

EX-100
CHECKED

INTERVIEWS

FILE # 44-260

PERSON INTERVIEWED: BURBA, HAROLD LEON DATE/TIME 7-6-68 9AM

SEX M RACE C HAIR BRN EYES BLU HT 5-8 WT 170 DOB [REDACTED]

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 20503 Osage Av, Torrance PHONE 371-2966

BUSINESS ADDRESS CITY OF L.A. FIRE DEPT (LOANER) (PHOTO SEC) PHONE EXT 84-328

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

ARRIVED AT HOTEL 6PM. TOOK PHOTOS FOR FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU OF ANY FIRE SAFETY REGULATIONS VIOLATIONS. IN THE EMPLOYEES EATING AREA, SEATED AT A TABLE (N/W CORNER), AT THE TIME OF SHOOTING. LOOKING OUT AT CROWD, BUT DID NOT SEE SENATOR. SAW ABOUT THREE FLASHES AND HEARD 6 OR 8 "POPS". NOT POSITIVE ABOUT SEEING SUGG. CROWD STARTS MOVING BACK THEN SURGES IN. WALKED TO OPENING INTO PANTRY ^{AREA} COULDN'T SEE SENATOR. HAD AWARENESS OF PEOPLE TRYING TO SURROUND SOMEONE. WENT BACK TO TABLE AND GOT CAMERA (STROBE LIGHT TAKES ¹⁰⁻¹⁵ SECONDS TO CHARGE BEFORE PICTURE COULD BE TAKEN). TOOK FIVE PHOTOS FROM DIFFERENT POSITIONS AND ANGLES. CAMERA KNOCKED FROM HAND, CAUGHT IT BUT ACCIDENTALLY PUT SAFETY ON. WASN'T AWARE SAFETY WAS ON SO NO MORE PHOTOS TAKEN. ALSO - PEOPLE WERE SHOUTING "NO MORE PHOTOS" AND SHOVING PHOTOGRAPHERS AROUND. PUT CAMERA AWAY, THEN ASSISTED WITH CROWD CONTROL. INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS WHITE - WELLS (6-13-68) TESTIFIED AT GRAND JURY. STATED HE SAW SIRHAN WITH POSTER FOLLOWING KENNEDY IN. SHOWN PICTURES FROM LIFE OF MICHAEL WAYNE - STATED HE NOW THINKS THAT WAS THE PERSON, RATHER THAN SIRHAN.

INVESTIGATORS MAKING INT. VIEW:

PATCHETT - MAC ARTHUR

APPROVED BY:

Lt. Peron

RAMPART DETECTIVE DIVISION

INTERVIEWS (PHONE)

JUNE 6-68

3:45 PM

DR#68-521 466

KENNEDY SHOOTING:

PHONE INTERVIEW

BURMAN, MAX, 4629 Fulton Ave, Sherman Oaks, PH:872 0190, & 783 5526

BURMAN STATES HE WAS ON A TRIP IN Ceasareee, isreal, on 5-18-68 with 12 other couples. On this date, a short wave broadcast was intercepted by the manager of a resturant at this location, that Senator Kennedy had been shot. This broadcast was supposed to be a BBC Broadcast.

Burman states Pear Segal, PH:463 1977, 665-5197; varified the date and info.

RECORDED
INDEXED
JUN 20 1968
PB
Interviewed: FRANK J. BURNS, JR.

Date: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1968

Time: 2:35 P.M.

FILE COPY

Business Address & Phone

Residence Address & Phone 650 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, phone MA 48506

Information (To be complete - the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why & How)

Mr. Burns was interviewed on June 19, 1968, at 2:35 p.m., Room 318, Parker Center. Mr. Burns is a personal advisor to Jesse M. Unruh and was accompanying the Kennedy group as an advisor. He was on stage with Mr. Kennedy at the time of his speech and left the podium with him. The following is an account of what occurred.

I was on stage with Senator Kennedy and I exited the rear of the stage behind Senator Kennedy. He turned right and walked hurriedly at the head of me, increasing the distance. I overtook him just as he was shaking hands with an employee of the Ambassador Hotel. I recall the person he was shaking hands with was very short. As I walked behind him through the kitchen, my eyes were fixed on his back. There were people about me and the crowd seemed to build as I caught up with the Senator. I was standing behind Mr. Kennedy when I heard the noise. It sounded like a string of firecrackers. I focused on an arm and a gun just to my right. It seemed to be close to Senator Kennedy. I felt a burning sensation on my left cheek, then I saw Senator Kennedy falling, turning to his left and holding his arms up. The suspect moved forward into my full view. His arm was extended and aiming the gun slightly downward firing it. The shots stopped at that time. A lot of people got hold of him (suspect). I grabbed him in the area of his neck, and we started this spinning action struggling with the suspect. I don't believe he resisted as much as he was pushed by those trying to apprehend him. I tried to grab his leg and I remember Mr. Barry coming up. He said, "Get a rope; we'll tie him

Investigators making interview
Collins, Patchett, and Mac Arthur

Approved by

Dr. [Signature]

up." I took off my belt for this and then Mr. Barry was gone. I remember climbing up on top of the table over the suspect, and Grier had him on the table. I saw the gun in Grier's left hand. Next I left the kitchen and went into the Colonial Room. I was looking for help and to see if the ambulance and so forth had been called. Then I went to the entrance of the Embassy Room and asked if there was a doctor. I was reassured by someone there that help was on the way. When I returned to the kitchen, I saw Jesse Unruh on the table and he was shouting instructions. As the police arrived, Rosie stepped away and the officers took the suspect and began handcuffing him. Rosie put his head down and I asked him, "Where's the gun?" He said, "I gave it to Rafer." By this time the officers had the suspect handcuffed and I started leading the way out of the kitchen through the press room (Colonial Room). We moved very fast, pushing people out of the way. There was no problem en route to the front of the hotel. The front doors were open and there was a police car sitting there with the doors open. From the right I saw a lot of people surging forward. Two officers got into the back seat with the suspect between them. An officer was driving and Jesse Unruh got into the front seat of the car. At the time of the shooting, I thought that there was about ten people ahead of us. It's only a subconscious judgment; I was not looking that way. I was with the Kennedy party on the fifth floor and accompanied them in the service elevator to the kitchen and then to the stage prior to his speech. I believe it was Mr. Fred Dutton that made the decision that Mr. Kennedy should go to the press room. Mr. Kennedy was exiting from the stage to his right when a voice in the crowd called to him and he turned around and walked to the back of the stage. I'm not sure who it was that directed him, but he responded immediately to that direction.

McKENNA, BURNS AND BLAYLOCK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

**650 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017**

**JOHN F. McKENNA, JR.
FRANK J. BURNS, JR.
ROBERT J. BLAYLOCK**

**TELEPHONE
MADISON 4-0500**

My name is Frank J. Burns, Jr. I live at 11713 South Atkinson Avenue, Inglewood, California, telephone number 756-8023. I am an attorney and my office is located at 650 South Grand Avenue, Suite 600, Los Angeles 90017, telephone number 624-8506.

On June 4, 1968, I arrived at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 7:00 P.M. and went to the Presidential Suite, which was the headquarters for Speaker Unruh and the Kennedy Campaign staff. Between then and approximately 11:00 P.M., I was either in the Presidential Suite or around the corner in the Royal Suite area, which was occupied by Senator Kennedy and his staff.

At approximately 11:00 P.M. I went downstairs to the Embassy Room and talked to the various members of the campaign staff who were manning the anchor desk which was located to the right rear of the podium. At approximately 11:30 P.M. we decided that it was time for Senator Kennedy to come down, and I went upstairs to get him. The crowd was so dense in the Embassy Room, that I went along the passage way in back of the podium and through the kitchen, exiting into the lobby near the front desk.

As I reached Senator Kennedy's room, Speaker Unruh was just coming out. He told me that they had decided that Senator Kennedy would wait a few more minutes before coming down, but that he, Speaker Unruh, would go down and talk to the crowd right away. I led Speaker Unruh, Mrs. Unruh, Jack Crose, Speaker Unruh's Administrative Assistant, and perhaps one or two other people down to the Embassy Room through the route that I had used to go upstairs.

Speaker Unruh then talked to the crowd for a few minutes. While Speaker Unruh was talking, he told me to get the Senator to come down, and I told Jack Crose to go upstairs and get him. Stephen Smith, Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law, was then introduced, and spoke to the crowd. As he was concluding, Senator Kennedy came into the room from the door immediately to the left of the podium. Jack Crose later told me that he had brought the Senator's party down through the kitchen, the same way that we had come before. He also told me that they had come this way because Senator Kennedy did not want to try to fight through the crowd in the Embassy Room.

JOHN F. McKENNA, JR.
FRANK J. BURNS, JR.
ROBERT J. BLAYLOCK

McKENNA, BURNS AND BLAYLOCK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
650 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017

TELEPHONE
MADISON 4-6300

June 13, 1968

Los Angeles Police Department
Room 803
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California

Attn: Lieutenant Higby

Gentlemen:

Pursuant to your request, you will find enclosed a copy of the statement that I have prepared concerning my knowledge of the events surrounding the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

If there is anything that I can do to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours very truly,

McKENNA, BURNS & BLAYLOCK

Frank J. Burns, Jr.
Frank J. Burns, Jr. (Ry)

FJB:dg
Enc.

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As Senator Kennedy got on the podium, I was standing a few steps back and to the right of the microphone, and as the members of his party moved in, I stepped further back to make way for Mrs. Kennedy and other people that accompanied him down. During most of his speech I was standing at the rear of the podium and slightly to the right of Senator Kennedy, near his press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz.

A pathway had been cleared to the right of the podium leading toward the area where the anchor desk was located. When Senator Kennedy finished speaking, he paused for a moment and said a few words to some people near the microphones, and then started to move to his right toward the cleared path. I turned to my right and at that time I heard a voice coming from my left rear saying that the Senator was going the wrong way, and that he should come off the rear of the platform. Senator Kennedy turned around and passed directly in front of me, to go off the rear of the platform. I turned to my left and saw a man in a tuxedo, holding the curtains back and beckoning to the Senator to follow him. This man stepped down into the anteroom and Senator Kennedy followed him. I followed Senator Kennedy.

The man went out the door at the back of the anteroom, and turned to the right and headed down the incline with Senator Kennedy close behind him. When I came out of the doorway and turned to the right to head down the incline, the man in the tuxedo leading Senator Kennedy was perhaps 10 feet in front of me and moving quite fast. They passed into the kitchen through the left hand door which was open. At about that time I yelled to slow down because they were getting ahead of everyone. I also started to move faster in order to catch up with the Senator. During this time I noticed a number of people in the area, but I am unable to positively identify any of them. My eyes were constantly on the Senator as I was trying to attract his attention.

As I passed into the kitchen, it seemed to me that there were quite a number of people in front of the Senator and moving generally in the same direction he was. As Senator Kennedy approached the area of the serving tables, two people moved toward him. The one nearest the serving table was very short and the other one was about medium height. They both appeared to be dressed in white kitchen jackets. The Senator stopped and turned to his left to shake hands with them. I would judge that he turned slightly more than 90° from his original direction of travel. It was when he stopped to shake hands that I caught up with him and got perhaps a half step in front of him. I also turned to my left and was facing in the same direction as the Senator. (It was at this moment that I heard a noise

FJB

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sounding like a string of fire crackers going off.

I immediately turned my head to the right. I have an impression of people standing there, but I would not be able to positively identify anyone. The one clear impression I have is of an extended arm holding a gun. This arm appeared to be next to the serving table and the gun would be about even with the front edge of the serving table. The arm did not appear to me to belong to anyone. I immediately glanced to my left toward the Senator and he was falling backward. He had thrown his hands up and his body appeared to be spinning to the left. I looked back toward the gun, and by then the person holding the gun had stepped forward past the edge of the serving table so that he was directly in front of me. He was aiming the gun down toward Senator Kennedy's falling body, and appeared to be shooting at him. My impression is that the noise of the gunfire had ceased by then.

This is the first time I recall seeing the person later identified as Sirhan Sirhan. At that time somebody grabbed Sirhan from behind. Someone else appeared to grab his gun arm and I grabbed him from the side. The struggle then became very confused and we rotated around several times, moving down the line of the serving counter in the direction that Senator Kennedy had originally been traveling. The entire situation was chaotic, and I have only vague impressions of the people who were wrestling with the assassin at that time. The next thing I remember clearly is Bill Barry coming up and plunging into the knot of people, yelling for a rope so that we could tie him up. I remember taking off my belt and handing it to Barry and bending down to grab the assassin's legs so as to get him off his feet. I believe that Barry then left and after further struggle, the assassin was more or less wrestled onto the top of the serving tables.

During the course of the struggle, my vision had momentarily come to rest upon the area where Senator Kennedy had fallen on several occasions. The first time I noticed, it appeared that he was lying on his back and no one was near him. The next time I looked I could hardly see him because there was a dense group of people around him, and the third time I noticed, the crowd had been cleared back and he was on his back and someone had opened the front of his shirt. Everyone was screaming and yelling for a doctor.

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The assassin was being firmly held on the table, and I let go and ran to the entrance of what I think is called the Colonial Room to see if either a doctor or the police were coming that way. Then I ran into the passage way between the Colonial Room and the Embassy Room. Some people from the hotel and some uniformed security guards had blocked off the passage way. I asked someone there if a doctor, the police and an ambulance had been called. He assured me that they had, and that they were on their way. I ran back into the kitchen and as I did, I noticed that Mrs. Kennedy and Jean Smith were kneeling beside Senator Kennedy.

I believe I then jumped up on the serving counter to see where the gun was. A number of people were holding the assassin, the most prominent being Roosevelt Grier. I looked down and noticed the gun in Grier's hand, and we exchanged words to the effect that Grier would hang onto the gun. I then jumped off the table and went around to the other side because it appeared that the people that had Sirhan's head were trying to pull it off. He was on his back with his head and upper back off the edge of the table, and I was afraid they would push down and break his back. Grier was leaning across his hips holding him firmly on the table. The only other person that I remember clearly is someone in a tuxedo with blond hair, who had ahold of the assassin's head. I was trying to tell them to be careful, but no one was paying any attention.


About that time, Jess Unruh jumped up onto the top of the table and leaned over Sirhan and started yelling that he should be kept alive because he should stand trial. Unruh was pulling the people off Sirhan and yelling for the police. The police came up to us from the direction where Senator Kennedy was lying. The officers took ahold of the suspect and handcuffed his hands behind his back. Roosevelt Grier was bent over crying, and I remember raising his face up and asking him where the gun was. He said he had given it to Rafer Johnson. I told this to one of the officers.

Unruh then jumped off the table and told the officers to get the suspect out of there before he was killed. I led the officers into the Colonial Room through the doors from the kitchen, and then out the main entrance of the

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Colonial Room into the lobby. There were five or six officers with us and I led them through the lobby, down the stairway and out the main entrance. We were moving very fast and no one was trying to stop us. As we started out the main entrance, there was a police car parked there with its right front door open. There was quite a crowd of people, particularly to my right hand side, and when they saw us coming out with the suspect, they started screaming and surging forward. The officers pushed the suspect in the back seat and Unruh jumped in the front seat and yelled for the officers to get out of there. At this time I was struggling with some people by the right front door of the police car who were trying to get to the prisoner, so I shoved the door shut and the police car took off.

DATED: June 12, 1968.


FRANK J. BURNS, JR.