

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated this individual was seated in the right corner of the back seat of this car, and as she looked at him she was particularly impressed by his big eyes, which were sad looking; by his white, pale, bumpy skin, and his long nose with a bump in the ridge. She stated that although she had only a three quarter view of his face on the right side, she saw both of his eyes, and at the time thought, "this is not a Mexican".

Mrs. O'BRIEN pointed out that she is a Spanish teacher at Ventura High School and is well familiar with Mexican features.

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that this individual was wearing a white shirt, which was open at the neck and was rumpled.

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that she at first thought this was a family group, but then realized that it was not because the driver, a man in his 40's, was immaculately dressed and groomed in a white, starched shirt with well barbered short hair. Because of this man's appearance it occurred to her this could not be a family group. This man's face was fleshy but not fat. She described his complexion as like coffee with milk in it. This driver was wearing a business suit and had a mature, clean shaven face. It occurred to her that he appeared like a restaurateur.

It is noted that Mrs. O'BRIEN, in addition to verbally furnishing above information, made available her journal in which she had written out her observations concerning this incident on or about July 1, 1968.

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that in the passenger seat there was a woman who appeared to be directing the activity in this car. The boy previously mentioned was looking out the back of the car, and then looking toward the front. This woman was doing likewise, and appeared to be telling the driver to go on.

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Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that this woman's head was partially obscured by the car post, and therefore she did not get a look at her facial features but noted her arm, which was on the window, was that of a well developed woman and not of a skinny young girl. She would estimate that this woman's age would be around 40. She did note that she did have bushy hair which was not neat, which was worn just below her ears. This hair struck her because it was a blondish color on top, and yet dark on the bottom. At first she thought what an awful way for a Mexican woman to do her hair.

Mrs. O'BRIEN, in her journal, described this woman's hair as "dirty, gold blonde, streaked on top".

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that as she saw this vehicle with its three occupants the thought came to her that they had just held up a supermarket and were getting away, and then the thought occurred to her that this was a funny time for a hold up.

Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that to the best of her recollection this car, which was rosy pink on the lower part and a dirty color on the top, either a faded black or a grey or a dirty white, was the Oldsmobile type, either a 1956 or 1957. She stated she noticed it had rusty chrome work under the doors.

After this incident she stopped at the Five Points Laundry which is just to the other side of this intersection and told the girl working there, whose name she does not know, "I almost was creamed". Mrs. O'BRIEN stated that she was quite concerned over her near collision inasmuch as she was driving their new family car and the thought occurred to her how awful if that old car hit her nice shiney new car.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/17/68

RONALD T. BENNETT, 2508 Highland Avenue, Manhattan Beach, California, telephone 545-2614, who is employed as a staff photographer for United Press International (UPI), 1543 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 438, Los Angeles, California, telephone 387-7221, furnished the following information with respect to his observations and knowledge of the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY on June 5, 1968:

He was given the assignment on June 4, 1968 to take photographs of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, and at approximately 10:00 p.m. that evening he went to the Ambassador Hotel. He parked his car in the rear parking lot of the hotel and entered the hotel by the north main entrance. He then proceeded to look at the ballroom and other areas in the hotel to determine the possible position of the Senator and camera angles he could photograph him from to his, BENNETT's, best advantage. He had a drink at the bar and then proceeded to the Fifth Floor, where the KENNEDY suite was located and met an associate UPI photographer named DAVE KENNERLY, who was also covering the KENNEDY rally. He advised that on the left side was Senator KENNEDY's private room while to the right was a larger room containing a bar and many people. He and KENNERLY then milled around and he, BENNETT, shot some photographs of KENNEDY in the larger room where the bar was located. He recalls also that GLENN FORD was in this room and he thinks he obtained several shots of FORD talking with Senator KENNEDY.

Senator KENNEDY then left the larger room and retired to his bedroom, so he, BENNETT, followed him to see where he could get a better photograph of KENNEDY alone. He observed Senator KENNEDY standing by a dresser mirror reading a newspaper, and catching glimpses of the television coverage of the primary election results. He then asked the Senator if he could shoot a picture in the mirror of him and the Senator replied, "No not in my bedroom for Pete's sake". At that time

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On 6/13/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-2  
by SA WILLIAM L. BOURQUE and  
SA DAVID H. COOK, DHC/mmc Date dictated 6/14/68

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one of the Senator's public relations men, named DICK TUCK, entered the room and berated BENNETT for attempting to photograph the Senator in his bedroom. TUCK then went into the hallway and made a joke of it to several of the other members of the press and photographers who were there.

He, BENNETT, waited in the hallway for approximately ten minutes for KENNEDY to leave his bedroom and go downstairs to the ballroom where the rally was taking place. KENNEDY did leave the bedroom and he proceeded toward the elevator. Since there was too large a crowd at that location for him to take any photographs, he and DAVE KENNERLY, who was with him at that time, ran down the stairs to try to get a photograph of Senator KENNEDY as he was disembarking from the elevator. He did not observe that the Senator disembarked from the elevator, but he noticed everyone who was downstairs, and also waiting for the Senator, leave the area and start toward the ballroom. He then recalls that someone said, "Here he comes.", referring to Senator KENNEDY and he observed the Senator approach the area of the ballroom.

BENNETT advised he was able to mount the platform directly behind ETHEL KENNEDY, while the rally was taking place. He took five or six photographs from that position with his wide angle 35mm Nikon, using Tri-X black and white negative film. He stated that one of these photographs was subsequently published as a UPI news photo.

Senator KENNEDY then made his speech and during this speech the pressures of the crowd kept shoving him into ETHEL KENNEDY and his camera jammed her in the back. She complained to several of the KENNEDY aides who were present and the next thing he knew, ROOSEVELT GRIER grabbed him from behind, placing one hand around his stomach, so as to prevent him from being pushed into Mrs. KENNEDY.

When Senator KENNEDY finished his speech, he proceeded to shake hands with several people in the crowd and signed some

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autographs. He, BENNETT, thought that the Senator would leave the ballroom by going to his right, however, he left the area through some curtains, which were behind the podium. This led into the kitchen area and he, BENNETT, proceeded to follow as fast as he could. There were one or two individuals between himself and Senator KENNEDY as the group was making its way through the kitchen. Just as he, BENNETT, passed the metal doorway leading to the kitchen area, he heard what he later learned were five shots. At that time, he had the impression that firecrackers were going off. He does not recall the pattern of the shots that were fired, but they were very rapid. He does not recall seeing Senator KENNEDY fall to the ground, but as soon as he heard the shots being fired he, BENNETT, immediately dove to the floor. Directly to his right was a businessman, PAUL SCHRADE, who was struck in the head by one of the bullets. At that time he recalls seeing some greyish smoke in the air, but this was only an impression and he does not know specifically where the smoke came from. He then ducked behind a small doorway on the right side of the kitchen doorway, where he saw several people lying on the floor. He automatically started to shoot photographs of everything he saw.

He recalls he shot several photographs of Senator KENNEDY while the Senator was lying on the floor, and then he recalls he shot four or five photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. During this time, he also observed someone limping through the crowd and heard this individual say something, but he does not recall specifically what it was. He does not recall seeing Mrs. KENNEDY, however, upon observing some of the photographs that he shot she was in these photographs. He does recall her telling the crowd to move back and to give "him", referring to Senator KENNEDY, some air.

He then jumped up on the kitchen counter and took some photographs of the suspect from that angle. At that time SIRHAN still had a gun in one of his hands and several people seemed to be on top of him, either punching him or hitting him. PIERRE SALINGER then jumped up onto the counter

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and pushed him off of it. He recalls that SALINGER was crying at the time and was very upset with him for shooting photographs of Senator KENNEDY and SIRHAN. SALINGER also became angry with a woman photographer, whom he knows only as VIRGINIA. He recalls VIRGINIA had one of the KENNEDY aids, name unrecalled, tell him, BENNETT, not to shoot any more pictures.

As SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was being removed from the kitchen area, he, BENNETT, shot some more photographs of him. At that time, one of the KENNEDY aides attempted to get the ambulance driver to throw him, BENNETT, out, evidently thinking that the ambulance driver was a policeman. He recalls seeing another photographer by the name of RICHARD DREW from the "Pasadena Star News" newspaper standing near him and they exchanged a few pleasantries the nature of which he does not recall.

At that time Senator KENNEDY was still on the floor and several people were about him. Several policemen were also on the scene and they started to block off the area, thereby isolating the Senator from the crowd. He, BENNETT, was able to barge through several policemen and retrieve his Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Sheriff's Office press pass, which had been knocked to the floor approximately two to three feet from Senator KENNEDY's outstretched legs, when he, BENNETT, was pushed from the counter by PIERRE SALINGER.

The ambulance drivers then began to remove Senator KENNEDY from the kitchen area; however, he did not wait to see the Senator placed in the ambulance, but instead ran to a telephone and called his office, telling his supervisor, GLEN WAGNER, what had occurred.

He then ran out to the rear parking lot of the Ambassador Hotel to look for his car, but he could not find it for five or ten minutes. When he got his car started, the police had the area barricaded, so he parked his car, leaving

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some of his camera equipment in it, and then ran toward Eighth Street, which is the street directly to the south of the Ambassador Hotel, and after showing his press pass to a policeman was able to get through the barricaded area. He then stopped about three automobiles and asked the drivers for a ride, but no one would give him one, until three girls in a sportscar came along and consented to give him a ride to his office. A police car then pulled alongside them and he was able to ask them to give him a ride to his office. He climbed into the police car and they were about to proceed to his office, which is some distance from the Ambassador Hotel, when the policemen told him they could not leave the area. He then disembarked from the police car and found a pay telephone and was able to call his supervisor, GLEN WAGNER, and ask him to send someone to pick him up. At that time a taxicab came by, so he hung up the telephone and hailed the taxicab, and immediately proceeded to his office.

He recalls that he took a total of two and a half rolls of 35mm film, thirty six exposures of film to a roll, however, one of the rolls did not turn out due to an error in threading it while at the Ambassador Hotel. All the photographs were developed by HOWARD DECKER, who was then at the UPI office. BENNETT stated that all the photographs that appeared in the newspapers were UPI photographs taken by him and the negatives of these photographs were immediately forwarded to Mr. CLIFF MC DOWELL, Vice President, UPI Newspapers, 220 East 42nd Street, New York City.

BENNETT advised that the above information is true and correct to the best of his knowledge. He further advised that he does not recall seeing a young female caucasian in a polka dot dress at any time on June 4 or 5, 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel, principally in the kitchen area, just before or after Senator KENNEDY was shot.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/15/68

DAVE KENNERLY, 876 Manhattan Beach Boulevard, Apartment A, Manhattan Beach, California, telephone 379-4227, who is employed as a staff photographer for United Press International (UPI), 1543 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 438, Los Angeles, California, telephone 387-7221, furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the events of June 4 and 5, 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel, where Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot.

On June 4, 1968, he was assigned to shoot photographs of Senator KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel, so he proceeded there at approximately 10:00 p.m. and parked in the red zone in front of the hotel, facing Wilshire Boulevard. He then entered the front door of the hotel and proceeded to look over the ballroom and all the areas where he thought the KENNEDY party might be. After looking over the ballroom he proceeded to the Fifth Floor, where the KENNEDY suite was located and where a private press party involving thirty or forty key members of the press was in progress. He had two or three beers with another photographer, ONDINE VAUGHN, from Screen Gems Productions in Los Angeles. While there he took several photographs of Senator KENNEDY in the hallway and coming out of his private room, which was located adjacent to the larger party room, where the party was taking place. He recalls seeing ETHEL KENNEDY and several of the KENNEDY children present in the party room.

Senator KENNEDY then proceeded to the Fourth Floor where National Broadcasting Company had some television cameras set up. The Senator then proceeded back to the Fifth Floor where Columbia Broadcasting System and American Broadcasting Company had similar setups. He made television statements at each of these locations. KENNERLY advised he followed Senator KENNEDY when the Senator made his television statements. KENNERLY then went to the main ballroom and obtained a vantage point near the television cameras, which were set up there to record the rally and the speech later made by the Senator.

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 by SA WILLIAM L. BOURQUE and  
SA DAVID H. COOK, DHC/mmc Date dictated 6/14/68



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From that point, he shot many photographs of the crowd and the Senator as he was making his speech and greeting the public. Just before the speech ended, he, KENNERLY, proceeded to the downstairs ballroom where he knew another rally was going to take place. There were many people downstairs and a band. He waited approximately ten minutes and then he heard rumblings in the crowd that the Senator had been shot. He also heard a call requesting a doctor. He then went outside and observed an ambulance leaving the hotel. Since his automobile was parked in a good position to leave the Ambassador Hotel, he was able to leave the area just as it was being blocked off. He followed the ambulance to the Central Receiving Hospital, 1401 West Sixth Street, Los Angeles and observed several photographers who were already on the scene when he arrived. He was able to obtain several photographs of Senator KENNEDY as he was being removed from the ambulance. A short time thereafter, as Senator KENNEDY was removed to the Good Samaritan Hospital, he was able to take some more photographs of him.

He advised that all of his photographs were carried by messenger to his Los Angeles UPI office, and thereafter the negatives were forwarded to UPI headquarters in New York City. He advised copies of these negatives could be obtained by the FBI from the New York UPI headquarters.

KENNERLY advised that the above information is true and correct to the best of his knowledge and that it portrays his personal observations of Senator KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4 and 5, 1968. He stated he can furnish no further information than that already related above.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6/11/68  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

STEPHEN HENRY TAPPAN, 428 North Los Robles, Pasadena, California, was interviewed by SAs JOSEPH A. CHEFALO and WAYNE L. BOURQUE, who identified themselves as Agents of the FBI. TAPPAN was warned of his rights and waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form.

It was explained to TAPPAN that he was being interviewed concerning the placing of an ad in the Jobs Wanted Section of the "Free Press", a weekly newspaper published in Los Angeles, which read, "I must have \$1,000.00. Do anything. Free to travel, danger OK. Call 793-2212 between 7 - 8 p.m."

TAPPAN stated that he placed the ad in the "Free Press" because he needs money to get started in a gold mining venture near Apache Junction, Arizona. He is very interested in gold mining and has placed an ad in the "California Mining Journal" asking for work in gold mines. This ad resulted in his becoming acquainted with one MARTHA AYLOR, Ironwood Street, Apache Junction, Arizona, who owns property near Apache Junction on which some abandoned mines are located. TAPPAN visited AYLOR, who is over 70 years old, looked over the mines and believes he has found the "Lost Dutchman's Mine." He has agreed to work the mine for AYLOR, but he needs \$2,000.00 to get started. He placed the ad in the "Free Press" because no other Los Angeles newspaper would allow such an ad.

TAPPAN is presently employed as a dishwasher at the Western Coffee Shop, 156 South Rosemead, Pasadena, California, because he is unable to obtain a better job due to a "raw deal" he received from the United States Government. The "raw deal" was a medical discharge from the United States Army (USA). TAPPAN enlisted in the USA in 1960 and requested training in electronics or communications but was instead assigned to the cavalry, specializing in tanks.

On 6/9/68 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156-1225  
by SAs JOSEPH A. CHEFALO and  
WLB WAYNE L. BOURQUE/JAC/eb/gk Date dictated 6/10/68

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He was very unhappy about this assignment and felt he should have gotten what he had requested. TAPPAN admitted that he intentionally tried for a medical discharge, because he was so unhappy with the military. He did not think it was wrong to do this.

Prior to enlisting in the U. S. Army, TAPPAN received treatment from a Dr. DUBÉ (phonetic) in Center Ossippee, New Hampshire, from the fall of 1959 to the summer of 1960, for "extreme nervousness." While in the Army, TAPPAN also received treatment for "extreme nervousness" before receiving his medical discharge.

After being discharged, TAPPAN stayed at his home in South Tamworth, New Hampshire, until June of 1962. He then moved to Boston, Massachusetts, and lived at 64 Westland Avenue for approximately two years. While in Boston he worked at numerous jobs, none of which amounted to anything important. In 1964, TAPPAN moved to Pasadena, California, and lived at 70 South Grand for approximately one and one half years before moving to his present address at 428 North Los Robles. TAPPAN has had the ad in the "Free Press" since about the first week in March. He stated he has received numerous calls from cranks but has received a few legitimate offers. One offer was from a JOHN REISMAN, and a JOHN PHILLIPS, telephone number 628-4421, who offered TAPPAN a job driving automobiles to the East Coast for which he would be paid \$800.00 a trip; however, TAPPAN has not been able to confirm the offer, as he has been unable to contact those individuals at the telephone number given. Another offer received by telephone has to do with "industrial espionage." TAPPAN advised he received a call about one and one half weeks ago from an unknown male who asked if he would be interested in the above type work. When TAPPAN indicated he would be, the caller advised he would contact TAPPAN at a future date. On or about June 6, 1968, TAPPAN was visited by a man he described as a white male, 5'4", slim build, swarthy complexion, long dark brown hair, odd shaped face, wearing very expensive, dark blue, iridescent suit, pointed black shoes with buckles, who talked about

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TAPPAN working in "industrial espionage." This individual told TAPPAN to study the Italian language, as he would possibly be in Italy in this line of work. This individual did not identify himself but said he would contact TAPPAN again.

TAPPAN is very desperate for work and advised that he would accept almost anything, however, he would not accept anything illegal. He further advised that since placing the ad in the newspaper, he has not received any calls concerning the assassination of ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He stated that he would not get involved in anything of that nature.