASED ON EXPRESSION ON FACE OF WOMAN SHE SAW, SHE WAS CONVINCED THAT IT HAD HAPPENED. SERRANO ADMITS TO NEAR COMPLETE HYSTERIA AT TIME AND UNABLE TO ADEQUATELY EXPRESS WHAT SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD SEEN. PACIFIC TELEPHONE COMPANY RECORDS REFLECT COLLECT TELEPHONE CALL MADE AT TWELVE THIRTY-SEVEN AM FROM PUBLIC PHONE AT AMBASSADOR HOTEL TO LORAIN, OHIO, SERRANO'S PARENTS' PHONE.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

LA 56-156

MANUEL AND AMPARIO SERRANO, LORAIN, OHIO, PARENTS OF SANDRA SERRANO, ADVISED SHE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED THEM AT APPROXIMATELY SIX PM (EDT) JUNE FOUR LAST TO CONGRATULATE HER BROTHER UPON HIS GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL. SHE CALLED AGAIN AT TEN THIRTY PM (EDT) STATING SHE WAS AT KENNEDY CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS AND KENNEDY WAS GOING TO WIN CALIFORNIA PRIMARY ELECTION. SANDRA THEN CALLED MOTHER COLLECT APPROXIMATELY THREE THIRTY AM (EDT) (TWELVE THIRTY PDT) JUNE FIVE LAST AND, ACCORDING TO MOTHER, WAS HYSTERICAL. SANDRA TOLD MOTHER SENATOR KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT, BUT DID NOT KNOW WHETHER KENNEDY WAS DEAD AND STATED HE HAD BEEN SHOT AFTER HIS SPEECH. MOTHER SAID SANDRA WAS HYSTERICAL DURING ENTIRE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION AND UNABLE TO RECALL SANDRA MENTIONING ANYTHING ABOUT OBSERVING ANYONE CONNECTED WITH SHOOTING. MOTHER CLAIMED SANDRA KEPT REPEATING, "WHY WOULD THEY DO ANYTHING LIKE THIS. HE WAS SUCH A GOOD MAN." SANDRA ASKED TO SPEAK TO HER FATHER, BUT HE DECLINED SINCE HE WAS TOO UPSET AFTER HEARING OF SHOOTING. SANDRA AGAIN CALLED MOTHER APPROXIMATELY EIGHT AM (EDT) JUNE FIVE LAST, AND AT THIS TIME ACCORDING TO MOTHER STATED SHE HAD BEEN ON "TERRACE" AT AMBASSADOR HOTEL PRIOR TO SENATOR KENNEDY'S SPEECH AND HAD SEEN TWO MEN AND A WOMAN AND DESCRIBED THE MEN

END PAGE FIVE

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AS MEXICAN-AMERICAN AND THE GIRL AS WHITE. AFTER SHOOTING, SHE TOLD MOTHER SHE OBSERVED ONE OF THE MEN AND THE SAME GIRL RUNNING PAST HER DOWN OUTSIDE FIRE ESCAPE STAIRS. ACCORDING TO MOTHER, SHE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER NOR DID SHE FURTHER DESCRIBE THESE INDIVIDUALS. PARENTS DESCRIBED SANDRA AS "GOOD GIRL WHO DOES NOT SMOKE OR DRINK, LEVEL HEADED AND MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY MATURE." SHE GRADUATED FROM LORAIN HIGH SCHOOL MAINTAINING C PLUS AVERAGE. SHE WENT TO LIVE WITH AUNT AND UNCLE IN ALTADENA, CALIFORNIA, IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY, SIXTY-SEVEN AND EMPLOYED BY INSURANCE COMPANY IN LOS ANGELES.

ON JUNE SEVEN LAST, SERRANO TAKEN TO AMBASSADOR HOTEL TO REENACT INCIDENT DESCRIBED BY HER. SHE LOCATED OUTSIDE FIRE STAIRS SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE SAT ON. THESE ARE METAL FIRE STAIRS RUNNING ALONG SOUTH SIDE OF BUILDING AND ONE FLOOR BELOW EMBASSY BALLROOM. MIDDLE PART OF THE STAIRS HAVE FIRE DOORS LEADING INTO THE AMBASSADOR BALLROOM AND TOP OF THE STAIRS LEAD TO FIRE DOORS ENTERING EMBASSY BALLROOM WHERE KENNEDY GAVE SPEECH. BOTTOM OF THE STEPS LEAD TO SERVICE PARKING AREA.

PERTINENT TV FILM COVERAGE MADE AVAILABLE TO SERRANO. SHE OBSERVED NO ONE SHE FELT RESEMBLED MEN OR WOMAN SHE SAW ON STAIRWAY.

END PAGE SIX

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SERRANO DESCRIBED WOMAN AS WHITE FEMALE, TWENTY-THREE TO TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, FIVE FEET SIX INCHES, MEDIUM BUILD, ONE TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR, EAR LENGTH (BOUFFANT STYLE), WORE WHITE VOILE DRESS WITH QUARTER-INCH BLACK POLKA DOTS ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF INCHES APART. SHE WORE BLACK SHOES, NO PURSE, DID NOT WEAR GLASSES AND CARRIED NOTHING IN HER HANDS. SERRANO CLAIMED THIS WOMAN HAD A "FUNNY NOSE" WHICH SHE DESCRIBED AS THE "BOB HOPE" TYPE AND FELT SHE COULD IDENTIFY HER AGAIN. SHE DESCRIBED MALE INDIVIDUAL SHE SAW GOING UP AND DOWN STAIRS AS WHITE MALE (LATIN EXTRACTION), FIVE FEET FIVE INCHES, TWENTY-ONE TO TWENTY-THREE YEARS, OLIVE COMPLEXION, BLACK HAIR, LONG AND STRAIGHT HANGING OVER HIS FOREHEAD AND NEEDING A HAIRCUT. HE WORE DARK PANTS, LIGHT SHIRT AND GOLD OR YELLOW CARDIGAN TYPE SWEATER. NO GLASSES *And* ~~HE~~ HAD NOTHING IN HIS HANDS. SHE WAS NOT SURE IF SHE COULD IDENTIFY THIS MAN AGAIN. SERRANO DESCRIBED OTHER MALE, WHOM SHE SAW ONLY GO UP THE STAIRS, AS A WHITE MALE (MEXICAN-AMERICAN) ABOUT TWENTY-THREE YEARS, FIVE FEET THREE INCHES, CURLY, BUSHY HAIR, WEARING LIGHT COLORED CLOTHES. SHE SAID AFTER SEEING PICTURE OF SIRHAN IN NEWSPAPERS AND POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTOGRAPHS JUNE SIX LAST SHE FELT CERTAIN SIRHAN WAS IDENTICAL TO THIS PERSON.

END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

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VINCENT DE PIERRO, WHO WAS NEXT TO SENATOR KENNEDY WHEN KENNEDY SHOT, CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A WOMAN IN WHITE POLKA DOT DRESS STANDING NEXT TO SIRHAN IN KITCHEN AREA BEFORE SIRHAN SHOT KENNEDY.

SIX POLKA DOT DRESSES SIMILAR TO EACH OTHER OBTAINED AND PLACED WITH POLKA DOT DRESS OBTAINED FROM FRIEND OF SANDRA SERRANO WHICH SERRANO BELIEVES SIMILAR TO ONE OBSERVED AT HOTEL. SERRANO SAID POLKA DOT DRESS WORN BY THE WOMAN SHE SAW AT HOTEL WAS "JUST LIKE" DRESS HER FRIEND HAD EXCEPT HER FRIEND'S DRESS WAS SLEEVELESS AND THE DRESS WORN BY THE WOMAN SHE SAW HAD THREE-QUARTER LENGTH SLEEVES. THESE SEVEN DRESSES WERE HUNG IN A ROW AND SEPARATE VIDEO TAPE RECORDINGS MADE OF BOTH DE PIERRO AND SERRANO AS EACH PICKED OUT TYPE POLKA DOT DRESS OBSERVED BY THEM AT HOTEL AND EXPLAINED WHY OTHER DRESSES DID NOT FIT. DE PIERRO AND SERRANO VIEWED THE DRESSES SEPARATELY AND WERE UNAWARE OF WHICH DRESS THE OTHER HAD SELECTED. VIDEO TAPE RECORDING ARRANGED BY LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN HOWARD, WHO WILL BE PROSECUTING SIRHAN SIRHAN. DE PIERRO WAS VERY DEFINITE IN PICKING OUT POLKA DOT DRESS THAT WAS SLEEVELESS, HAD LOW CUT NECK, LARGE POLKA DOTS, WHEREAS SERRANO WAS DEFINITE IN PICKING OUT THREE-QUARTER LENGTH SLEEVES,

END PAGE EIGHT

PAGE NINE

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HIGH TOP NECK LINE AND SMALL POLKA DOTS. DUE TO COMPLETE CONTRAST AND DEFINITE VIEWS OF EACH WITNESS, HOWARD STATED HE IS CONVINCED THAT WOMAN SERRANO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN ON THE STAIRWAY WAS DEFINITELY NOT SAME WOMAN DE PIERRO CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN NEXT TO SIRHAN BEFORE SHOOTING. WM. GARDNER, DIRECTOR OF SECURITY, AMBASSADOR HOTEL, WHO WAS PRESENT IN EMBASSY ROOM AND AMBASSADOR ROOM NIGHT OF SHOOTING, ADVISES AT LEAST THIRTY FEMALES WERE IN CROWD WEARING WHITE DRESS WITH BLACK POLKA DOTS. FOR INFO BUREAU, HOWARD NOTED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR WOMAN ALLEGEDLY SEEN NEXT TO SIRHAN IN KITCHEN AREA BY DE PIERRO TO CROSS CROWDED BALLROOM AND EXIT DOOR WHERE SERRANO CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN IN THIRTY SECONDS. IT IS NOTED SERRANO CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN MAN AND WOMAN IN POLKA DOT DRESS THIRTY SECONDS AFTER HEARING WHAT SHE BELIEVED TO BE SHOTS OR CAR BACKFIRES.

SERRANO TAKEN TO LOCATION IN KITCHEN AREA OF EMBASSY BALLROOM WHERE SHOOTING OCCURRED. SHE WAS SHOWN STAGE ON WHICH SENATOR KENNEDY GAVE SPEECH AND IT WAS EXPLAINED TO HER BY DA HOWARD AND BUAGENT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN HUNDRED PEOPLE IN EMBASSY BALLROOM PLUS NUMEROUS PIECES OF TV EQUIPMENT.

END PAGE NINE

PAGE TEN

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(THE LEGAL CAPACITY FOR THIS ROOM IS SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY PEOPLE)
SERRANO WALKED FROM STAGE ACROSS EMBASSY BALLROOM TO FIRE EXIT
AND TO STEPS SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN SITTING ON WHICH IS ONE
FLOOR BELOW. THIS DISTANCE IS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY
FEET FROM WHERE SHOOTING OCCURRED. WHILE ON STAGE WHERE KENNEDY
SPOKE, SERRANO ACCUSED HOWARD AND BUAGENT OF LYING TO HER AND INSISTED
THIS WAS NOT WHERE SENATOR KENNEDY GAVE HIS SPEECH. SHE CONTENDED
HE MUST HAVE BEEN ON A DIFFERENT FLOOR OF HOTEL. SERRANO,
DURING SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW BY BUAGENTS AND DISTRICT ATTORNEYS,
WAS ASKED IF SHE STILL CLAIMED SHE HAD HEARD GUN SHOTS AFTER
SEEING LOCATION WHERE SENATOR KENNEDY WAS SHOT IN RELATION TO
WHERE SHE CLAIMED TO BE SITTING. SERRANO STATED SHE HAS NEVER
HEARD A GUN SHOT IN HER LIFE AND CLAIMED SHE HAD PREVIOUSLY
SAID SHE THOUGHT IT WAS SIX BACK FIRES AND NOT SURE IF THEY
WERE GUN SHOTS. SHE WAS ASKED WHY SHE HAD NOT TOLD HER PARENTS
IN HER TELEPHONE CALL AT TWELVE THIRTY SEVEN AM THAT SHE THOUGHT
SHE HAD SEEN SOMEONE SHE BELIEVED TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE SHOOTING.
IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HER SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE CALLED PRIOR TO
END PAGE TEN

PAGE ELEVEN

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VERIFYING THAT SENATOR KENNEDY HAD BEEN SHOT. SERRANO SAID SHE WAS UNABLE TO TALK TO FATHER AND SHE HAS ALWAYS HAD DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING WITH HER MOTHER. THEREFORE, FACT SHE THOUGHT SHE HAD SEEN SOMEONE CONNECTED WITH SHOOTING WAS NOT MENTIONED. SHE WAS ASKED WHY IN HER INTERVIEW WITH VANOCUR SHE DID NOT SAY ANYTHING ABOUT SEEING THIS WOMAN AND TWO MEN GOING UP THE STAIRS AND ONLY TOLD ABOUT THE WOMAN AND MAN COMING BACK DOWN. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO HER THE FACT SHE CLAIMED ONE OF THE MEN GOING UP STAIRS WAS SIRHAN WAS OF SIGNIFICANCE. AT THIS POINT, SERRANO BECAME VERY EMOTIONAL, CLAIMED SHE COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY, AND ACCUSED THOSE CONDUCTING INTERVIEW OF LYING TO HER AND TRYING TO TRICK HER. HOWARD THEN ASKED SERRANO IF SHE WOULD TAKE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN EFFORT TO VERIFY WHAT SHE HAD SEEN. SHE INDICATED SHE WOULD, AND WAS THEN ASKED BY HOWARD TO RE ENACT INCIDENT SO IT MIGHT BE VIDEO TAPED TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING ON ANYONES PART AS TO WHAT SHE CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN. SERRANO AGREED BUT PRIOR TO MAKING VIDEO TAPE SHE INSISTED ON HAVING SOMEONE PRESENT NOT CONNECTED WITH CASE.

END PAGE ELEVEN

PAGE TWELVE

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SEVERAL HOTEL EMPLOYEES WERE ARRANGED FOR BY HOWARD AND REFUSED BY SERRANO FOR NO EXPLAINABLE REASON. FINALLY, TWO EMPLOYEES FROM KITCHEN WERE ACCEPTABLE TO SERRANO TO WITNESS TAPED INTERVIEW. SERRANO CLAIMED TO BE TOO UPSET TO TAKE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION AND EFFORTS BEING MADE THIS DATE BY HOWARD TO HAVE SUCH A TEST ADMINISTERED BY LAPD.

ALL AVAILABLE PHOTOS TAKEN FROM ALL SOURCES HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO SERRANO FOR POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATION OF PERSON SHE ALLEGEDLY SAW ON THE BACK STEPS. SHE HAS NOT IDENTIFIED THE PHOTO OF THIS PERSON IN ANY OF THESE PHOTOS. LIEUTENANT CHARLES HUGHES, RAMPART STATION, LAPD, ADVISED IN HIS OPINION, BASED ON THE DISTANCE SHE WAS FROM THE SHOOTING AND IN VIEW OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND UNUSUALLY HIGH NOISE LEVEL, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR SERRANO TO HAVE HEARD ANY SHOTS.

LAPD ISSUED APB RE WOMAN IN POLKA DOT DRESS IN AN EFFORT TO IDENTIFY SUCH A WOMAN REPORTEDLY SEEN BY SERRANO. PUBLIC APPEALS HAVE BEEN MADE THROUGH VARIOUS NEWS MEDIA FOR THE PERTINENT WOMAN TO CONTACT THE LAPD. TO DATE LAPD REPORTS ONLY THREE HAVE COME FORWARD AND ALL THREE PUBLICITY SEEKERS AND NOT CONNECTED IN ANY WAY.

INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

END

BJP

FBI WASH DC



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 10, 1968



The Attorney General

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

Copies of the enclosed memorandum
are being furnished to Mrs. Mildred Stegall at
the White House and to the Vice President.

nc



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

June 10, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

In our continuing investigation to trace the activities of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan immediately prior to the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, several witnesses have been located who observed Sirhan in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel moments prior to the assault. One witness, Edward Minasian, employee at the Ambassador Hotel, observed the actual shooting. None of the witnesses interviewed observed Sirhan in the company of any other individual.

A casual acquaintance of Sirhan's, Gaymoard Mistri, Pasadena, California, when interviewed related he had a chance meeting with Sirhan at approximately 6:10 p. m., Pacific Daylight Time, on June 4, 1968, at a Pasadena restaurant. He claimed to have been with Sirhan until approximately 7:30 p. m., Pacific Daylight Time. During this period, Sirhan gave no indication whatsoever of his intentions to commit the action that followed several hours later. In fact, he invited Mistri to engage in a game of pool and gave no indication that there would be a time limit or that he had a subsequent engagement.

Walter S. Crowe, Jr., an admitted member of the Communist Party, acknowledged an acquaintanceship with Sirhan, having last been in contact with him on May 2, 1968. Crowe stated Sirhan was not a member of the W. E. B. DuBois Clubs of America nor was he a member of the Communist Party. Crowe considered Sirhan "erratic" in his political philosophy since he politically favored movements that are considered by the general populace to be left of center; however, definite phases of his thinking were to the right of center, particularly on the subject of the State of Israel.

It has been reported by the Los Angeles, California, Police Department that a ballistic examination has proven that the bullet removed from Senator Kennedy's head had definitely been fired by the murder weapon at a distance from two to six inches.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Information was developed by our Los Angeles Office to the effect that Sirhan has been identified as engaging in target practice with a .22 caliber pistol on June 4, 1968, at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, Duarte, California.

Sandra Serrano, aged 20, who appeared on television immediately after the shooting was interviewed in detail relative to her statement that she heard shots and then saw a man and woman running from the scene of the shooting. According to Serrano, as the woman who wore a polka-dot dress ran by her she yelled "We shot him - we shot him." An on-the-scene examination of the area in the presence of Serrano indicates she was across the ballroom at least 140 feet from the scene of the shooting and at the time there were approximately 1,500 people in the ballroom. Detective C. J. Hughes, Los Angeles Police Department, advised in his opinion it would have been physically impossible to hear a .22 caliber pistol being fired at a location where Serrano claims to have been, pointing out many other individuals much closer to the shooting who were inside the ballroom had not heard the shots. This phase of our investigation is continuing.

On June 7, 1968, Judge Arthur L. Alarcon, Superior Court, Los Angeles, California, issued an order prohibiting the release of any extra judicial statements, documents, exhibits or evidence so as to insure there be no interference with the constitutional right of Sirhan to a fair trial.

Form No. G-1N
(Ed. 2-10-65)


DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

ROUTING SLIP

TO	
NAME	BUILDING AND ROOM
1. Attorney General	Room 5115
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

<input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION
<input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/> AS REQUESTED
<input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN	<input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE
<input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION	<input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME	<input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION
<input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____		
<input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____		

REMARKS



FROM		
NAME	BUILDING, ROOM, EXT.	DATE
DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL		6/14

FROM

THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re

TO Nathaniel Kossack, Criminal Division, Room 2107

- ☐ ATTORNEY GENERAL
 - ☐ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
 - ☐ OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
- ☐ DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
 - ☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. ATTORNEYS
 - ☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. MARSHALS
- ☐ SOLICITOR GENERAL
- ☐ ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
 - ☐ LIBRARY
- ☐ ANTITRUST DIVISION
- ☐ CIVIL DIVISION
- ☐ CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
- ☐ CRIMINAL DIVISION
- ☐ INTERNAL SECURITY DIVISION
- ☐ LANDS DIVISION
- ☐ TAX DIVISION
- ☐ OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL
- ☐ OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY
- ☐ BUREAU OF PRISONS
- ☐ FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC.
- ☐ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
- ☐ IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
- ☐ PARDON ATTORNEY
- ☐ PAROLE BOARD
- ☐ BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS
- ☐ ATTENTION: _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND RETURN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> SEE ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> RECOMMENDATION | <input type="checkbox"/> PER CONVERSATION |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> NECESSARY ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE AND FILE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> YOUR INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> CALL ME |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____ | |

REMARKS:

June 14, 1968

Tully:

In reply to your memorandum of June 13, I have serious doubts about the wisdom of trying to influence the statements of Sirhan Sirhan's father. I doubt that we would be successful in doing so, and I think the government would be opening itself to severe criticism of muzzling if it tried.

WC

Senator Kennedy
assass.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

JUN 13 1968

Deputy Attorney General

TO

☒ ATTORNEY GENERAL

☐ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

☐ OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

☐ DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. ATTORNEYS

☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. MARSHALS

☐ SOLICITOR GENERAL

☐ ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION

☐ LIBRARY

☐ ANTITRUST DIVISION

☐ CIVIL DIVISION

☐ CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

☐ CRIMINAL DIVISION

☐ INTERNAL SECURITY DIVISION

☐ LANDS DIVISION

☐ TAX DIVISION

☐ OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL

☐ OFFICE OF ALIEN PROPERTY

☐ BUREAU OF PRISONS

☐ FEDERAL PRISON INDUSTRIES, INC.

☐ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

☐ IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

☐ PARDON ATTORNEY

☐ PAROLE BOARD

☐ BOARD OF IMMIGRATION APPEALS

☐ ATTENTION: _____

☐ SIGNATURE

☐ APPROVAL

☐ RECOMMENDATION

☐ COMMENT

☐ NECESSARY ACTION

☐ YOUR INFORMATION

☐ ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE ON OR BEFORE _____

☐ PREPARE REPLY FOR THE SIGNATURE OF _____

☐ NOTE AND RETURN

☐ SEE ME

☐ PER CONVERSATION

☐ AS REQUESTED

☐ NOTE AND FILE

☐ CALL ME

REMARKS:

The State Department is quite concerned that Sirhan's father, who proposes to come to the United States, may discuss Nationalistic issues as a motive for the assassination. They want to avoid the stigma of censorship but they are seeking a way of conveying to Sirhan's father caution not to talk indiscriminately. They have advised their people abroad only that when the elder Sirhan applies for a visa that the State Department here be kept currently and promptly informed. If you agree that this attached brief statement is appropriate they would then have the Legate abroad read this to Sirhan's father when his visa is finally approved.

Bill Lynch will convey this proposed statement to United States Attorney Byrne in order to get Byrne's and Younger's reactions.

There is some urgency and I assured Fred Smith that we would get an answer for him as promptly as possible.

cc: Deputy Attorney General ✓

FROM *NK*
N. E. Kossack

First Asst., Criminal Div.

DATE
6/13/68

6/13/68

Dictated by Fred Smith, State Dept.

As you know, your son's trial will take place shortly in the United States. In order to protect his right to a fair trial we suggest that you be very careful in what you say publicly about the case, at least until you talk to your son's lawyer.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RC

TO

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- ☐ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- ☐ OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION
- ☐ DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
- ☐ EXECUTIVE OFFICE—U. S. ATTORNEYS
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FROM N. E. Kossack DATE _____
First Asst., Criminal Div. 6/13/68

6/13/68

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1. Jack Davitt. When Bob Kennedy received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1951, he began his career as an attorney in the Criminal Division of the Department of Justice. For nearly a year he and another young lawyer, Jack Davitt, shared an office. Jack is still with the Department and is with us today.
2. Harold Greene. Native of Frankfurt, Germany. Naturalized 1944. Joined Department of Justice in 1948. Served in Civil Rights Division 1958-1965. A chief architect of 1964 Civil Rights Act, also involved in suits during the crucial civil rights era under RFK.
3. Tom McKeon. (Mc Ke'-on) Worked in JFK 1960 campaign, RFK 1964 campaign. With Department of Justice 1962-64, 1964-present. Organized Crime section.
4. Thomas H. Williams. With Department since 1941. Driver for the last nine Attorneys General. Began in 1943 under Francis Biddle.
5. Archibald Cox. 32nd Solicitor General. Member of JFK "Brain Trust." Appointed SG 1961-1965.

Robert F. Kennedy, the 64th Attorney General of the United States, is dead.

The tragedy of his loss is particularly and painfully meaningful to the Department of Justice. For we in the Department were privileged to serve under his inspired leadership for nearly four years. Our grief is great.

So is our ~~understanding and~~ appreciation of Bob Kennedy. We know first hand of his deep devotion and tireless work on behalf of justice. We know of the new vitality and strengthened commitment which he instilled^g in the Department of Justice.

(Courtyard)

But the most fitting tribute which the Department of Justice can pay to Bob Kennedy is to recommit ourselves with all of our heart and strength to the finest ideals of justice, for which he stood.

Kennedy shooting

June

Mr. Mood:

families of following invited tomorrow

1Mr. Oberdorfer
John Nolan
Mr. Justice White
Barrett Prettyman
Jack Miller and his mother-in law
John Douglas
Joe Dolan
Mr. Katzenbach

assumes you will arrange for parking and for
entry and space for them

*called
Dick*



Office of the Attorney General

Washington, D. C. 20530

June 7, 1968

TO: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES

FORMER DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE EMPLOYEES
WHO SERVED UNDER ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Bob Kennedy began his legal career at the lowest attorney level in the Department of Justice. He served with distinction as the 64th Attorney General of the United States.

He brought to this Department a rare sense of dedication, an excitement in achievement, a personal concern for all who serve here. He was a mighty force for justice. His spirit is permanently impressed in the mission of this institution.

We will remember Bob Kennedy in a special ceremony in the Courtyard at 4:00 p.m., Saturday, June 8. From there we will proceed to the curb on Constitution Avenue to say farewell as his funeral procession bears him past this place he loved and served for the last time.

Ramsey Clark

Kennedy

June 7, 1968

Dear Mr. Hoover:

Attached is a statement concerning a special ceremony to be held tomorrow at 4:00 P.M. in the Courtyard in memory of Senator Kennedy.

I hope very much that you will be able to attend.

Sincerely,

Attorney General

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director, FBI

Kennedy



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

June 8, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

The following is a summary of the high points of my one-day trip to Los Angeles in connection with the investigation of the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

1. United States Attorney. USA Matt Byrne met me at the airport Thursday night. He had just come from Los Angeles FBI Headquarters, and he briefed me on the progress of the investigation. Matt has been working on this matter day and night since the shooting, and my impression is that he has been representing the Federal interest very well.

2. Federal Bureau of Investigation. Early Friday morning, I met with Wesley Grapp, Special Agent in charge of the Los Angeles office of the FBI, and two FBI supervisors, Chester St. Vincent and James Noland. In talking to Grapp, I stressed our desire that every stone be turned, every lead followed, and every clue examined. He told me that one hundred FBI agents are now at work on the investigation. On the crucial questions, information provided by Grapp leads to the following tentative hypotheses:

- Evidence assembled to date points to the hypothesis that the assassination was done by a single man, acting alone and unaided.

- The motive for the shooting appears to be an intense hatred of Senator Kennedy because of his pro-Israel stand, his wealth, and his success.

3. Continuing investigation. The hypotheses suggested above are highly tentative. The investigation is in a very early stage. Among the important areas which remain to be developed are the following:

- Ballistics tests which should show whether all the shots fired came from the same gun.

- Further examination of the assassination weapon, and particularly whether it contained Sirhan's fingerprints.

- A deep analysis of Sirhan's notebook, which provide a wealth of information as to which the investigating agencies have only scratched the surface at this point.

- A careful tracing of Sirhan Sirhan's movements since Senator Kennedy's announcement for the Presidency (his family apparently says that he has been home every night until last Tuesday).

- A careful analysis of the four \$100 bills carried by Sirhan (it is a guess, but only a guess, that the money came from the proceeds of his \$1700 insurance settlement received two months ago).

- A thorough combing of Sirhan's car which was found in the vicinity of the Ambassador Hotel and which may yield fingerprints or other physical evidence.

- Medical inquiry as to extent of his head injury.

- Further probing of Sirhan's possible subversive activity. (The evidence of such activity, as contrasted to thoughts he may have written or expressed, is very thin at this time).

- Further questioning of Sirhan's associates and girl friends.

- Comprehensive interviews with the five other persons injured.

- Further study of the Sirhan family which has had an unusual amount of trouble with the law.

4. Sheriff. At the invitation of Sheriff Peter Pitchess, I joined him in reviewing the conditions of Sirhan's detention at the new LA County jail and the plans for arraignment in the chapel of the jail. Pitchess and his associates have gone to great lengths to provide satisfactory detention and security conditions. Sirhan is the sole occupant in an adequate 10 x 10 cell in the hospital wing of the new jail. An unarmed deputy sheriff sits in the cell with him at all times. Another deputy sheriff stands outside the cell looking into the window. Five other deputys, whose only responsibility is Sirhan's security, are in the corridor immediately outside his cell. No other prisoners are held in this corridor; the cells on both sides of Sirhan's cell and across the hall are empty.

Since a good deal has been written about the security precautions, I will not elaborate here except to recount this event. After Pitchess, Byrne, and I had passed through three sets of locked doors and were approaching the hospital wing, the head guard at a check point, to our surprise, asked Byrne and me to step into a highly secure room to the left and Pitchess was taken to another secure room out of our sight on the right. It turned out that the reason for this was that the Chief Guard did not recognize Byrne or me and wanted to question Pitchess out of our presence as to whether we might have him under some form of coercion.

5. District Attorney. I also met with District Attorney Evelle Younger and his Chief Assistant Buck Compton. We discussed the evidence which they had accumulated at that point and Younger described his plans to take the matter to the Grand Jury that afternoon (yesterday). I explained to Younger the basis for our interest in the case and told him that we intended to conduct a full inquiry through the FBI. At the same time, I assured him that we had no intention at this point of attempting to pre-empt his prosecution.

I offered our assistance in every way, and the meeting was friendly and amicable. There were three points of particular interest:

- Younger is very chagrined about Yorty's comments regarding Sirhan's notebook and other incriminating evidence. He said that he and others did everything they could to prevent such comments but to no avail. Yorty apparently saw the evidence by going to the Rampart Street police station where it was in the hands of a police officer who felt he couldn't say "no" to the Mayor.

- Younger is concerned that the police seized the notebook and other personal effects from Sirhan's home on the basis of an oral consent from Sirhan's brother rather than a warrant. While recognizing that it might have been difficult to obtain a warrant, Younger says he wishes that he had been given an opportunity to do so.

- Younger asked whether, in the light of this terrible event, some way cannot be found to reach an agreement among the Presidential candidates that they will take at least minimum precautions for their safety. (Perhaps our coordination of the Secret Service details would give us an opportunity to explore such an arrangement).

6. Police Department. I also met with Acting Chief of Police Ed Davis (Reddin was out of town) with Deputy Chief Fisk and Acting Chief of Detectives, Power. Understandably to this point, the LAPD investigation has concentrated primarily on the eye witnesses and other routine aspects of the homicide. However, they are branching out rapidly and will, I believe, do a comprehensive job.

Acting Chief Davis pressed hard for the establishment of a coordinating group in which all law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, would meet daily and pool all their information regarding the assassination. I emphasized that we had a common goal of full cooperation, but indicated some hesitancy about attempting to formalize a coordinating group at this time. In response, the LAPD officials explained at some length their plans to avoid additional evidence from falling into the hands of political officials and thus into the hands of the media. However, they did not press further for the coordinating committee. A meeting has been set up for early Sunday morning at which USA Byrne and Bill Lynch of the Criminal Division will be given a full briefing on the evidence developed by the LAPD at that point.

7. Other officials. I also met with Miles Rubin, head of the Los Angeles office of the Attorney General of California. This was largely a courtesy call but I assured them of our full cooperation. I also met with George Rosenberg, head of the Los Angeles office of Immigration and Naturalization and with the head of the Los Angeles office of the Secret Service. We went over the actions which these two agencies have taken since the assassination and discussed their ongoing responsibilities.

8. Visit to the scene. Before returning to Washington, I examined the scene of the assassination in the kitchen area behind the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel. It is easy to visualize the confusion and chaos -- and total lack of security -- in the rather wide corridor leading to the kitchen. Senator Kennedy's decision to leave the Embassy Room by the route he did is not surprising, although the hotel security guard had anticipated he would take a different route.

Conclusion: Generally speaking, the trip had the value of stressing our offer of Federal assistance in every respect to the state and local authorities, emphasizing our determination that a full and comprehensive investigation be conducted, and affording me a first-hand opportunity to view and review the situation in Los Angeles.



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Deputy Attorney General

New Rights Law Is Invoked

United Press International

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark made the first public use of a section of the new civil rights law yesterday when he ordered the FBI to investigate the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Kennedy himself voted against a Senate move to eliminate the provision when the bill was up for debate earlier this year.

The 1968 Civil Right Act was signed by President Johnson on April 11. This was sev-

eral days too late to be invoked in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The section eliminated the need for the government to prove a conspiracy before Federal agents can take part in an investigation of interference with an individual civil or voting rights.

Under the new law, it is now a Federal crime to injure willfully any person because he is or has been "qualifying or campaigning as a candidate

for elective office . . . in any primary, special or general elections."

In authorizing the FBI to participate in the Los Angeles investigation, Assistant Atty. Gen. Stephen J. Pollak, head of the Justice Department's civil rights division, sent FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover a memo which was titled:

"Unknown subject or subjects. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, victim. Interference with voting rights."



United Press International

Facing battery of microphones, Attorney General Ramsey Clark tells news conference in Justice Department auditorium that there is "no evidence of a conspiracy at this moment" in shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

scrapbook

Post
6-6-68

Pistol Was Bought During Watts Riot

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, June 5 — The gun used to wound Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and five other persons was originally purchased for home protection during the Watts riot in August, 1965, it was disclosed today.

The history of the 22-caliber, 8-shot pistol manufactured by Iver Johnson's Arms and Cycle Works in Fitchburg, Miss., includes at least four persons.

It was bought at a sporting goods store during the riot by Albert L. Hertz, 72, of Alhambra, a Los Angeles suburb. He gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Robert F. Westlake of Woodacre, in Marin County, in northern California.

Mrs. Westlake told investigators she gave it to a family friend, George C. Erhard, 18, of Pasadena, last November or December.

Erhard sold the gun to "Joe, a bushy-haired Pasadena man," who police identified as one of

the brothers of Sirhan B. Sirhan, suspected of wounding Sen. Kennedy and the others.

NOTES ON KENNEDY IN SUSPECT'S HOME

Cites 'Necessity' to Murder
Senator Before June 5,
Anniversary of War

By PETER KIHSS

A notebook found in the Pasadena home of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan had "a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Senator Kennedy before June 5, 1968," Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, of Los Angeles, said last night.

The date was the first anniversary of the six-day war, in which Israeli forces smashed those of the United Arab Republic, Syria and Jordan.

Sirhan, a 24-year-old Christian Arab, who has described himself as a Jerusalem-born Jordanian, is being held in the shooting of the New York Senator.

Justice Department records indicated that Sirhan came to the United States with his family in January of 1957 as immigrants, less than three months after the Suez war in 1956. Sirhan was 12 at the time.

The family had quickly broken up in discord, the father staying in New York to work as a plumber and then going back to their former Palestine home, the mother taking five children to California, where a sixth child immigrated later.

Sirhan was described yesterday by Police Chief Thomas Reddin of Los Angeles as "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

He was quoted as having said,

Continued on Page 21, Column 6

SUSPECT'S NOTES REFER TO KENNEDY

Continued From Page 1, Col. 7

"I prefer to remain incommunicado," when questioned about the shooting.

Mayor Yorty said that the suspect had a schedule of Senator Kennedy's speaking engagements for this month, a clipping of a columnist's criticism of the New York Democrat—and four \$100 bills.

Mayor Yorty's office said that the clipping was a Pasadena newspaper's publication of a suggestion by the Washington columnist David Lawrence that Senator Kennedy, while a dove in regard to Vietnam, was a hawk in regard to Arab-Israeli hostilities.

"All I know is he is a nice kid," said Sirhan, identifying himself as a brother, declared in a telephone interview from Los Angeles reported by WCBS radio here.

John Weidner, owner of the Organic Health Food Store in Pasadena, said he had employed Sirhan Sirhan as a \$2-an-hour stock clerk and deliveryman from last Sept. 24 until March 7, when the man left "because he didn't like what I said about his work."

"He was a man with principles," Mr. Weidner said. "He didn't smoke. He didn't drink. He always said he wouldn't lie. But he was emotional. He would resent authority. He didn't like to take orders."

"When he was very young, he saw members of his family and friends killed by Israelis. My personal opinion is that I think he did something to Kennedy because he [Kennedy] said he would help Israel."

Mayor Yorty and Chief Reddin said that the prisoner, held in \$250,000 bail on six counts of assault with intent to commit murder, had been identified through two brothers.

The brothers were identified as Munier, also known as Joe, and Adel, who had been located by the tracing of a .22-caliber pistol said to have been used in the shooting.

Chief Reddin said that the identification had been confirmed through a set of fingerprints on file in Sacramento in connection with an application by Sirhan Sirhan for a job as an exercise boy for horses at the Hollywood Park Race Track.

The application was made some time ago while Sirhan Sirhan was a student at John Muir High School in Pasadena.

In Washington, the Department of Justice said that Sirhan Sirhan was an alien on permanent resident status, on which he arrived in New York City Jan. 12, 1957.

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave his birth date as March 19, 1944, in Jordan. Jerusalem was then part of Palestine, and part was Jordan-ruled from the end of the British Palestine mandate in 1948 until Israel took over after the war last June.

The Justice Department said that he had entered the United States with his father, identified as Bishara Salameh Ghatas Sirhan, and his mother, Mary Bishara Sirhan. Also arriving at the same time were three brothers, listed as Adel, Sharif and Munir, and a sister, Ayda. Another brother, listed as Saidallah, arrived in June, 1960.

The Jordan Embassy in Washington said in a statement: "We deeply regret that the suspect appears to be someone of Jordanian origin who is a permanent resident of the United States."

"The Jordanian Government strongly condemns this criminal act committed against an outstanding American leader and public servant. King Hussein has already conveyed his sense of shock and genuine sentiments to the Kennedy family."

Federal officials said that an alien on permanent resident status is one who has applied for permission to live in the United States permanently while remaining a citizen of his country of origin. Such permission is most commonly granted when the applicant already has relatives living here or has a desired skill.

In New York, a 39-year-old former Arab News Agency representative in Jerusalem, who came here in 1958 and is now working for a publishing company, said that Sirhan Sirhan's parents separated "right away after they came here."

The father, the journalist said, went back to Jordan, and has a house in Jerusalem as well as a new home he built recently in the village of Et Taiyiba.

Sirhan Sirhan is 5 feet 5 inches and weighs about 120 pounds. His hair is dark and curly. His complexion is swarthy. He speaks English with a slight accent that Chief Reddin reported seemed "Jamaican or Cuban."

He has been living with the brother who goes by the name of Joe at 696 East Howard Street in Pasadena, according to Mayor Yorty. The Mayor said it was Joe who owned the gun held to have been used in the shooting, and the brother told police officers he had no idea how Sirhan Sirhan got the weapon.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the suspect's mother, collapsed after hearing of her son's arrest.

Mayor Yorty said that notebooks found in the prisoner's home dwelled at length on the Middle East conflict.

In a copyrighted Los Angeles



Associated Press

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan

interview by Radio News International, Mayor Yorty said that one notebook "appeared to have been written by Sirhan Sirhan."

"There's much scribbling, repeated phrases, many references to Arthur Goldberg," the Mayor was quoted as having said.

"They're not very clear, but there's a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Senator Kennedy before June 5, 1968. I don't know why."

"He does a lot of writing pro-Communist and anti-capitalist, anti-United States. Evidently he was quite pro-Arab in the Arab-Israeli matter. He has 'Long Live Nasser' written in there."

"And he said he favors Communism of all types, whether Russian, Chinese and so forth."

"It's very difficult to tell from that why he'd want to pick on Senator Kennedy as the one that he made reference to had to be sacrificed for all these grievances."



United Press International

SUSPECT APPREHENDED: A man identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan being removed from hotel. Behind him, at right, is Jesse Unruh, the Senator's California manager.

Two possibilities were suggested here yesterday for the derivation of Sirhan, the family name of the man suspected of shooting Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The name, according to persons familiar with Arabic, may be derived from the Arabic word for wolf, which is "sirhan."

It may also be related to the Wadi Sirhan, a well watered valley in the Arabian Peninsula, on the border between Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The valley is more than 100 miles east of the Ramallah area on the west bank of the Jordan River, where the suspect was reported to have resided before coming to the United States.

Both the name of the valley, used for pasturing livestock, and the Arabic word for wolf are derived from the Arabic root word "sarah," which means "to set free to roam" or "to graze." It is not unusual for family names the world over to be derived from place names or from names of animals.

BALTIMORE SUN

6-6-68

FBI Called In In Kennedy Case

[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, June 5—Ramsey Clark, Attorney General, said today the FBI was ordered to probe the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as soon as the news of the assassination attempt was received.

Clark told a news conference this morning that Federal agents were sent into the case under authority of a section of the newly enacted 1968 civil rights law which extends Federal protection to persons running for public office.

Clark also invoked the 1965 Voting Rights Act when he ordered FBI men into the case. The Attorney General said he received word of the shooting at 3.30 A.M., and was in touch with President Johnson and FBI officials immediately afterward.

The FBI has been ordered to investigate "every aspect of the case. Every lead will be followed, no stone will be left unturned."

The Shooting of Senator Kennedy

As the hospital bulletins grew more grave and Senator Kennedy struggled for life through yesterday's interminable hours, it was safer and more sensible to think about the man than about the meaning of his shooting, which had no meaning by itself. It was safer and more sensible to dwell upon his performance and his bright promise than to search in this senseless act for some pattern, some lesson, some dark insight into our society and our times. There may well be some meaning in it all—in the tragedy that has dogged his life and in the violence which has visited itself with such caprice upon the country. Or there may, as Shakespeare said, be none. "As flies to wanton boys are we to the gods. They kill us for their sport."

In any case, the meaning surely is not that the United States is in anarchy, or that the world has gone mad. This is the stuff of public comment forced upon leading figures while they are still in shock. The wisest among them will think better of it. And they must, for a nation perilously close to hysteria cannot deal rationally with a crisis of crime and violence which cries out for reason and restraint.

If the shooting of Senator Kennedy should bring sensible gun laws, so much the better; the need for them however does not stand on one, or three or three hundred homicides by firearm; it stands on the record in every American city, every night. If the shooting of Senator Kennedy should bring more common sense and less emotion to deliberations on a Crime Bill, so much the better, but the need for such a bill was plain enough before Senator Kennedy was shot. If, indeed, it should force upon the whole Nation, those who govern and those who are governed, a fundamental reassessment of the crime problem in all its complexity, again so much the better, for the need here is to be found in things as innocent as the relish with which the

most garish crime fare is served up to delighted audiences by movie houses, television and the press.

In short, if the tragedy in Los Angeles should be the cause, in whatever degree, of a great national awakening to the evils of extremism and violence on the campus or on the street, of a national resolution to plumb the depth of this problem and to deal with it, so much the better. For there can be no denying that there is abroad in this land a nameless virulence which feeds upon itself.

In this sense the crime in Los Angeles and the lawlessness that afflicts the whole Nation are of a piece. But only in a sense. For the tragedy in Los Angeles does not tell us anything we did not know about the wider malady. It tells us once again to act. But the Nation's first response also warns us not to be too quick to lacerate ourselves with cries of anarchy or too ready to delude ourselves with empty promises of law and order at any cost. Senator Kennedy would scorn such easy answers. Still less would he draw the simpler lesson that he should have somehow been more careful for he has ever been the zestful warrior, and a fatalist.

Later will be time enough to sort out all the consequences of this tragedy. For now, it is enough to remember that the best of him—the subtle humor, the quiet courage, the sense of dedication, and the warmth—was rarely more evident than on Tuesday night when he had won, as he had always to win to be at peace with himself.

For now, it is enough to pray that this Nation will not lose a man who stirred such strong passions in large part because his own passion to move and improve his country and the world was so strong.

over



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 6, 1968

The Attorney General



For your information, I am enclosing
a communication which may be of interest to you.

Upon removal of the enclosure, if
classified, this transmittal form becomes
unclassified.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enc.

This memorandum was furnished the
White House and the Vice President. Copies are
attached for the Deputy Attorney General and the
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

June 6, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

This is to advise that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a Jordanian national, has been identified as the individual who shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy at 12:15 a. m., Pacific Daylight Time, June 5, 1968, in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel at Los Angeles, California. The Senator subsequently died at 1:44 a. m., Pacific Daylight Time, June 6, 1968, at the Good Samaritan Hospital, Los Angeles.

After the assailant was taken into custody by authorities, he refused to identify himself or otherwise discuss this matter. He was shortly thereafter charged by the Los Angeles Police Department with intent to commit murder and held on \$250,000 bond.

His brother, Adel Sirhan, notified authorities as to Sirhan's true identity. The FBI subsequently identified Sirhan's fingerprints as being identical with those of an individual by the same name which were submitted by the California State Horse Racing Board during 1965.

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, the weapon used in the assassination was an eight-shot .22 caliber Iver Johnson pistol. All eight shots were expended. Records of the California Department of Justice show this pistol to have been sold on August 10, 1965, to one Albert Leslie Hertz of Alhambra, California. It was subsequently traced by police authorities through several parties to one of Sirhan's brothers, Munir Sirhan.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, according to records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Los Angeles, California, was born on March 19, 1944, in Jerusalem, Palestine. His current address was given as 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California. Immigration and Naturalization Service records show he entered this country on January 12, 1957, with his father, Bishara Salameh Ghattas Sirhan, his mother, Mary, four brothers and a sister who is now deceased. His brothers, Adel, Munir, and Saidallah, are currently shown as residing with their mother and Sirhan at 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California. The fourth brother, Sharif, is a resident of Highland Park, California. His father allegedly resides now in Jordan.

Our Los Angeles Office reports that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan graduated from high school in Pasadena, California. He thereafter attended Pasadena City College, a junior college, for approximately two years, but did not graduate. He formerly worked as a race horse exercise boy and during September, 1966, sustained a head injury after falling from a horse. Interviews with his family indicate his behavior has changed considerably since this injury. Records of the State of California reveal he was awarded a settlement on March 27, 1968, in the sum of \$2,000. His brother, Adel, advised the assailant has been unemployed for the past three months. When taken into custody he had \$409 in cash on his person.

During a search of his room in the Pasadena family home numerous items, including notations advocating the overthrow of the President of the United States and statements alluding to the necessity for assassinating Robert F. Kennedy, were found. According to United States Attorney William Matthew Byrne, Jr., Central District of California, who had been in contact with the office of the Los Angeles County District Attorney, this material should not be disclosed publicly prior to the trial nor should it be made available to unauthorized persons since it could have a serious adverse effect upon successful prosecution in either Federal or State court. One handwritten page bearing the date May 18, 1968, 9:45 a. m., contains numerous notations among which are "My determination to eliminate RFK is becoming more the more of an unshakeable obsession." "RFK must die - RFK must be killed. Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated." Another page contains the handwritten statement that "The so-called President of the United States

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

of America will be advised of their punishments for their treasonable crimes against the state. More over we believe that the glorious United States of America will eventually be felled by a blow of an assassin's bullet. "

A third page contains the following statement. "Ambassador Goldberg must die die die. " Repeated numerous times on this same page appears "Goldberg will be illiminated. "

Page four contains the statement "Kennedy must die - Kennedy must fall, " which is repeated numerous times.

Page five contains the statement that "RFK must be disposed of like his brother was. "

The statement "I advocate the overthrow of the current President of the (obscene) United States of America. I have no absolute plans yet - but soon will compose some" appears on page six.

Page seven contains the statement "Well, my solution to this type of Govt. today is to do away with its leaders and declare anarchy, - the best form of Govt. or no Govt. "

On page eight appears the statement "I believe that I can effect the death of Bert C. Altfillisch, " who was the employer of Sirhan at the time he was thrown from a horse during September, 1966.

Also appearing was the notation "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June 68. "

In addition, a source who has furnished reliable information in the past and who is an active member of the Communist Party in California advised that he received information from an associate of Sirhan's to the effect he was extremely anti-Semitic in his views, was in favor of the Vietcong and supported some Communist Party ideals. Sirhan, according to this source, had been thoroughly briefed on Communist Party activities at the University of California at Los Angeles within the last two weeks. Although it was reported to this source that an attempt had been made to recruit Sirhan into the Communist Party, Sirhan allegedly has not engaged in any Communist Party activities.

ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

Investigation by the FBI is continuing in order to determine the full facts surrounding this situation and in order to ascertain if Sirhan acted alone.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 6, 1968

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

DEATH OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

A noble and compassionate leader, a good and faithful servant of the people, in the full vigor of his promise, lies dead from an assassin's bullet.

The tragedy and the senseless violence of Robert F. Kennedy's death casts a deep shadow of grief across America and across the world.

This is a moment for all Americans to join hands and walk together through this dark night of common anguish into a new dawn of healing unity.

NOW, THEREOFRE, I, LYNDON B. JOHNSON, President of the United States, do call upon all Americans to observe Sunday next, the ninth day of June, as a day of national mourning in his memory throughout the United States. In our churches, in our homes, and in our hearts let us resolve before God and before each other that the purpose of progress and justice for which Robert F. Kennedy lived shall endure.

I direct that until interment the flag of the United States shall be flown at half-staff on all building, grounds and naval vessels of the Federal Government in the District of Columbia and throughout the United States and its Territories and possessions.

I also direct that the flag shall be flown at half-staff for the same length of time at all United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and sixty-eight and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and ninety-second.

/s/

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

THE WHITE HOUSE
June 6, 1968

PRESS BRIEFING
ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5, 1968
(UNOFFICIAL)

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It seems incredible that another such profound tragedy would strike the Kennedy family which has suffered so much tragedy already; that such a profound tragedy of violence would strike this great country of ours.

Bob Kennedy served in this office, in this room, with great distinction. He served justice and served all the people of this nation. I was privileged to work with him during the days and years he was here. I can only pray, and I know that all of our people are praying that he will have a full and speedy recovery.

I was advised of the attempted assassination roughly about 3:30 this morning and have since been in virtually constant communication about it with the President, Mr. Hoover and other members of the FBI, with Jim Rowley of the Secret Service, and with Chief of Police Tom Reddin of Los Angeles.

There is in custody, as you know . . . an individual believed to have committed this crime. The FBI is working side by side with the Los Angeles Police Department. I have ordered the FBI to make a full and thorough investigation of every aspect of this crime. The authority to do so is now clear because of the 1968 Civil Rights Act which provides coverage of incidents such as this. It is also clear that the Voting Rights Act has provisions that are relevant--even under section 241 of Title 18.

The President has been up, worrying and working with this problem since its first announcement. He is deeply grieved for Bob Kennedy and his family, and this nation. He has ordered Secret Service protection for the major candidates for the Presidency. Expeditious action is being undertaken right now to provide protection by the Secret Service for all major candidates as a wise and necessary precaution under the circumstances.

Authority will also be sought from the Congress to provide this the remainder of this election year.

We the people must look deep into our hearts and ask what we are. We must restore reason and order to our lives. We must understand that neither justice nor order is possible unless we have both. We must recommit ourselves with all of our vast strength to instill in the heart of every American a very deep respect for the rights of everyone, and we will weather this like we have weathered other storms.

OVER

- Q. The whole country is asking if there is any sign of a conspiracy?
- A. Every angle of this matter will be fully investigated. No resource will be spared. According to information that I have at this moment, we have no evidence of a conspiracy; only the evidence of this individual act. But every lead will be followed. No stone will be left unturned.
- Q. How will enough protection be provided for all the Presidential candidates and families?
- A. This is going to be very difficult initially. The Secret Service will have to be reinforced to some degree, perhaps from other agencies. We will seek additional authorization for the Secret Service and other agencies that might be involved. This is a function the Secret Service has performed for many years. It is a difficult function. They have performed it well.
- Q. Asked something about would the FBI and Military Police provide assistance?
- A. They will provide assistance as necessary as has been done from time to time in the past, but will only be an auxiliary; primary responsibility is that of the Secret Service.
- Q. Have the fingerprints arrived; have they been identified?
- A. They have arrived by wirephoto. It is very difficult to make a precise scientific comparison from a wirephoto reproduction. The actual fingerprints are being flown in and they also will be tested. At this time we have not made an identification from the wirephoto prints that have been received.

93

NEUROSURGEON-KENNEDY

NEW YORK (AP)--NEUROSURGEON DR. J. LAWRENCE POOL TODAY QUOTED DR. HENRY CUNEO, ONE OF THREE SURGEONS WHO OPERATED ON SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, AS TELLING HIM BY TELEPHONE, "HE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT. THERE IS A SLIM CHANCE OF HIS RECOVERY."

DR. CUNEO IS A FORMER PUPIL OF DR. POOL, WHO IS DIRECTOR AND PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY AT COLUMBIA-PRESEBYTERIAN HOSPITAL.

"I'M SHOCKED TO SAY THAT IT LOOKS VERY OMNIOUS," DR. POOL SAID IN A RADIO INTERVIEW.

JA143PED JUNE 5

100

NEUROSURGEON-KENNEDY (TOPS 93)

NEW YORK (AP)--A NEW YORK NEUROSURGEON TODAY QUOTED A MEMBER OF THE TEAM THAT PERFORMED BRAIN SURGERY ON SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY AS FEARING "THE OUTCOME MAY BE EXTREMELY TRAGIC."

DR. LAWRENCE POOLE, PROFESSOR OF NEUROSURGERY AT COLUMBIA-PRESBYTERIAN MEDICAL CENTER, GAVE THAT VERSION OF HIS CONVERSATION WITH DR. HENRY CUNEO.

"THERE WAS EVIDENTLY SERIOUS DAMAGE TO THE CEREBELLUM, THE PART OF THE BRAIN ON THE EXTREME BACK OF THE HEAD ON THE RIGHT SIDE; ALSO TO PART OF THE RIGHT CEREBRAL MEMISPHERE . . . AND ALSO TO THE MID BRAIN, WHICH IS THE MAIN CABLE CONNECTING THE BRAIN ITSELF WITH ALL THE REST OF THE BODY.

"THIS MID BRAIN DEALS WITH NOT ONLY THE FUNCTION OF MOTION IN THE ARMS AND LEGS AND SENSATION TO THE BODY BUT ALSO WITH EYE MOVEMENTS AND EVEN THE LIFE FUNCTION ITSELF, SUCH AS BLOOD PRESSURE, BREATHING, HEART RATE.

JA157PED JUNE 5

101

NEW YORK -- ADD NEUROSURGEON-KENNEDY (100)

"SO IT'S A VERY CRITICAL AREA, AND THIS WAS INJURED, AND THIS IS WHY I FEAR--AS DR. CUNEO INDICATED--THE OUTCOME MAY BE EXTREMELY TRAGIC."

POOLE SAID, HOWEVER, IF KENNEDY WERE TO SURVIVE THE PHYSICAL DAMAGE, HIS "HIGH INTELLECTUAL POWERS" MIGHT WELL REMAIN UNIMPAIRED.

BUT HE TOLD NBC NEWSMAN EDWARD NEWMAN THAT HE AND CUNEO WERE GREATLY FEARFUL OF THE OUTCOME--BOTH IN TERMS OF KENNEDY'S LIVING AND OF HIS BEING IN NORMAL CONDITION IF HE DOES LIVE.

JA159PED JUNE 5

Latest Medical Bulletin (about 5:15 pm)

Tests inconclusive. Do not show measurable improvement. Breathing on his own with help of resuscitators. Still ~~very~~ ^{extremely} critical. Pulse, temperature & heart in good condition.

044A

PROTECTION 6/6 NX

SUB PROTECTION WASHINGTON 010A 5TH PGH BGNG: AT THE PRESIDENT'S THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE TODAY HAD BEEN PREPARED TO PASS A BILL, AT THE PRESIDENT'S REQUEST, WHICH WOULD GIVE LEGAL SANCTION TO THE MOVE, BUT THIS WAS SURE TO BE DELAYED BECAUSE OF THE DEATH. PICKUP 6TH PGH: AGENTS ASSIGNED JM705AED

045A

POPE 6/6 NX

WITH KENNEDY 036A

VATICAN CITY (UPI)--POPE PAUL VI RETIRED TO HIS PRIVATE CHAPEL TODAY UPON LEARNING OF THE DEATH OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

AIDES SAID THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PONTIFF WENT TO PRAY FOR THE SOUL OF KENNEDY.

MSGR. FAUSTO VALLAING, THE PAPAL SPOKESMAN, SAID HE RECEIVED WORD OF KENNEDY'S DEATH FROM UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL AND RELAYED IT TO POPE PAUL WHO UTTERED WORDS "OF DISMAY."

"THE FIRST WORD, UPON LEARNING THE PAINFUL NEWS OF THE DEATH OF SEN. ROBERT KENNEDY, IS OF DISMAY FOR THIS OTHER YOUNG LIFE, SO RICH WITH PROMISES FOR HIS COUNTRY, CARRIED AWAY BY A VIOLENCE THAT CANNOT BE JUSTIFIED," THE SPOKESMAN SAID.

THE MONSIGNOR SAID THE POPE WAS "PROFOUNDLY SADDENED."

HE SAID THE POPE WAS PRAYING THAT KENNEDY'S DEATH "MAY OBTAIN FROM HEAVEN A GRATER UNDERSTANDING AND A MORE CONSCIOUS BROTHERHOOD AMONG MEN."

JM708AED

046A

SIRHAN 6/6 NX

INSERT SIRHAN LOS ANGELES 027A AFTER 3RD PGH XXX KENNEDY, D-N.Y.

SIRHAN'S FATHER, BISHARA SIRHAN, CONTACTED AT HIS HOME IN TEIBEH IN ISRAELI-OCCUPIED JORDAN, CALLED IT "THE BLACKEST DAY OF MY LIFE."

"HE SERVES HIS FATE IF HE DID WHAT YOU ARE SAYING," SIRHAN SAID.

PICKUP 4TH PGH: BY ALL

JM709AED

D

047A

BODY 6/6 HC

1ST ADD BODY LOS ANGELES 043A XX NOMINATION.

"SOME OF THE TIMES I'M ANNOUNCING ARE NOT AS PRECISE AS I'D LIKE THEM TO BE," SAID SALINGER. "THE SENATOR'S BODY WILL LEAVE LOS ANGELES BETWEEN 10 AND 11 A.M. THIS MORNING ON A JET PROVIDED BY THE WHITE HOUSE.

"THE PLANE WILL FLY TO NEW YORK CITY AND THE SENATOR'S BODY TAKEN TO ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL WHERE ON FRIDAY MORNING IT WILL LIE IN STATE BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8 A.M. AND 10 A.M. SATURDAY MORNING, THERE WILL BE A REQUIEM MASS AT ST. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL. FOLLOWING THAT THE BODY WILL BE TAKEN BY TRAIN TO ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE HE WILL BE BURIED.

"WE EXPECT THE ROUTE TO TRAVEL FROM UNION STATION IN WASHINGTON WILL PASS THE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WHERE HE SERVED IN THE U.S. SENATE AND THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WHERE HE SERVED AS ATTORNEY GENERAL," SALINGER SAID.

"ABOARD THE PLANE CARRYING THE SENATOR'S BODY WILL BE MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY, FRIENDS AND STAFF MEMBERS."

MORE VR412APD..

86 WITH KENNEDY

PARIS (AP) - U.S. AMBASSADOR SARGENT SHRIVER SAID TODAY THAT HE AND HIS WIFE, SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S SISTER, AND MRS. EDWARD KENNEDY, THE WIFE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS SENATOR, "ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO FLY TO THE UNITED STATES IF NECESSARY."

MRS. EDWARD KENNEDY IS IN PARIS WITH THE SHRIVERS AFTER A VISIT TO DUBLIN.

SHRIVER SAID THEY WERE ALL "VERY SHOCKED BY THE NEWS" OF THE SHOOTING OF SEN. KENNEDY.

"WE HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT TOUCH WITH MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY IN LOS ANGELES," HE SAID. "WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED NOT TO LEAVE FRANCE UNTIL THE RESULTS OF THE OPERATION ARE KNOWN. THE OPERATION MAY TAKE ONE TO THREE HOURS. WE ARE MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO FLY TO THE UNITED STATES IF NECESSARY."

MEANWHILE, MRS. SHRIVER, THE FORMER EUNICE KENNEDY, WAS EXPECTED TO GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR HER FIRST CALL ON FRANCE'S FIRST LADY, MME. YVONNE DE GAULLE, LATE THIS AFTERNOON. SHRIVER ARRIVED IN PARIS MAY 8 TO TAKE OVER THE EMBASSY.

AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID SHRIVER ALSO WAS GOING AHEAD WITH HIS DAY'S SCHEDULE.

Z118PED JUNE 5

87 YUGOSLAV

BELGRADE (AP) - YUGOSLAV AUTHORITIES WERE PREPARED TODAY TO SATISFY A LARGE NUMBER OF STUDENT DEMANDS AMID SIGNS THAT EXTREMIST STUDENTS DECIDED TO PUSH FOR MORE THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS READY TO GRANT.

SEVERAL UNIVERSITY FACULTY BUILDINGS REMAINED UNDER STUDENT OCCUPATION. ONLY THEIR HEADQUARTERS IN DOWNTOWN BELGRADE WAS UNDER CLOSE POLICE SURVEILLANCE, HOWEVER.

FRESH POSTERS ON OCCUPIED UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS INDICATED THAT SOME STUDENTS, DESCRIBED BY COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES AS EXTREMISTS, HAVE TURNED THEIR CAMPAIGN INTO A PURELY POLITICAL ONE.

NEW POSTERS DENOUNCED "SOCIALIST PRINCES" AND DEMANDED THE RESIGNATION OF "INCAPABLE LEADERS" AND WIDESPREAD DEMOCRATIZATION.

ONE POSTER AT STUDENT HEADQUARTERS SAID THEY OPPOSE "RESTORATION OF CAPITALISM," A FAVORITE SLOGAN OF THE RED CHINESE. HOWEVER, THIS WAS THE ONLY HINT THAT PRO-PEKING ELEMENTS WERE ACTIVE AMONG STUDENTS.

A REPORT FROM SARAJEVO, UNIVERSITY CITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BOSNA-HERCEGOVINA, SAID THAT POLICE AND STUDENTS CLASHED THERE TUESDAY.

RZ122PED JUNE 5

88 EDITORS

VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY IS NOW EXPECTED TO ARRIVE AT THE MAC TERMINAL AT NATIONAL AIRPORT AT 2:23 P.M. TODAY.

RZ122PED JUNE 5

89 SPELLING BEE

WASHINGTON (AP)-THIRTY-THREE OF THE 75 CONTESTANTS WERE ELIMINATED TODAY IN THE OPENING SESSION--FIVE ROUNDS--OF THE 41ST NATIONAL SPELLING BEE.

BUT WHEN THE GRADE SCHOOLERS FROM 34 STATES, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND FAR-OFF GUAM AND OKINAWA PAUSED FOR LUNCH, THE ODDS HAD NARROWED SLIGHTLY IN FAVOR OF A BOY WINNING THE SPELLING TITLE.

AFTER GOING THROUGH 325 WORDS--42 MORE THAN WERE SPELLED CORRECTLY OR MISSED AT THE NOON BREAK LAST YEAR--27 OF THE ORIGINAL 50 GIRLS AND 15 OF THE 25 BOY STARTERS REMAINED IN THE RUNNING.

ROUND FOUR WAS THE TOUGHEST OF THE MORNING FOR THE YOUTHFUL SPELLERS, THE BELL SOUNDING 12 TIMES TO SIGNAL MISTAKES. BUT THE WORDS WERE TOUGH, TOO. CHILDREN RANGING FROM 11 TO 14 YEARS HANDLED WITHOUT MISCUES SUCH TWISTERS AS MYRRH, BOUILLON AND DAQUIRI, BUT STUMBLER OVER SUCH AS LESSEE, DEFILADE AND PERIWINKLE.

RZ125PED JUNE 5

9 WITH KENNEDY-BYSTANDERS

LOS ANGELES (AP) - THE SHOTS THAT WOUNDED SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY EARLY TODAY ALSO FELLE FIVE OTHERS IN THE CROWDED BANQUET HALL.

THE WOUNDED INCLUDED TWO NEWSMEN, A UNION OFFICIAL AND A TEEN-AGER.

POLICE IDENTIFIED THE FIVE AS WILLIAM WEISEL, 30; IRA GOLDSTEIN, 19; ELIZABETH EVANS, 43; IRWIN STROLL, 17, AND PAUL SCHRAGE, 43. ALL BUT WEISEL, A WASHINGTON, D.C., RESIDENT, ARE FROM THE LOS ANGELES AREA.

NONE OF THE BYSTANDERS WAS REPORTED IN CRITICAL CONDITION.

WEISEL, A UNIT MANAGER FOR THE AMERICAN BROADCASTING CO., WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT SIDE NEAR THE ABDOMEN AND UNDERWENT SURGERY AT KAISER HOSPITAL. HE WAS REPORTED IN GOOD CONDITION.

RZ127PED JUNE 5

91 LOS ANGELES--WITH KENNEDY-BYSTANDERS (90)

ALSO TAKEN TO KAISER WAS PAUL SCHRAGE, A REGIONAL OFFICER OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS UNION. HOSPITAL SPOKESMEN SAID SCHRAGE SUSTAINED A SKULL FRACTURE AND A LACERATION ON THE TOP OF THE SCALP, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY A BULLET. HE ALSO UNDERWENT SURGERY AND HIS CONDITION WAS REPORTED AS GOOD.

GOLDSTEIN WAS TREATED AT ENCINO HOSPITAL, ENCINO, FOR A BULLET WOUND IN THE LEFT HIP. HE IS AN EMPLOYEE OF CONTINENTAL NEWS SERVICE AT NEARBY SHERMAN OAKS.

MRS. EVANS, A RESIDENT OF SAUGUS, WAS TO UNDERGO SURGERY AT HUNTINGTON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOR THE REMOVAL OF A BULLET WHICH WAS IMBEDDED IN HER SKULL AT THE HAIRLINE, BUT DID NOT PENETRATE THE SKULL, SAID HER HUSBAND. A HOSPITAL SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED HER CONDITION AS GOOD.

POLICE SAID STROLL WAS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT SHIN. HE WAS PLACED UNDER SEDATION AT MIDWAY HOSPITAL AFTER BEING INTERVIEWED BY OFFICERS. THEY DECLINED TO DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THEIR TALK WITH STROLL.

RZ130PED JUNE 5

2 -- WASHINGTON AREA NEWS --

WX3

(WITH KENNEDY)

(WASHINGTON)--THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WASHINGTON D-C CITY COUNCIL HAS CALLED ON HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS IN SUBURBAN JURISDICTIONS TO MEET NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS A GUN LAW. CHAIRMAN JOHN HECHINGER SENT TELEGRAMS TO 14 HEADS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TODAY IN REACTION TO THE SHOOTING OF SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY.

HECHINGER SAID THE D-C COUNCIL HAS BEEN CONSIDERING GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION FOR SOME TIME WHILE AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION. HE SAID: "I THINK WE SHOULD WAIT NO LONGER."

HE SAID IN HIS TELEGRAMS THAT THE "MOST EFFECTIVE APPROACH" FOR THE "TOTAL COMMUNITY WOULD BE TO HAVE REASONABLY UNIFORM GUN REGULATIONS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE RETROACTIVE PROHIBITIONS."

JA132PED JUNE 5

WX4

(KENNEDY-CHILDREN)

(MCLEAN, VA.)--SIX OF ROBERT AND ETHEL KENNEDY'S TEN CHILDREN ARE FLYING BACK TO THEIR MCLEAN VIRGINIA HOME FROM CALIFORNIA. THEY HAD BEEN CAMPAIGNING WITH THEIR FATHER FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PREIDENTIAL NOMINATION. MRS. KENNEDY REMAINED WITH HER HUSBAND AS HE LAY IN "EXTREMELY CRITICAL CONDITION" FOLLOWING BRAIN SURGERY TO REMOVE BITS OF BULLET WHICH STRUCK HIM EARLY THIS MORNING.

THE SIX CHILDREN ARE IN A PLANE PROVIDED BY VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY, WHO IS ONE OF THEIR FATHER'S OPPONENTS IN THE CAMPAIGN.

IN WASHINGTON, A KENNEDY AIDE SAID THAT TWO OTHER CHILDREN--14-YEAR-OLD ROBERT JUNIOR, AND 14-MONTH-OLD DOUGLAS--ARE AT HOME. THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE OTHER TWO WAS NOT REVEALED BUT THE AIDE SAID THAT WHEN THE SIX ARRIVE FROM CALIFORNIA, ALL TEN WOULD BE IN MCLEAN.

JA135PED JUNE 5

WX5

(WITH KENNEDY)

(WASHINGTON)--NEW YORK GOVERNOR NELSON ROCKEFELLER CANCELED HIS SCHEDULED APPEARANCE AT THE NATIONAL PRESS CLUB IN WASHINGTON TODAY AFTER RECEIVING WORD OF THE ATTEMPT ON SENATOR ROBERT KENNEDY'S LIFE. ROCKEFELLER CANCELED ALL OTHER APPOINTMENTS ON HIS AGENDA TODAY. ONE OF THEM WAS A BREAKFAST MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS.

THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNOR EXPRESSED SHOCK AND SORROW OVER THE SHOOTING. HE ALSO CALLED UPON NEW YORKERS TO PRAY FOR THE SENATOR'S RECOVERY.

JA137PED JUNE 5

WX6

(WASHINGTON)--THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE ROADS SUB-COMMITTEE--REPRESENTATIVE JOHN KLUCZYNSKI OF ILLINOIS--SAYS HE WANTS THE THREE SISTERS BRIDGE BUILT AND HAS PREDICTED THAT HIS COMMITTEE WILL APPROVE LEGISLATION TO ENSURE ITS CONSTRUCTION.

KUCZYNSKI--A DEMOCRAT--SAID THE BRIDGE, WHICH WILL CONNECT THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WITH VIRGINIA OVER THE POTOMAC RIVER, WILL BE INCLUDED IN A "VETO-PROOF" BILL. HE EXPLAINED THAT INSTEAD OF PUTTING IT IN A SEPARATE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BILL, THE THREE SISTERS BRIDGE ITEM WILL BE CONTAINED IN THE PENDING NATIONAL HIGHWAY BILL. THE ENTIRE NATIONAL HIGHWAY PROGRAM DEPENDS ON THIS BILL.

JA139PED JUNE 5

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(INVESTIGATION)

WASHINGTON--ATTY. GEN. RAMSEY CLARK SAID TODAY THERE WAS "NO EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY AT THIS MOMENT IN THE SHOOTING OF SEN. KENNEDY."

CLARK TOLD A NEWS CONFERENCE IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM THAT KENNEDY USED AS AN OFFICE WHEN HE WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL THAT INFORMATION SO FAR INDICATES THE SHOOTING WAS "JUST AN INDIVIDUAL ACT."

"EVERY LEAD WILL BE FOLLOWED.," HE SAID. "NO STONE WILL BE LEFT UNTURNED."

CLARK SAID THE FBI HAD RECEIVED A SET OF FINGER PRINTS OF THE UNIDENTIFIED MAN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN LOS ANGELES BY WIRE PHOTO. THE ACTUAL FINGER PRINTS ARE BEING FLOWN IN.

ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CONSPIRACY, CLARK SAID, "EVERY ANGLE OF THAT MATTER WILL BE FULLY INVESTIGATED."

CLARK, HIS VOICE BREAKING WITH EMOTION, RECALLED HOW HE HAD WORKED WITH KENNEDY IN THE VERY OFFICE WHERE HE ADDRESSED REPORTERS.

"IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT ANOTHER SUCH PERSONAL TRAGEDY WOULD STRIKE THE KENNEDY FAMILY WHICH HAS SUFFERED SO MUCH... THAT SUCH A PROFOUND TRAGEDY THROUGH VIOLENCE WOULD STRIKE THIS COUNTRY OF OURS."

"BOB KENNEDY SERVED IN THIS OFFICE, IN THIS ROOM WITH GREAT DISTINCTION," CLARK SAID. "I WAS PRIVILEGED TO WORK WITH HIM. WE CAN ONLY PRAY THAT HE WILL HAVE A FULL AND SPEEDY RECOVERY."

CLARK SAID THE FBI "IS WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT. I HAVE ORDERED THEM TO MAKE A FULL AND THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF EVERY ASPECT OF THIS CRIME."

THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORITY TO ENTER THE CRIME, CLARK SAID, WAS CLEAR UNDER THE 1968 CIVIL RIGHTS ACT AND THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT.

CLARK SAID THE SECRET SERVICE WILL HAVE TO BE REINFORCED, PERHAPS FROM OTHER AGENCIES TO PROVIDE THE PROTECTION PRESIDENT JOHNSON REORDERED EARLY TODAY FOR ALL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

CLARK SAID ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION WOULD BE SOUGHT SO THAT THE FBI AND U.S. MILITARY POLICE COULD BE USED AS AUXILIARY GUARDS, BUT THAT THEIR FUNCTION WOULD BE KEPT TOTALLY WITHIN THE SECRET SERVICE.

CLARK SAID HE WAS ADVISED OF THE SHOOTING ABOUT 3:30 A.M. AND HAD SINCE BEEN IN ALMOST CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH THE PRESIDENT, FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FBI, THE SECRET SERVICE AND THE CHIEF OF POLICE OF LOS ANGELES.

6/5--TD1032AED

UPI-62

ADD 1 MARCH, WASHINGTON (UPI-28)

ABERNATHY SAID HE WAS "TERRIBLY SHOCKED" AT THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON SEN. KENNEDY. HE SAID THE SHOOTING WAS A "DISTURBING TRAGEDY TO THE FAMILY, RESIDENTS OF RESURRECTION CITY, AND ALL AMERICA."

HE SAID THE SENATOR "IS ONE OF THE PRECIOUS FEW LEADERS OF NATIONAL STATURE" HELPING TO END VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION.

"WE MUST MOVE QUICKLY AND RESOLUTELY TO CURE THE NATION'S SICKNESS" BEFORE IT LEADS TO THE DEATH OF AMERICA.

ABERNATHY NOTED THAT PRESIDENT KENNEDY WAS ASSASSINATED AND THAT TWO MONTHS AGO LAST NIGHT, THE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS FELLED AND NOW "A GALLANT FIGHTER FOR POVERTY AND PEACE" IS NEAR DEATH.

SENS. EDWARD BROOKE, R-MASS., AND JACOB JAVITS, R-N.Y., ARRIVED AT THE CAMP GROUNDS AND EXPRESSED DISBELIEF AND GRIEF WHEN ASKED IF CONGRESS HAD DONE ALL IT COULD TO PREVENT SUCH TRAGEDIES. JAVITS REPLIED "OBVIOUSLY NOT." HE ASKED, "WHAT IS THE TROUBLE... WHEN DOES IT END."

6/5--TD1035AED

RFK shooting 6/5/68

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

June 5, 1968

SJP:jlh

Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Unknown Subject or Subjects
Senator Robert F. Kennedy, victim
INTERFERENCE WITH VOTING RIGHTS

This will confirm the oral request of the Attorney General that your Bureau conduct an investigation into the above-captioned matter.

The Civil Rights Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. 245(b)(1)(A), makes it a federal crime willfully to injure any person because he is or has been "qualifying or campaigning as a candidate for elective office ... in any primary, special or general election."

Section 11(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. 19731(b), provides that "No person, whether acting under color of law or otherwise, shall intimidate, threaten, or coerce ... any person ... for urging ... any person to vote or attempt to vote in any primary, special or general election." Sections 12(a), (c) of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. 1973j(a), (c), make it a federal crime to deprive any person of any right secured by Section 11(b) of the Act or to conspire to interfere with any right secured by Section 11(b) of the Act.

Senator Robert F. Kennedy while campaigning for the presidency in Los Angeles, California, was shot early today by an unidentified person who is reportedly in the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Please conduct a full investigation of all aspects of this matter, including any indications that the shooting was the product of a conspiracy.

Please provide daily progress reports to the Attorney General and to this Division.

RFK assass.

18

'BULLETIN

CLARK-KENNEDY

WASHINGTON (AP)--ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK SAID TODAY THE FBI IS INVESTIGATING EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE IN THE SHOOTING OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY--INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSPIRACY.

BUT HE ADDED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE, "ACCORDING TO INFORMATION THAT I HAVE AT THIS MOMENT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF CONSPIRACY."

JA958AED JUNE 5

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WASHINGTON -- ADD CLARK-KENNEDY (18)

CLARK SAID THAT THE FBI HAS RECEIVED WIREPHOTO COPIES OF THE SUSPECT ARRESTED IN THE SHOOTING BUT IT IS "VERY DIFFICULT TO MAKE A PRECISE SCIENTIFIC COMPARISON FROM A WIREPHOTO REPRODUCTION." HE ADDED THAT ACTUAL FINGERPRINTS ARE BEING FLOWN TO FBI HEAD-QUARTERS IN WASHINGTON.

CLARK OPENED HIS 10-MINUTE NEWS CONFERENCE BY SAYING "IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE THAT ANOTHER SUCH PROFOUND TRAGEDY WOULD STRIKE THE KENNEDY FAMILY WHICH HAS SUFFERED SO MUCH FROM VIOLENCE ALREADY."

CLARK, WHO CAME TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN 1961 AS AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL AND SERVED UNDER KENNEDY, WHEN HE WAS ATTORNEY GENERAL, SAID OF HIS FORMER BOSS, "BOB KENNEDY SERVED IN THIS OFFICE--IN THIS VERY ROOM--WITH GREAT DISTINCTION."

JA1001AED JUNE 5