

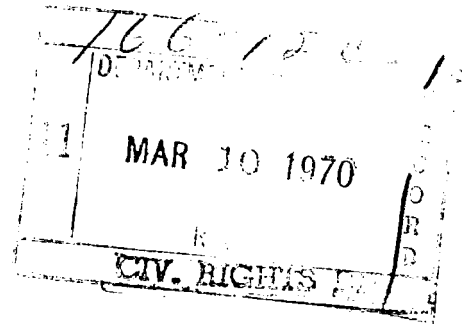
U. S. Dept. of Justice
Washington D.C.

546 Warren Road
Ithaca, New York 14850
14th January 1970

President Richard Nixon
The White House
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr. President:

FILE LMS



When President John F. Kennedy was assassinated the President had a commission investigate the events and persons surrounding that infamous blow on the History of Mankind. The testimony and data accumulated are Federal Property and I'm certain well protected. Thus, should anyone disagree with the commission's findings it is all there to be examined and remains for posterity.

I would like to recommend that the President create two more commissions to examine the two assassinations that have taken place since then. The assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King.

As in the case of the first commission, the purpose of these commissions should be to examine the events and these terrible actions

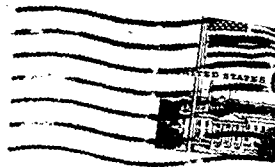
compile the data and testimony and write reports of their findings. This is especially important to do soon since the two assassins have been convicted for the crimes and are there to be questioned should discrepancies arise. These would not be retrials but rather studies and analyses in depth into the complex situations surrounding the events. The members, as before, should be of all different backgrounds and political tenets so that there is complete objectivity.

We owe it to ourselves, our Country, the World, posterity, and to the Constitution which the late President, Senator, and Reverend always defended to have these Presidential Commissions created and their studies commenced immediately.

Very respectfully yours,

Paul Shapshak Ph.D.

Space Scientist



President Richard Nixon
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dr. PAUL SHAPSHAK
546 WARREN RD.
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Ans. Rights here.

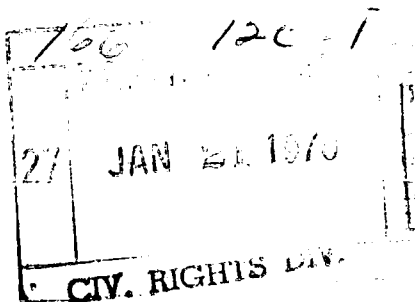
E.F.

FILE L.M.S.

Dear President Nixon, 12/23/69

I am writing this letter because I would like to know what happened to the man who killed Senator Kennedy. Because I saw him on S.V. one night and he was just about to be taken to stand in line for the electric chair. Has he been killed yet or is he still waiting. Because it was really sad when he told those things on S.V. I am just kind of concerned. I hope you understand.

Sincerely,
Wanda Knutson

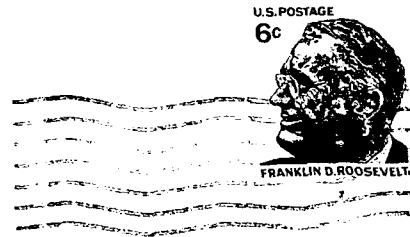


FILE L.M.S.

Address
Wanda Knutson
401 Johnson Street
Rosemount Minnesota
55068

Thank you

Wanda Knutson
401 John Street
Rosemount, Minnesota
55068



President Nixon
White House
Washington D.C.

Justice

U. S. Supreme Court
Washington

1969 DEC 9 AM 9 47

VA141 AE (L SRA170) PDF

TDSR MILL VALLEY CALIF DEC 8

THE PRESIDENT

THE WHITE HOUSE

LET SIRHAM STARVE TO DEATH

MILLIE O DAY.

RE 198.

166-120-1	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
27	DEC 16 1969
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

2007

Thank you for your recent correspondence to the Attorney General regarding Stokely Carmichael and H. "Rap" Brown.

We are looking into Carmichael's activities, including his travel to Cuba, to ascertain whether he has acted in violation of any Federal statute within our jurisdiction. In the event sufficient evidence is developed to establish a violation of Federal law, appropriate action will be undertaken.

With respect to the shocking statements attributed to Carmichael in Havana, as reported in the press, it should be noted that it is necessary to have competent witnesses to such statements and it is quite difficult to obtain such witnesses, particularly in an unfriendly country. Nonetheless, in the event any of his activities in Cuba reflect a violation of our laws and witnesses can be obtained to testify to his activities, you may be assured that prosecution will be undertaken.

In addition, the Department of State has advised that a letter was sent to the United States address appearing in Carmichael's passport application informing him that his United States passport has been revoked. Since Carmichael is an American citizen, having acquired derivative citizenship through his father, his return to this country could not be prevented.

725 Judson Ave.
Evanston, Ill.
Dec. 12, 1969

Attorney General's Office
Washington D.C.

Att'n: Mr. Mitchell

I strongly suggest that you publicize the fact that neither Richard Speck nor Sirhan Sirhan has been executed after years of delay, and that this condition has to be bad. Speck killed 8 people in about 1966 or 1967; he is still around ! Cassius Clay is still free after years.

I don't know if judges are working half the time or what is the matter, but something is all wrong. If Congress has to authorize more judges, then you should at least ask for them with a large public flourish. If the fault is not Congress', then whose is it? And let's get them on the ball.

This administration was elected with a charge to do something about crime.

Speck & Sirhan

The two mentioned were not in the federal category of crimes, but there is some kind of fantastic foot-dragging occurring. You should get the administration exonerated by fixing the blame elsewhere, or if the blame is federal, what is going to be done about it?

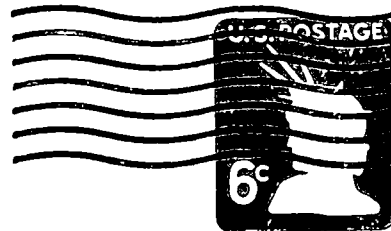
Warren Snyder

No answer wanted.

FILE L.M.S.

166-125-1	
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
27	DEC 16 1969
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

SNYDER MOLASSES COMPANY
1791 Howard Street
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60626



T. 11-18-69

JL:ADC:jac:lmc
DJ 166-12C-1

JAN 16 1970

Mrs. Ruth Samson
5700 Carbon Canyon Road, Sp. 27
Brea, California 92621

Dear Mrs. Samson:

President Nixon has referred to this Department your correspondence of September 25, 1969, concerning violence in America. We apologize for our delay in responding.

*MSB
1/15/70*

You can understand that it is not possible for the President personally to answer all the correspondence addressed to him. He wants you to know, however, that he appreciates your taking the time to write him. You may be sure that your views and comments have been carefully noted.

We can offer no excuse for the presence of increasing violence and lawlessness in our society today. We can only assure you that we are continuing to seek every means and pursue every possibility which will help to correct this situation.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

By:

ARTHUR D. CHOTIN
Attorney
Criminal Section

cc: Records
Chrono
Chotin
Corres. Unit

*VT
11-24-69*

5700 Carbon Canyon Road, Sp. 27
Brea, California 92621
September 25, 1969

My dear Mr. President:

Last night, on TV, I heard Milton Eisenhower give a brief report from the investigation on violence. He said TV programs excite violence because on television children "see the good guys and the bad guys get what they want by using violence."

"The good guys as well as the bad guys get what they want by using violence." That is an accurate measurement of what is wrong with our world. We are too violent! We kill for sport, we kill for food, we kill for profit.

Last night, and Tuesday, we were shown, over TV, how meat companies kill the animals we eat. It is brutal! not only for the animals, but also for the men who do the killing. It makes meat a repulsive food.

Judged by the Commandment "Thou shalt not kill," all wars are immoral. It is immoral to kill for sport, for food, for profit. As a nation we justify all these forms of violence. And yet we are shocked and horrified and full of wrath and revenge when an individual does what the nation does.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's jury doomed him to San Quentin's gas chamber because "they viewed the June 5, 1968 slaying of Senator Robert F. Kennedy as a heinous and coldblooded act." His execution will not lessen violence. It will perpetuate the system that makes criminals.

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy asked the court to spare the life of Sirhan. He said, "my brother was a man of love and sentiment and compassion. He would not have wanted his death to be a cause for the taking of another life."

What has happened to our sense of justice? We taught Sirhan to kill, and now we (society) want to kill him for doing what we taught him to do.

Sensitive children see killing: crimes, murders, warfare over TV. They see it in newspapers and magazines. They hear older people talk about it. Their daddy goes to war and maybe he never comes home again, or he comes home without an arm or a leg.

But, Sirhan experienced the horror of killing. WAR for him was real horror, not a black and white TV picture of horror. He experienced what no child should experience.

We adults are the criminals! So let us not condemn Sirhan for his twisted life. Let us condemn our way of life because it is twisting the lives of too many children.

The magnitude of our violence is greater than that of any other nation, because we are the only nation that has dropped atom bombs on other human beings. Our guilt is so great, we should assume leadership in a world-wide effort to build a world that is right for children! a world without: war, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, pollution, etc. This degree of co-operation would help to reduce the population explosion. To accomplish this you should create a Department of Peace, and a Department of Population and Environment.

Most respectfully yours,

Ruth Samsen

FEIFFER

by JULES FEIFFER

IT'S EASY
FOR KIDS
TODAY TO
FORGET
ALL THIS
COUNTRY
HAS
GIVEN
US—



FREE
SPEECH

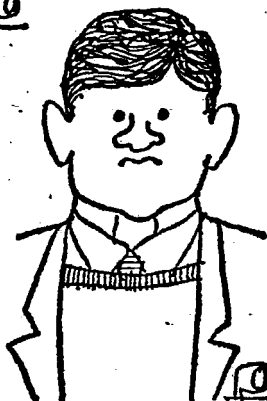


EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY—



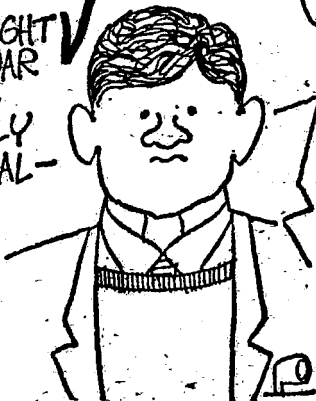
AND THE
RIGHT TO
DISSENT
IN A
PEACEABLE
MANNER.

AND IF ALL
IT ASKS IN
RETURN
IS THAT
WE PAY
TAXES—



SERVE ON
JURIES—

AND FIGHT
IN A WAR
THAT'S
TOTALLY
IMMORAL—



WHO ARE
WE TO
COMPLAIN?



RECORDS

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4 TRACK

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Times CALENDAR, SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 1969

Mrs. Harold N. Samson
5700 Carbon Canyon Rd. Sp. 27
Brea, Calif. 9262



The President of the United States
Washington
D.C.

T. 10/30/69

JL:DEM:jac:fvh
DJ 166-12C-1

NOV 7 1969

Miss Debbie Rattles
Post Office Box 94
Beaufort, Missouri 63013

Dear Miss Rattles:

President Nixon has referred to this Department your correspondence postmarked August 14, 1969, concerning Sirhan Sirhan. We apologize for our delay in responding.

You can understand that it is not possible for the President personally to answer all the correspondence addressed to him. He wants you to know, however, that he appreciates your taking the time to write.

The Department of Justice does not have the information you seek. You may wish to contact the officials of the Superior Court of the County of Los Angeles in order to obtain a response to your question.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

By:

DOROTHY E. MEAD
Attorney

Voting & Public Accommodations

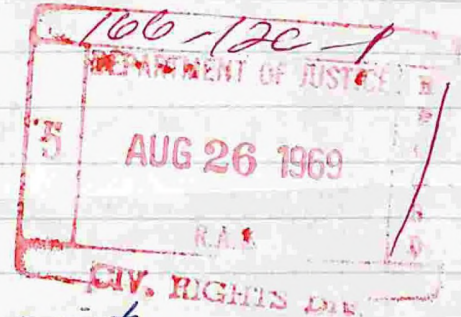
cc: Records
Chrono
Mead
Corres. Unit

DEM
11/7/69

VT
10/30/69

REC'D AUG 18

Debbie Rattles
Beaford Mo.
63013
P.O. Box 94



Dear Mr. President,

I'll get right to the point.

Has Sirhan Sirhan been executed yet?

The reason I want to know is simply this: I was following up on him ~~in the~~ in the papers, and on the radio, and on the news ~~on~~ television, and the last I heard was that he was to be in San Quentin until he was to be executed.

If you could spare the information I would to know the results.

This is probably the worst and slopest letter you ever received.

I hope that the voting age is changed to 18 although I'm only 13 and $\frac{1}{2}$ years old.

There is one more thing I want to ask you, "Could I please have your permission to write you a personal letter? If possible could it be read by you only?"

P.S. Would you please con-

gratulate your daughter and her husband on their wedding, ~~the~~ It was lovely. You have a very lovely family Mr. President.

Good Luck as President

Thank You Very much,

Debbie Rattles

Debbie Rattles
Beaufort Mo.
63013
P.O. Box 94



President Nixon
Washington D.C.
The White House

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

GPO

16-79608-1

September 23, 1969

9-24

Dear Sir,

I was an admirer like so many others, over the past few years of Senator Robert Kennedy's life; which ended so abruptly to the sorrow and regret of all of us, his admirers, his followers and the "enervated mankind." We all shared that grief, but most important the life and the resurrected belief of Senator Kennedy: To love one another with compassion and do what we can for our survival.

Many of our young were lost no incentive for the future, he brought them ~~back~~ and no surrogate such as they found with him; He led the way. He was one of their kind; just old enough to be a leader and young enough not to exploit the generation gap; to them he was the guiding light out of darkness, some-one to stabilize the "moral code", someone who enjoyed life to its fullest with out hesitation, but with good taste and Character. He gave the fullest of his life to others, and took what was offered to him by others.

FILE LMS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		RECORD
10	SEP 25 1969	
R.A.O.		
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.		

The younger generation was in need of this and they flocked to him in such great numbers, the like we had never witness, the enthusiasm seems to have given this country an aura of intelligent interest. The zest displayed by so large a following and so young a following, gave us too a renewed hope in our selves.

Sir I think this is saying something, this is giving acknowledgement to something greater than a political enclave for America's rebellious youths. Sir

I think, and I am sure, that millions of others share this thought just as we shared a hope in a "Man," for a better country, that because of Senator Kennedy's feeling and "Credo", we will be doing an injustice to this Man, not to say so much for what the

Senator stood for but his basic belief the foundation for his respect of all Man-Kind. Jesus Christ life, death, Resurrection, "forgive them Father for they know not what they do".

Murder is Murder, when a man murders another man because of ethical stress his mine is evil. I truly hope we will not live to see the day when our justice reward evil for evil. I think justice, our justice has its place and should be implemented to the fullest or limits. But as for life who

should cast the first stone, who is to say who should live and who should die. Those that take life in their own hands are fools but only God can pass down a Verdict of guilty, Penalty "Death".

We should punish trespassers of others mortal life, but that is the limit of our duty for one another. I am Sure this man's conscience has punished him enough and shall continue to do so the rest of his life. We must remember that death is not only in the groing, once we die in mortal sin our mentality also dies of its natural existence. This man does not have to be punished by us, but by nature, his natural instinct as a human being; Counters to, to love thy brother as thy Self, do good to him, if he does not have this Compassion then he is mentally incompetent and should be pitied. One way or another justice has been served; let us not try and equate justice with barbarity. We are primitive enough with out ~~turning~~ turning to the good old days of, an eye for an eye and ect.

Yours truly

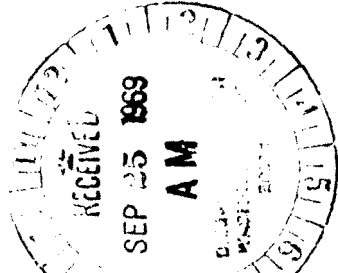
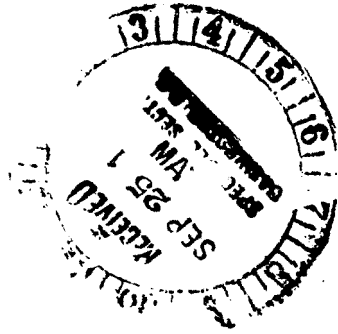
(miss) Nancy A. Crosby.

79 Mandeville
Oregon Road
H.A., California



Mr. C. L.
of the United States by America
Washington, D.C.

SPECIAL
AIR MAIL



T: 9/26/69
RT: 10/7/69
RT: 10/21/69
JL:ls:slr:evb
DJ 166-12C-1

October 21, 1969

8-6

Honorable George Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Murphy:

This is in reply to your memorandum of August 6, 1969, to which was attached a letter and the copy of a newsclipping from Mr. Clifford A. Hauenstein. Please excuse my delay in responding.

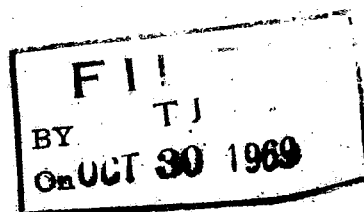
We agree that Mr. Schulberg's argument may merit consideration and I am sure the courts are mindful of the problem. Thank you for bringing the article to my attention.

I am returning your enclosures herewith.

Sincerely,

JERRIS LEONARD
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

cc: ✓ Records
Chrono
DAG
Corres. Unit



JL
10/20/69

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

() Assistant Attorney General

() First Assistant

() Second Assistant

() Executive Assistant

() Central Section () Attorney

() Eastern Section () Attorney

() Northeastern Section () Attorney

() Southern Section () Attorney

() Western Section () Attorney

(✓) Other: () ~~Deborah Jones~~

() ~~David Marshall~~

RETURN TO: (✓) Correspondence Unit

() Editorial Unit

() Section Docket Clerk

INDEX Title: _____

STATE: _____ CITY: _____

COUNTY: _____

CROSS REF: _____

REMARKS:

I don't see why we should answer Senator Murphy's mail. I'd return it to him with a "no comment" note.

Is 9/24/72

United States Senate

August 6, 1969

Respectfully referred to:

Department of Justice

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

100 - 128 1

DEPT. OF JUSTICE	R
George Murphy,	E
27 AUG 7 1969	C
R.A.O.	P
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

6-1

United States Senate

August 6, 1969

Respectfully referred to:

Department of Justice

Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

166-122-1

DEPT. OF JUSTICE	RECEIVED
George Murphy	
27 AUG 7 1969	
R.A.O.	
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.	

Good

Justice

July 26, 1969

The Honorable George Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Murphy:

I am enclosing an article by Budd Schulberg which appeared in the Los Angeles Times "West" magazine. The thesis of the article is that there are some crimes which have such an overwhelming effect on the entire country (political assassination, for example) that they cannot be tried and judged by conventional trial procedures and thus, a radically new means of handling such cases must be devised.

It would appear that Mr. Schulberg's argument has merit, and I would appreciate you giving it your consideration. I would be very interested in any comments that you might have.

Sincerely,

Clifford A. Hauenstein

Clifford A. Hauenstein
23847 Aetna St.
Woodland Hills, Calif.
91364

K12

Years ago we covered the lurid "White Flame" murder trial for a Los Angeles paper, a typical Southern California crime of passion, a sob sister's delight. Compared to the screaming headlines of that trial, or of a "Black Dahlia" or a "Dr. Finch Murder Case," the trial of the assassin of Bobby Kennedy was reported with second-section modesty. For us the trial of Sirhan Sirhan was an eerie one to cover because it was the first (and we pray the last) time we were to attend a trial for a murder we had witnessed with our own eyes.

The security check of those privileged few permitted to move through the protective barrier and enter the courtroom was the most thorough body-search we have ever experienced. First you removed everything from your pockets, every pen, pencil, slip of paper, coin, paper clip. Then you leaned forward on a table while young officers frisked you carefully from neck to shoelace. (Lady reporters said they even had to remove their shoes, nor were bras sacrosanct to the distaff fuzz.) After the body-search an electronic gadget was run slowly along every inch of you to make scientifically certain that you were not carrying a concealed weapon; no tiny revolver, no pocket knife, not even a pin to endanger the precious life of the young man who robbed us of Robert F. Kennedy.

At one point in my search one day, the electronic device began to scream and two pennies were detected, forgotten in a small inside flap within a larger side pocket. Neither were newspapers admissible. The jury was not to be exposed to the daily press, though how one could break through the barrier of bailiffs and plainclothesmen between the press section and the jury box would have been a problem for Houdini. Perhaps they feared we would roll our newspapers into clubs or spears and turn the decorous trial into the chaos of Dallas.

After one had run the gamut of state troopers and Hall of Justice security officers, the courtroom itself was rather an anticlimax. It was smaller, for instance, than the courtroom in Beverly Hills where my wife went on trial for driving 35 miles an hour in a 25-mile zone. It was similar in size to the courtroom where we assisted one of our young

Sirhan Sirhan vs. American Justice

(Last of two parts)

The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan certainly was a cut above Dallas, or Memphis. But the magnitude of the crime and its nature as a political rather than personal act—the modern American

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Sirhan Sirhan vs. American Justice

(Last of two parts)

The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan certainly was a cut above Dallas, or Memphis. But the magnitude of the crime and its nature as a political rather than personal act—the modern American assassination syndrome—makes ordinary local

Rose Bowl and at the Battle of the Bulge. Duck is a ruddy-faced rock of a man with a Spencer Tracy stoop, in fact with a Spencer Tracy non-sense All-American directness; he was flanked by David Fitts, a sophisticated man who sometimes used phrases and words his witnesses did not understand, and by John Howard, barrel-chested and, like Compton, suggesting square and solid rather than cube and complex.

In the opposite corner we found one of those superstars that criminal law enjoys—Southern California's answer to Melvin Belli, Percy Foreman and Lee Bailey—Grant Cooper. While the prosecution went about its business with a kind of stolid semi-thoroughness, Grant Cooper gives a prize-winning performance, somehow managing to superimpose Cary Grant on Gary Cooper. Stylish, urbane, disingenuous, sometimes grinning at his own cleverness, Grant Cooper created an impression of being in complete command of these proceedings, like a circus master dancing with theatrical elegance from ring to ring. A dapper, scene-stealing leading man was Grant Cooper, with a star performer's love of limelight. During court recesses, rather than take the 15 or 20 minutes to catch his breath or confer quietly with colleagues as did his less flamboyant opponents, Grant Cooper enjoyed throwing himself into the whirlpool questioning of the press milling in the corridor outside the courtroom. Overshadowed but very much a figure in his own was Emile Zola Berman, who flew out from New York to join forces with Cooper. A potent team they made.

Berman, with the beak and complexion of an angry, featherless bird of prey, is Jewish and was understandably touchy about attaching himself to a case so inextricably bound to the Arab cause. There was one entire morning devoted to testimony from Palestinian Arabs describing their forcible removal from their homes in Jerusalem, suggesting how the displacement and maltreatment could poison and cripple the personality of a sensitive child like Sirhan Sirhan. And Sirhan himself had taken the stand to render what amounted to a detailed lecture on the birth of Zionism and the complex diplomacy of the Middle East that led to the emergence of Israel. "Boy, am I going to catch hell in New York today!" said

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 ing with the arrest of an alleged
 traffic offender. With its nine rows
 of seats for 65 spectators, this
 seemed an ordinary courtroom for a
 routine trial; certainly not the scene
 of judgment for a crime that had
 shaken the world and deprived us of
 our most promising presidential
 candidate.

On the right sat Buck Compton,
 captain of the prosecution team, an
 ex-football star, a hero both in the

***The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan
 certainly was a cut above
 Dallas, or Memphis. But the
 magnitude of the crime and
 its nature as a political
 rather than personal act—
 the modern American
 assassination syndrome—
 makes ordinary local
 court proceedings inadequate
 to cope with it, or define
 it, delve into its causes
 and resolve questions of
 conspiracy. Perhaps a new
 kind of special national
 tribunal is needed for
 political murder—to make
 the trial fit the crime.***

By BUDD SCHULBERG

Cooper gives a prize-winning
 performance, somehow managing to
 superimpose Cary Grant on Gary
 Cooper. Stylish, urbane, disingen-
 uous, sometimes grinning at his own
 cleverness, Grant Cooper created an
 impression of being in complete
 command of these proceedings, like
 a circus master dancing with theatri-
 cal elegance from ring to ring. A
 dapper, scene-stealing leading man
 was Grant Cooper, with a star
 performer's love of limelight. During
 court recesses, rather than take the
 15 or 20 minutes to catch his breath
 or confer quietly with colleagues as
 did his less flamboyant opponents,
 Grant Cooper enjoyed throwing
 himself into the whirlpool question-
 ing of the press milling in the
 corridor outside the courtroom.
 Overshadowed but very much a
 figure in his own was Emile Zola
 Berman, who flew out from New
 York to join forces with Cooper. A
 potent team they made.

Berman, with the beak and
 complexion of an angry, featherless
 bird of prey, is Jewish and was
 understandably touchy about attach-
 ing himself to a case so inextricably
 bound to the Arab cause. There was
 one entire morning devoted to
 testimony from Palestinian Arabs
 describing their forcible removal
 from their homes in Jerusalem,
 suggesting how the displacement and
 maltreatment could poison and
 cripple the personality of a sensitive
 child like Sirhan Sirhan. And Sirhan
 himself had taken the stand to
 render what amounted to a detailed
 lecture on the birth of Zionism and
 the complex diplomacy of the
 Middle East that led to the emer-
 gence of Israel. "Boy, am I going to
 catch hell in New York today!" said
 "Zook" Berman to a small group of
 reporters at one noon recess.

Then why did Emile Zola Berman
 take this case? For the same reason,
 his champions insist, that he defend-
 ed critical civil rights cases in Dixie.
 Because unpopular cases and causes
 must be defended as spiritedly as
 popular ones. In this case, Berman
 would explain, there was an added
 incentive: California has a new de-

enter the courtroom was the most thorough body-search we have ever experienced. First you removed everything from your pockets, every pen, pencil, slip of paper, coin, paper clip. Then you leaned forward on a table while young officers frisked you carefully from neck to shoelace. (Lady reporters said they even had to remove their shoes, nor were bras sacrosanct to the distaff fuzz.) After the body-search an electronic gadget was run slowly along every inch of you to make scientifically certain that you were not carrying a concealed weapon; no tiny revolver, no pocket knife, not even a pin to endanger the precious life of the young man who robbed us of Robert F. Kennedy.

At one point in my search one day, the electronic device began to scream and two pennies were detected, forgotten in a small inside flap within a larger side pocket. Neither were newspapers admissible. The jury was not to be exposed to the daily press, though how one could break through the barrier of bailiffs and plainclothesmen between the press section and the jury box would have been a problem for Houdini. Perhaps they feared we would roll our newspapers into clubs or spears and turn the decorous trial into the chaos of Dallas.

After one had run the gamut of state troopers and Hall of Justice security officers, the courtroom itself was rather an anticlimax. It was smaller, for instance, than the courtroom in Beverly Hills where my wife went on trial for driving 35 miles an hour in a 25-mile zone. It was similar in size to the courtroom where we assisted one of our young Watts writers charged with interfering with the arrest of an alleged traffic offender. With its nine rows of seats for 65 spectators, this seemed an ordinary courtroom for a routine trial; certainly not the scene of judgment for a crime that had shaken the world and deprived us of our most promising presidential candidate.

On the right sat Buck Compton, captain of the prosecution team, an ex-football star, a hero both in the

The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan certainly was a cut above Dallas, or Memphis. But the magnitude of the crime and its nature as a political rather than personal act—the modern American assassination syndrome—makes ordinary local court proceedings inadequate to cope with it, or define it, delve into its causes and resolve questions of conspiracy. Perhaps a new kind of special national tribunal is needed for political murder—to make the trial fit the crime.

By BUDD SCHULBERG

(A-2) Dear Mr. President,

I know this letter will be ~~thrown~~

~~thrown~~ away and you won't even get to read it, but I'm writing anyway I want to tell you how I feel. At the beginning I hated you so much and was so mad when you were elected President but now I feel different. I like you very much. I know that you want to help the people of the United States. If only you could help the war to end and stop all this rioting and the fighting between the black and white. I'm white and my best girlfriend is a Negro. I think very highly of her. She's kind, considerate and understands. Sometimes we don't see eye to eye on something and get into a fight but we always make up. We've been best friends for on 4 or 5 years now. That's what I call true friendship. We are both 16.

Every night I pray to God and ask him to help the war to stop. ~~He's my~~ my favorite President ~~is~~ ~~146-120-1~~ Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and now ~~he~~ I wanted so much for Bobby ~~to~~ be elected President but then the tragedy. (forgive spelling). But

FILE LMS.

between -
white and my best girlfriend is a Negro.
I think very highly of her. She's kind;
considerate and understands. Sometimes
we don't see eye to eye on something
and get into a fight but we always
make up. We've been best friends going
on 4 or 5 years now. That's what I call
true friendship. We are both 16.

Every night I pray to God and ask
him to help the war to stop. ~~That's what~~
my favorite President's were
Lincoln, John F. Kennedy and now you.
I wanted so much for Bobby Kennedy
to be elected President but then the
~~tragedy~~ tragedy. (forgive spelling). But I do
believe one thing. That Sir Han - Sir
Han be free to go. They probably end
up executing him then that's another
dead man. I do not believe in putting
a person to his death for committing
a crime at all. He was probably mentally
unbalanced. No, but instead of helping
a person who ~~has~~ kills they kill
him. I hope you know what I'm
getting at. What are we ~~trying~~ trying to do

in this country. Try to stop the war.
Right? ~~We're~~ We're trying to
end the killing. Right? Well, that's
just what we're doing when a
person is put to his death for a crime
he committed. We're killing. What
I mean is we're committing

COLD
BLOODED
MURDER!

When I watched Sir - Han on TV
started crying, it wasn't a
he really didn't know what
was doing. I feel so sad
poor man. He's probably
dead. Inside that is,

Thank
you

IN U R N L N

When I watched Sir - ken on T. V. he started crying, it wasn't a fake cry. He really didn't know what he was doing. I feel so sorry for the poor man. He's probably already dead. Inside that is, ~~the~~

Thank you
for your time,
Debbie Booker
(16 years old.)

P. 5. I hope like anything that you get this letter. Even if you don't get this at least somebody who reads it, might understand what I'm really saying.

166-12C-1

See 7

4-29-69 _____

From
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
To

August 14, 1969

- ☐ The Attorney General
- ☐ The Solicitor General
- ☐ The Deputy Attorney General
- ☐ Assistant Attorney General
- ☐ Director, Bureau of Prisons
- ☐ The Pardon Attorney
- ☐ Chairman, Parole Board
- ☐ Assistant Attorney General for Administration
- ☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service
- ☐ Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs
- ☐ Office of Alien Property
- ☐ Chief - Accounts Branch
- ☐ Chief - Administrative Services Office
- ☐ Chief of Personnel
- ☐ General Litigation Section, Civil Division
- ☒ Records Administration Office

Att.: ☐ Antitrust Div. ☐ Civil Div. ☒ Civil Rights Div.
☐ Criminal Div. ☐ Internal Security Div.
☐ Inter-Division Information Unit ☐ Community Relations Service

- ☐ A. No further action will be taken in this case in the absence of a specific request from you.
- ☐ B. Please advise what further investigation, if any, is desired in this matter.
- ☐ C. For your information, I am enclosing a communication regarding the holder of a diplomatic or international organization visa.
- ☒ D. For your information.
- ☐ E. Please note change in caption of this case.

John Edgar Hoover
Director

cc: ☐ Attorney General ☐ Deputy Attorney General
☐ Antitrust Div. ☐ Civil Div. ☐ Civil Rights Div.
☐ Criminal Div. ☐ Internal Security Div. ☐ IDIU

Enc. (*(Upon removal of classified enclosures, if any, this transmittal form becomes UNCLASSIFIED.)*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

21-037-145

Report of: AMEDEE O. RICHARDS, JR.
Date: 8/1/69

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 56-156

Bureau File #: 62-587

Title: SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

DOCKETED

AUG 1 8 1969

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis:

The trial of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN continued at Los Angeles County Superior Court, Number 107, State of California, during February 1969. On 2/13/69, opening arguments were made by prosecution attorney. Defense Attorney EMILE ZOLA BERMAN made his opening statements on 2/14/69, and the first four witnesses testified to the shooting. Trial continued and on 2/26/69, the prosecution rested its case. The defense opened its case on 2/28/69. Trial continued and on 4/8/69, both prosecution and defense rested their cases. On 4/14/69, the case was sent to the jury for deliberation. The jury returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree against SIRHAN, and also found him guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to commit murder on five other counts in the indictment. On 4/23/69, after a separate penalty trial, the jury returned a verdict of death for SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. On 5/21/69, SIRHAN was formally sentenced to death, and ordered remanded to San Quentin Prison. SIRHAN was sentenced to the term prescribed by law in the remaining charges against him. Background information concerning SIRHAN set forth, including interviews of fellow students, fellow workers, and information concerning brothers of SIRHAN including SAIDALLAH, SHARIF, MUNIR, and ADEL. Additional interviews conducted of persons in area of shooting including hotel employee, campaign

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workers, student supporter, and press representative. Additional investigation conducted concerning KHAIBAR KHAN and members of his family concerning their alleged contact with SIRHAN. No further information developed concerning radio broadcast of shooting of Senator KENNEDY prior to his actual shooting. Miscellaneous information regarding investigation of the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY set forth.

- P -

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DETAILS:

PROSECUTIVE ACTION CONCERNING
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

LA 56-156

On February 4, 1969, trial of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was resumed at Los Angeles County Superior Court. Court proceedings consisted of efforts on the part of the defense to support the motion for dismissal of the Grand Jury indictment concerning SIRHAN. SIRHAN and his mother MARY SIRHAN, both testified concerning their economic status. Judge HERBERT B. WALKER denied the defense motion.

On February 5, 1969, efforts were made by both the prosecution and the defense to select alternate jurors to serve for this trial.

The twelve jurors previously selected were sworn in but will not be sequestered until the six alternate jurors are selected.

On February 11, 1969, selection of all jurors was completed and further proceedings were continued until February 13, 1969.

Defense Attorney, GRANT B. COOPER, on February 13, 1969, made a motion for a mistrial in this matter based on recent articles appearing in the local press that SIRHAN might be considering a change of plea to guilty. All members of the jury including the six alternate members were individually examined in the Judge's chambers relative to the effect that this publicity might have had on them. Following the examination of the jurors, Judge WALKER denied the motion for a mistrial.

Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, DAVID FITTS then made the opening statements to the court on behalf of the prosecution attorneys.

Defense Attorney, EMILE ZOLA BERMAN presented the opening arguments for the defense on February 14, 1969, and the first four witnesses to appear in this case testified. These included employees of the Ambassador who were employed on the night that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot.

The defense attorney at the beginning of the court session on February 20, 1969, again moved for a mistrial based on local press accounts that SIRHAN was willing to plead guilty to a first degree murder charge if he could be assured of a sentence of life imprisonment rather than death. These proceedings took place in the Judge's chambers but apparently the story leaked to the local press and at the afternoon recess, Judge WALKER made available copies of transcripts concerning proceedings in chambers on that morning so that all press representatives would have the same information.

During the court session on February 25, 1969, the prosecution moved to admit as evidence in this trial the diary and other papers of SIRHAN that were obtained in a search of SIRHAN's residence on June 5, 1968. The defense objected to the admission into evidence of these papers and Judge WALKER overruled their objection and permitted their entry. Just prior to the noon recess, SIRHAN stood up in court and stated "your Honor, it is not admitted into evidence yet". SIRHAN's outburst was related to testimony then being given by LAURENCE SLOAN, Examiner of questioned documents for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

On February 26, 1969, the prosecution rested the case and the jury was given copies of SIRHAN's notebooks which had been admitted into evidence. Court proceedings were continued until February 28, 1969.

The defense opened it's case at the court session on February 28, 1969 and during the afternoon session while a witness from the Pasadena School system was testifying concerning the academic record of SIRHAN, SIRHAN stood up in court and addressed the Judge. His attorney seated him, requested permission to approach the bench and the jury was excused. SIRHAN requested permission to speak and indicated a desire to change his plea to guilty to murder in the first degree. SIRHAN also requested to be executed and to disassociate himself from his present staff of defense attorneys. In response to a question from the Judge, SIRHAN indicated that he had willfully killed Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY after 20 years of premeditated malice and forethought.

SIRHAN insisted that he be allowed to represent himself and the Judge declared him incompetent to defend himself. The Judge ruled that the trial would continue and he admonished SIRHAN that if there were further outbursts of this nature, he would be physically restrained in the court.

When court reconvened, defense Attorney GRANT COOPER, speaking for himself and the other defense counsels, made a motion that all defense attorneys be disassociated from the case due to differences of opinion between themselves, and SIRHAN as to the proper conduct of the trial. This motion was denied by the Judge and trial was ordered to proceed.

During the court session on March 6, 1969, while SIRHAN was testifying as a witness, the defense attorney, after conference with the prosecution and the Judge, read the entire transcript to the court, including the jury of the events that occurred during SIRHAN's outbursts in the court session on February 28, 1969. SIRHAN was then excused as a witness.

Judge WALKER at the opening of the court session of March 7, 1969, advised the jury that in determining the guilt or innocence of SIRHAN to disregard the testimony given on March 6, 1969 regarding the statements made by SIRHAN at the court session on February 28, 1969, while the jury was absent. Prosecution Attorney, DAVID FITTS made a statement to the court that he considered the Judge's instructions in error and felt that the jury should be able to consider the statements in anyway that they wished. The Judge concurred with the prosecution, and defense continued with the presentation of defense witnesses.

During the court session of March 28, 1969, it was announced that one of the regular jurors had been taken ill during the night and an alternate juror was selected to replace the regular juror.

On April 8, 1969, both the defense and prosecution attorneys rested their case. Closing arguments were made at the court session following April 8, 1969 and on April 14, 1969, Judge WALKER read the instructions to the jury and the case was sent to the jury for deliberation at 3:00 p.m. on this date.

On April 17, 1969, the jury returned a verdict in this case finding SIRHAN guilty of murder in the first degree on count one of the indictment. On the remainder of the five counts, SIRHAN was found guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to commit murder. The penalty trial to determine the possibility of the death sentence was scheduled to begin on April 21, 1969.

On April 23, 1969, the jury in the trial of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, returned a verdict of death for SIRHAN. Further hearings in this matter were continued until May 21, 1969.

On May 21, 1969, defense Attorney GRANT COOPER, presented arguments for a motion for a new trial for SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. The motion for a new trial was based on 13 points of alleged court errors in the trial of SIRHAN. The motion for the new trial was denied by Judge WALKER on all 13 points which had been specified by the defense.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN WIRIN and FRED OKRAND of the American Civil Liberties Union joined defense attorney's argument for a hearing on the constitutionality of the death penalty. The request for this hearing was denied by the Judge.

Prior to the arguments concerning a motion for a new trial, Los Angeles District Attorney EVELLE J. YOUNGER, presented a letter he had received from Senator EDWARD KENNEDY requesting clemency for SIRHAN.

After the motion for a new trial was denied, Judge WALKER formally sentenced SIRHAN to death and ordered him remanded to San Quentin Prison within ten days. The Judge pronounced that the findings of the jury were correct in this