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INVESTIGATION

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DO NOT DESTROY - X 277A
PENDING LITIGATION 277

See also Nos.

128, 198, 167, 396, 201, 217

167

115

277B

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News Clipping
Ser. 45-640

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451

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News
Clippings

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See also Nos.

REC 10-6-70

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Reagan Labels Kennedy Slaying Mideast 'Import'

Society Is 'Sick' Only With
Grief, Anger, Governor
Tells Indiana GOP Group

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Gov. Reagan Thursday night attributed the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to "the violence of war in the Middle East imported by an alien."

The chief executive of the state where Kennedy was killed declared:

"I for one find it unacceptable and worst than no answer at all to be told that all of us collectively are to blame and that ours is a sick society."

"Perhaps we are sick," he added. "We are sick with grief, sick with anger and sick of what has been allowed to go on in this nation for too long a time. The senator had been speaking of unity among our people, of healing our wounds with respect for law and order, instead of the kind of violence that has beset us. Let us continue that talk."

Reagan, considered a contender for the Republican presidential nomination, though unannounced, made his remarks at an Indiana GOP fund-raising dinner.

Reference to Ancestry Seen

He did not elaborate on his view of the cause of the killing, but clearly referred to the Jordanian ancestry of the man accused of the killing, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and his reported hatred of Jews.

"It is time to get angry" at violence and disrespect for law and order, Reagan declared. He said the assassination of Robert Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy, was done by one who embraced "the Godless philosophy of communism, and it was Communist violence he brought to our land."

Reagan referred there to the late Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's killer. Oswald once lived in the Soviet Union.

"The shattering sound of his shots were still ringing in our ears," Reagan continued without elaboration, "when a policy decision was made to play down his Communist attachment lest we provoke the Soviet Union."

Old-Fashioned Idea Urged

It is time to return to the old-fashioned idea of punishment for the criminal, instead of treating him as "a patient made ill by the failure of society" the governor said.

"Permissiveness from cradle to crime is our philosophy, and what were once considered privileges are now recognized as rights, and first and foremost is the right to adjust any grievance by the nearest means at hand, be it rock, club or fire bomb."

Turning briefly to foreign policy, Reagan criticized corruption in the South Vietnamese government, and remarked:

"It is time to tell friend and foe alike, we are in Vietnam because it is in our national interest to be there and whether it offends friend or foe, we are going to do what has to be done beginning now."

Fearfulness Decried

Reagan said America has survived many trials, has no reason to be fearful now and "we should dismiss those in high places who have sounded the uncertain note."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 6/14/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

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He also talked of the "forgotten man" in America:

"He holds the whole bureaucratic structure of government on his tired back and he works two and a half hours of each day just to pay its cost . . . This forgotten American is black, he is white . . . He wants leadership that will restore his faith in government and perhaps in himself . . . He loves peace, but not at any price."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Students for Kennedy Disband but Form New Action Corps

BY DAVID ROE

Times Staff Writer

California Students for Kennedy has officially disbanded, organization officials announced Thursday.

Gary Townsend, cochairman of Southern California Students for Kennedy, announced the formation of the Kennedy Action Corps, dedicated to "promoting the programs, policies, and ideas of Sen. Robert Kennedy."

The statement was issued simultaneously in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and Fresno.

The new group's first project will be a door-to-door campaign to collect 500,000 signatures on a petition calling for strong gun-control legislation.

The petition will be presented Tuesday to the House Judiciary Committee in Washington, D.C.

The committee is meeting to reconsider its tie vote last Tuesday which blocked President Johnson's gun control bill from passing to the floor of the House.

The petition calls for a ban on all mail-order gun sales, registration of all guns in the United States; a ban on gun sales to persons younger than 18 and the requirement of a permit for all purchases of ammunition.

Townsend said that the new corps, which is open to all individuals interested in pursuing the late Sen. Kennedy's goals, will not now endorse any presidential candidate.

Townsend is a member of the

California delegation to the Democratic National Convention pledged to Sen. Kennedy.

He did not rule out the possibility the corp's 10,000 members, formerly members of Students for Kennedy, might choose to support one of the Democratic candidates before the convention in August.

Students for Kennedy in Oregon also plans to disband and join the Ken-

edy Action Corps, Townsend said, and student organizations supporting Kennedy in Indiana and Nebraska are expected to follow suit.

Citizens for Gun Control, a Southern California group, will aid the corps in its campaign for strong gun control, Joel Rubenstein, its leader, said. It will conduct a statewide letter-writing campaign before Tuesday's meeting of the Judiciary Committee.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The U.S. -- Sick or Well?

The tragedy of Robert F. Kennedy is not yet ended. Following the public displays of grief, this nation will once again settle back into its illusions, its deliberately false view of itself. No society wants to admit its fatal faults, least of all the United States with its soaring crime rate, its tradition of violence, and its seething hatreds.

Obviously, 200 million Americans are not capable of assassination, but it does not follow that "a single psychopathic gunman" is divorced from his society.

Like all peoples, the Americans prefer myths to realities, words to deeds. We all recall the eulogies, the genuine grief of many men, the public mourning for John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and now Robert F. Kennedy, but we refuse to admit the terrible hatred which focused on these men who represented a threat to existing evils.

Since his death five years ago, John Kennedy has been made into a myth of a beloved young leader. Yet, most of us can recall the obscene hatred with which too many Americans regarded him, and the rejoicing which his death caused in some quarters. The two great Americans who were slain this year were admired and loved by many, but they were detested by many more. To a large percentage of white America, Dr. King was considered a rabble-rouser, a subversive, and probably a "Communist."

★

While not condoning murder per se, many Americans welcomed his death, unaware that this Christian man was all that stood between them and black extremism. Similarly with Robert Kennedy. His opposition to the Vietnam war was resented by those Americans who believe that patriotism requires the continuation of error as long as it is national policy, and he was openly denounced by those who lust for crusades in the name of anti-communism.

Some Americans were jealous of Kennedy's wealth and criticized him for using it in political campaigns.

but few can be so naive about the enormous amounts of money spent by all public figures in what has become the big business of politics. Most Americans would have preferred Robert Kennedy to have been a playboy, a figure with whom they could vicariously enjoy their dreams of unrestrained indulgence. Instead,

he embraced the victims of American society and became a champion of those who have no monetary or political rewards to offer...

It is true that assassins are plagued by private demons, and that some killers may use pay or a single political issue to excuse their desire to slay. However, it is far more significant that the murderers of King and Robert Kennedy, whatever strange connections may be revealed at their trials, live in a society in which racial hatred is increasing among both whites and blacks, a society in which anti-communism has become a cult, a society in which violence is defended in many quarters.

★

Any historian knows the tradition of violence, riots, lynchings, and murders, which is part of our past and present. Our folklore honors the man with a gun; our entertainment media cynically offers scenes of increasing violence to titillate audiences and make money. The arena games brutalized the Romans and made them indifferent to human life, and it would be remarkable that violence in films and on television should have no effect, whatsoever, on individuals who live in a neurotic age filled with stress and terror.

Consider the outcry which arises when it is suggested that guns have no place in a modern society. Some members of the National Rifle Assn. are sincerely concerned for the rights of hunters, but it is common knowledge what many Americans want guns for—the pistol which slew Kennedy was bought at the time of the Watts riots. Let us honestly admit what goes on in this nation, the bitter racial feelings, the political fanaticism, the cult of violence.

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III-4 Los Angeles Times
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Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: KENSALT

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What is eroding American society is not the work of a few lunatics and cranks—there are tides of hatred engulfing this nation. In the past, other republics have succumbed to violence in politics and in the streets and ended in the grasp of tyrants. There is nothing to guarantee that the United States will not join the long list of the failures of history . . .

Does anyone really believe that security measures will prevent more assassinations in our country, or is safety for our leaders to be found in avoiding unwelcome truths and catering to present prejudice? . . .

~~THOMAS W. AFRICA~~
Professor of History
USC

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State's Case Against Sirhan Good---Yorty

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty said Friday the state has a "very, very strong case" against accused slayer Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and said criminal trials have become a game based on technicalities.

Yorty spoke to a brief news conference after a tour of HemisFair, the San Antonio world's fair.

He drew criticism last week for statements he made about a diary that supposedly belonged to Sirhan, accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Criminal trials have become a sort of a game based on technicalities instead of a search for truth," Yorty said. He said no one has challenged the truthfulness of his statements about Sirhan. He said he was certain Sirhan can get a fair trial.

He said the slaying was "witnessed, or almost witnessed," by millions of people on television.

Yorty stopped at HemisFair while on a trip to the national mayor's conference in Chicago.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif

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6/15/68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Mystical Bent Shown by Dues Payment, Book Order

BY JOHN DART

Times Relig

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is a recent member of the Rosicrucian Order, a fraternal organization which expounds a philosophy based on study of metaphysics and development of psychic powers, it was learned Friday.

The native Jordanian, indicted for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, several months ago applied for membership by letter to the San Jose headquarters of the Ancient Mystical Order of Rosae Crucis (AMORC), the organization's official name.

Arthur Piepenbrink, supreme secretary, told The Times that after Sirhan was accepted and he paid one month's dues he "became inactive because he didn't pay his dues."

While in jail, Sirhan directed that \$20 of his confiscated money be sent to the Rosicrucians, presumably to cover the \$4-a-month dues for the last five months.

Piepenbrink said Sirhan did not join the Los Angeles AMORC lodge and "we had no correspondence with him other than the original application."

One of the questions on the application was: "Do you try to practice good citizenship and obey the laws of the country in which you live?"

Piepenbrink said Sirhan answered "yes." He said if the answer is anything other than yes, such as a qualified answer, the application is rejected.

The Rosicrucian Order, largest of several Rosicrucian societies, claims it dates back to 1350 BC during the reign of Egyptian Pharaoh Akhnaton. The organization maintains at San Jose a university and a museum with a large collection of Egyptian, Assyrian and Babylonian artifacts.

Beth Holder, Rosicrucian public relations director, said the worldwide organization expounds "a system of metaphysical and physical philosophy that is intended to awake the dormant faculties of an individual whereby he may utilize his talents and become more aware of the world around him and lead a more useful life."

Blavatsky Reports Disputed

From his jail cell, Sirhan also requested two books on theosophy — which expert Boris de Zirkoff of Los Angeles said is often defined as "wisdom-religion." The books were "Talks on 'At the Feet of the Master'" by C. W. Leadbeater and "The Secret Doctrine" by Mme. H. P. Blavatsky, founder of the theosophical movement in America.

De Zirkoff emphatically disputed two reports on network television programs that Mme. Blavatsky was the author of a manual for revolutionaries. De Zirkoff is editor of "The Collected Writings of H. P. Blavatsky," now in its 10th volume.

"She was a proponent of universal brotherhood, but she always wrote along nonpolitical lines," said De Zirkoff.

It was reported from Israeli-occupied Jordan, meanwhile, that Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, has applied for and been given permission to go from his home village, Tiayeba, to Amman, Jordan's capital, possibly as the first step of a flight to Los Angeles.

He told newsmen that he planned to withdraw funds from an Amman bank. He said he wanted the travel permit "in case I should want to go anywhere." He has been considering a trip to Los Angeles, but hasn't yet made a final decision, he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CARTOON VIEWS OF THE WEEK



"Tell me about yourself—your birth, your parents, how you grew up, your hopes, your plans—and the best way for us to kill you"

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

III-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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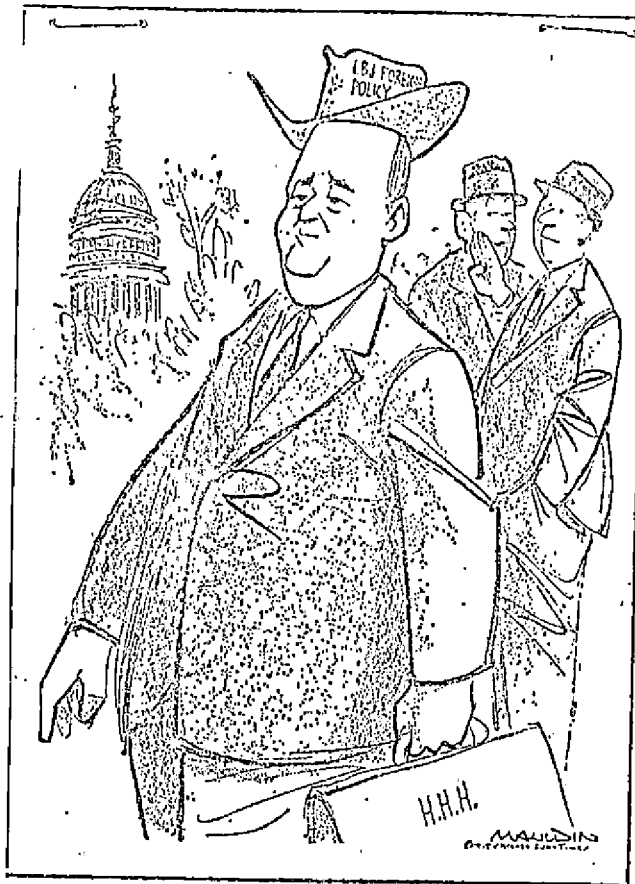
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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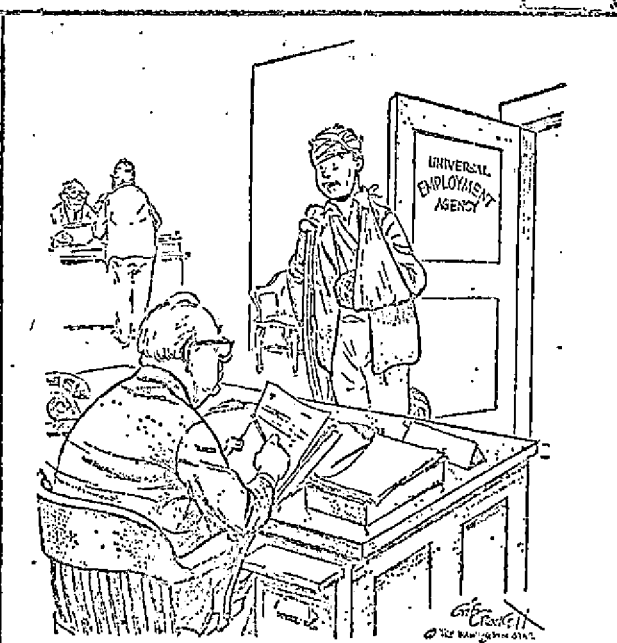
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"He's been wearing it so long he thinks it fits"



"I just don't know what this country is coming to"

"No sir, not a veteran—a college graduate!"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A Chance To Respond

WASHINGTON—The question is not what our reaction to the tragedy means. The question is whether Americans, at last, will grasp the meaning and then, meaningfully, respond.

It has been a week since a .22-caliber bullet mortally wounded Robert F. Kennedy and shot a hole of shock and sorrow through America's heart. It is the country's capacity, if any, to recover from this latter injury which must concern us now. The madness of the assassin's act is a matter for the courts to consider and for psychiatrists and pathologists to ponder. But the issue in the public domain

is the reaction of us private citizens to that awful deed.

The heartening but fragile fact is that for the moment decency has displaced the obscenity of our selfishness; compassion has surfaced to contain the violence of hate. If velvet affluence and stark want have not yet fully corrupted this incredible and incredibly complex society, we may be able to recognize this phenomenon of remorse and self-examination, like the candles at the senator's gravesite in Arlington last Saturday night, and use it to guide us out of the darkness.

By now nearly everybody has stowed away

in memory his favorite vignettes of that astonishing voyage. Through the windows of the train, two touching scenes imprinted themselves indelibly on the numbed consciousness of this observer: As we passed the environs of Jersey City, a willowy black girl waved at the coach bearing the casket. From her neck dangled on a string a piece of cardboard on which she had printed the words: "Farewell Robert." Hours later, at sunset, as the cortege wove cautiously through the Maryland suburbs of the nation's capital, it passed, on the right, six male members of a white family standing at attention, stepping-stone style,

chests bared in the muggy heat. It was as if they were posing for a group picture as a memento for the Kennedy clan's own album.

It is treacherously idle to argue that the millions of hands—black, white, brown; bejewelled and calloused; bony and fat—reaching out to Bobby in death contained enough resolve and strength to make him President, had he lived. They just might have done. But the larger point is that it took his senseless murder for a restless, troubled pluralistic society to bridge its own divisiveness briefly in mourning.

There is a larger point still: In Robert F.

Kennedy, the poor and the dispossessed, the disadvantaged and the persecuted, these non-amalgamated minorities of our society had found a leader to speak to them and thus to speak for them, to tell it like it is. More than anything else, or so it seemed to this observer, the tributes to him bespoke this recognition; particularly did this seem to be so in the faces of those hundreds of thousands who saluted the Funeral Train. For those people, largely, black and white alike, were the Americans who live already on the wrong side of the tracks. Not one extremist showed himself in their midst.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

B-4 Herald Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Sirhan Tirade Against RFK Told

Sirhan Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has been quoted by a national magazine as shouting, "Kennedy should never be President. He's just using the poor."

The magazine said a report of Sirhan's rage toward Kennedy and California School Superintendent Max Rafferty, Republican nominee for the U.S. Senate, came from a Mexican and a Puerto Rican. The story said the pair encountered Sirhan on the night of June 4 in the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel, about three hours before Kennedy was shot.

The report to Life Magazine came from Enrique Rabago, 35-year-old unemployed mechanic, and a second witness identified only as a Puerto Rican.

The article followed by less than a day a statement by gunshop owner Ben Herrick, 42, that Sirhan and two other swarthy men bought four boxes of .22-calibre shells at his San Gabriel store June 1.

The magazine said Rabago and his companion volunteered to tell about their encounter with Sirhan at 9:15 p.m., June 4.

The two witnesses told Life that Sirhan, wearing white pants and a white shirt without a tie, had just been ejected from a Rafferty victory party. Sirhan told the pair he had been refused a drink by a waitress and was tossed out when he made a fuss and contemptuously tipped \$20 "for nothing."

Rabago and the second man told Life Sirhan went into a tirade against "the rich Rafferty people who step all over the poor." Rafferty had just defeated incumbent U.S. Sen. Thomas Kuchel in the Republican primary.

Rabago said he (Rabago) nodded toward the Embassy Room, site of the main Kennedy victory celebration, and told Sirhan, "Robert Kennedy might help the poor."

The statement, according to Rabago's account to the magazine, sent Sirhan into a rage.

"Kennedy, Kennedy, he should never be President. You think he really wants to help the poor?" Sirhan was quoted as shouting in a quavering voice.

"Kennedy helps himself. He's just using the poor. Can't you see that?"

Meanwhile Herrick, owner of the Lock Stock and Barrel gunshop, said Sirhan and two others asked for armor-piercing .357 magnum ammunition at the same time they purchased the four boxes of .22 caliber shells.

"I told them we didn't have it," Herrick said of the heavier ammunition, used by the California highway patrolmen for their .38 calibre revolvers.

Herrick explained: "I don't like to sell that kind of stuff to guys like that," although he does stock the .357 shells. He said he sells them only to police.

Herrick said police told him the ammunition was traced through an invoice for the sale found in Sirhan's car near the hotel after the assassination.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-1 Herald Examiner
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Jordan Attorneys Offer to Aid Sirhan

Los Angeles County Public Defender Richard S. Buckley says he has received a wire from two Jordanian attorneys offering to defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The county official, whose office has been in charge of Sirhan's defense since his arrest June 5, said he doesn't object to the Jordanians trying the case. . . (but) "we either control the case or we get out."

Buckley promised to "reply to that wire. We will not object to their trying the case if they are qualified to do so. But under California law we cannot share responsibility for the case."

Buckley said "this offer was

to assist us and that we cannot accept. It would seem to me that these attorneys would not qualify to try the case.

"But if they do, we'd be happy to get out. It's all up to Sirhan. If the defendant wants them and they qualify, then we step out."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
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4 Lawyers Picked in Jordan to Join Defense of Sirhan

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Four Jordanian lawyers have been chosen to take part in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and will be joined by lawyers from other Arab countries, a Jordanian Bar Assn. source said Monday.

The source said the four—Fouad Atallah, Ahmad El Khalil, Mohamed Baradei and Hassan Hawwa—were chosen at a bar association meeting attended by Bishara Sirhan, father of the defendant.

The Jordanians "will leave very shortly" for the United States, the source said, and will be joined later by a number of other Arab lawyers.

The younger Sirhan, 24, has been in custody in Los Angeles since the fatal shooting there of Sen. Kennedy June 5.

Offer to Assist

In Los Angeles, public defender Richard S. Buckley said he had received a wire from two Jordanian lawyers offering to assist in Sirhan's defense.

"We will reply to that wire," Buckley said. "We will not object to their trying the case if they are qualified to do so. But under California law we cannot share responsibility for the case. We either control the case or we get out."

"This offer was to assist us, and that we cannot accept. It would seem to me that these attorneys would not qualify to try the case, but if they do we'd be happy to get out. It's all up to Sirhan. If the defendant wants them and they qualify then we step out."

Meanwhile, the elder Sirhan told a news conference in Amman that he believes the prime cause of the assassination was what he called Kennedy's "anti-Arab" speeches.

"Kennedy was promising certain sides to supply them with arms and aircraft . . . and thus provoked the sensitive feelings of Sirhan, who had suffered much from the Jews," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
—Los Angeles, Calif

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Could Policing Have Helped?

BY CARL GREENBERG
Times Political Editor

It has been said—and it is true—that Robert F. Kennedy had a fatalistic attitude about the possibility that someone would try to kill him.

After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, some of those in the upper echelons of Kennedy's campaign felt that the senator then would become the No. 1 target for a slayer.

Still he did not demand special protection and in fact his people discouraged the presence of police who would have held back the crowds that surged around him wherever he went.

Nevertheless, regardless of his wishes, there was, I feel, a special responsibility for plainclothesmen to be assigned while he was in Los Angeles, to mingle with crowds and to attend large public assemblages such as took place the night of his victory celebration here. This regardless of whether he asked for or wanted them.

I do not claim for one minute that their presence necessarily would have prevented Kennedy's assassination.

I do claim, however, that experienced detectives would have done what comes naturally.

★

They well might—I say might—have spotted Kennedy's assassin in the hotel kitchen area and routinely asked whether he was an employee. Had they been told that he was not—that he was just a Kennedy fan, or given some other excuse—I think they would have told him to step outside into the area reserved for the celebrants.

I'm not contending that if this had taken place the slaying definitely would have been prevented. I am saying it might have.

Not even Secret Service, whose men always have impressed me as smooth-functioning operators who know their business, can guarantee that the man they are protecting will not be the victim of an assassin.

The point is that they are there and no one ever knows or will know how many would-be killers their presence has inhibited or frustrated.

The fact is that in every major city where I have ever been with a candidate, I have seen city detectives "shaking down" such places as hotel kitchen areas—a favorite "escape route" for celebrities with a tight schedule—and other detectives planted among dinner guests, and uniformed police near the dais or stage.

In Chicago, only a few weeks ago, I watched a detective captain, a lieutenant and a third officer patrolling the kitchen area of one of the large hotels as insurance against just what did happen here.

With assignment of Secret Service men to candidates now, use of city police may be a moot point. But I think the procedure on not assigning officers, regardless of a candidate's desires and apparently placed in force long before Tom Reddin became chief, is wrong.

There is another aspect of the Kennedy campaign as regards policing that also deserves some attention.

I was in a press car immediately behind that of Kennedy on his campaign visit to Los Angeles in March.

We rode the Hollywood Freeway from the Grand Ave. on-ramp to some point in Hollywood en route to the Greek Theater.

As we moved along that heavily-traveled freeway, a civilian-motorcyclist came alongside the Kennedy car, which was in the slow lane. Suddenly, the youth on the motorcycle reached into his right hand coat pocket and removed an object. It was a camera. It could have been a gun.

Had the motorcyclist lost his balance and careened into a car in the fast lane, either he or some motorist, or both, might have been killed.

★

No motorcycle police were present and none was seen until the cavalcade left the freeway.

My point is that it was immaterial whether Kennedy wanted a police escort. It is my impression that he had no objection to motorcycle police. At least I heard none when San Jose's motorcycle police escorted him from his hotel to a public meeting and saw that he got back to his hotel safely.

It wasn't so much the idea that he was being honored by their presence. They not only were protecting him, they were protecting other motorists from accidents.

They could have done as much here and certainly could have spared a few plainclothes officers the night of the assassination.

On the last day of his first campaign trip to Los Angeles, a special officer of the kind usually seen escorting a funeral cortege, served as an "outrider" for Kennedy on the freeway.

Kennedy did finally get a police escort here.

On his last, long journey.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-4 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Flood of Arab Lawyers Willing to Help Sirhan

Attorneys From Jordan, Iraq and Elsewhere Offer to Defend Suspect in Assassination

BY JOE ALEX MORRIS JR.

Times Staff Writer

BEIRUT — A ground swell appears to be developing in Arab legal circles over the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

After almost a fortnight in which the lawyers were conspicuous by their silence, the Palestinian-born Sirhan is now threatened with inundation by legal advice from his Middle Eastern compatriots. Lawyers from Jordan, Iraq and the Arab Federation of Lawyers were reported Tuesday planning to go to his defense. Sirhan has not indicated he wanted Arab or any other outside legal help so far as could be determined here. The first offer to take up his case have not yet elicited any response.

This has not prevented others from volunteering. Among the latest was Shafik Ershedat, secretary general of the Cairo-based Arab Federation of Lawyers and himself a Palestinian.

Reports from Amman

said the four Jordanian lawyers had appointed a fifth, Henri Kattan, to go to Los Angeles to sound out the situation before they decide whether to present themselves en masse to Sirhan. Another report said three Iraqi lawyers had similarly volunteered their services.

The slowness of the Arab legal community to respond to Sirhan's plight reflected the near total confusion inflicted upon Arab political ranks by the news that a Palestinian Arab had been accused of killing Kennedy.

Reactions Varied

Reactions have swung clear across the political kaleidoscope, from assertions that Sirhan's alleged deed was the act of a deranged individual and had nothing to do with the Arabs in general, to allegations that the whole thing was a Zionist plot to discredit the Arabs in American eyes.

This is now slowly jelling around the idea that Sirhan — and Kennedy —

are both victims of the Palestine tragedy, and that something of this sort was expectable if not inevitable so long as the rights of more than one million Palestinian Arabs to return to their homeland are denied them.

If the consensus of reaction holds firm on this line, greater Arab sympathy and support for Sirhan is to be expected, observers here believe.

So far, this has been carefully limited to efforts to make sure Sirhan gets a fair trial, and that his motivation for his alleged act of killing Sen. Kennedy is fully broadcast and understood.

There have been no suggestions that he will be deprived of a fair trial.

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Sirhan's Father Plans to Aid Son

JERUSALEM (AP) — Bishara Sirhan, father of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, returned to Jerusalem Tuesday after making some provisional arrangements in Amman for his son's legal defense.

A spokesman for the Israeli military governor's office confirmed that Bishara had officially applied for permission to go to the United States to see his son, 24-year-old Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, awaiting trial in Los Angeles.

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Birchist charges Chavez linked with Communists

By REX NEVINS

Daily Enterprise Staff Writer

INDIO — A top John Birch Society official here yesterday said he "very definitely linked" farm union leader Cesar Chavez to communism.

Rex Westerfield, public relations director for the society's western division, at a news conference added: "That's a link he's been trying to break for three years, but he can't do it. He's got too many of them in his hip pocket." About six newsmen attended the conference.

CHAVEZ, national director of the United Farm Workers organizing committee (AFL-CIO) couldn't be reached for comment.

Chavez is now in the valley organ-

izing field grape workers in a yet-to-be-called strike against \$15 million-a-year grape industry.

Westerfield told reporters he was not saying Chavez is a "Communist" but he added he was "very definitely linking" Chavez to communism.

TO BACK UP his statement, he handed reporters a copy of "14th Report of Un-American Activities in California, 1967" by a State Senate fact-finding subcommittee on Un-American activities. The report quoted men who knew Chavez as saying he showed revolutionary tendencies.

Westerfield also handed out copies of reprints of an article entitled "The Grapes," which appeared in the society's "American Opinion" magazine in June, 1966.

The article included a photograph of a group of men and women, apparently at a meeting, subtitled "The Revolutionaries Meet; Man with Pipe is Communist Sam Kushner." The State Senate subcommittee's report identifies Kushner as a Communist.

WESTERFIELD SAID that Kushner Saturday evening attended an election called by the union organizing committee to determine whether grape field workers wanted the union to represent them in bargaining with growers.

In the same photo, Westerfield pointed to a man in a "light-colored sweater" whom, he said, the FBI was investigating as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the man accused of shooting Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Speaking of the union's election here Saturday night, Westerfield said, "Anyone could vote whether he was a worker or not."

WESTERFIELD SAID HE came to Indio "on his own," although he was invited by some society members who are friends of grape growers.

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B-5

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ASSASSINATION GRIEF

Real, Imaginary Ills
Caused by Slayings

BY DAVID JEWELL

Exclusive to The Times from the Washington Post

WASHINGTON—Some people have become so grief-stricken over the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy that they have suffered real and imaginary physical illness as a direct result.

Five Washington doctors say that they and many of their colleagues have treated patients for what is called the grief syndrome and said a similar, larger outbreak of cases occurred following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

One doctor reported a patient of his suffered what appeared to be a mild stroke—blurred and double vision, numbness on one side of the body—when there was nothing physically wrong.

He said it turned out these symptoms were induced by remorse the man felt over Sen. Kennedy's murder.

The five doctors said

that most of the grief-inspired cases concerned minor complaints ranging from headaches to upset stomachs and backaches.

They all said there was a much higher rate of such

patients in late 1963 and early 1964 after President Kennedy was killed.

A national expert on the study of the medical effects of grief said that in many instances the illness may not be imaginary.

Dr. George Engel, a professor of medicine and psychiatry at the University of Rochester, said that grief can act as a catalyst to bring together existing physical defects, which add up to illness.

Dr. Engel noted that the 68-year-old wife of the owner of the Memphis motel where Dr. Martin

Luther King was killed suffered a stroke 24 hours later and subsequently died.

He suggested that this and the collapse and death of the 27-year-old Army captain who headed President Kennedy's funeral honor guard detail a week after the President's burial might be examples of the grief syndrome.

Dr. Engel said he thought biological changes in people who suffer grief result in a letdown of their normal defenses.

One Washington specialist

list in internal medicine said that patients of his and most of his colleagues had ailments that were traced to "depressive reactions" after the assassination.

He said it was several months after the John F. Kennedy killing that the biggest rash of such complaints occurred. He called this a "conversion" of depression into physical symptoms.

The doctor said that several young people who came to Washington to work for John Kennedy complained, about two years after the assassination, that they felt their lives were aimless and drifting and suffered mild physical side effects.

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Sirhan Dad Seeks U.S. OK for Trip

JERUSALEM (AP)—A spokesman for the Israeli military governor's office has confirmed that Bishara Sirhan, father of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, officially has applied for permission to go to the United States.

Plans for the elder Sirhan's trip to America were announced after he returned to Jerusalem yesterday from Amman where he made some provisional arrangements for his son's legal defense.

In Amman, the Arab Lawyers Federation said a team of five Arab lawyers would go to the United States shortly to prepare for the trial.

The statement said the Arab legal team would be headed by a prominent Beirut attorney, Henry Cattani, but Cattani said he had not been notified of the statement and that the most any Arab lawyers could do would be to assist American attorneys out of court.

"We cannot appear before an American court," Cattani said.

(In Los Angeles, however, it was the belief of members of the Public Defender's office that Arab attorneys would find it "almost impossible" to qualify to represent young Sirhan in court.)

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Sirhan Hires New Defense Attorney

BY DIAL TORGERSON

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan retained a new attorney Wednesday—one he had selected sight unseen last week.

From a list of several names of Los Angeles attorneys, he selected Russell E. Parsons, a slight, peppery man who is, at 69, one of Southern California's best known appeals lawyers.

Parsons went to County Jail, met Sirhan, and was confirmed by the defendant as the lawyer who will defend him on charges that he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan, in effect, fired the public defender who has been preparing his defense.

Parsons said he would work for Sirhan without pay. And, he said, he would be joined by another attorney—"a prominent man who has handled many prominent cases"—at a later date.

Asked why he took the case, Parsons replied:

"I'm a lawyer, and this man is in serious trouble. I felt this man was entitled to be represented."

He refused to discuss the case, or his plans for its conduct, but said he had just been researching a legal alternative:

"If a man were not an American citizen," he said, discussing the case hypothetically, "There's a possibility

that he could be deported. There's always a possibility that a man from a foreign country could be deported." (Sirhan is an immigrant from Jordan.)

Parsons gave newsmen these details of how he got the case:

1—A. L. Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union gave Sirhan a list of Los Angeles attorneys who had agreed to handle his case without recompense. (Wirin had stated earlier that Sirhan was not dissatisfied with representation by Chief Dep. Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield, but wanted to be represented by private attorneys.)

2—Sirhan picked Parsons' name from the list and signed, June 12, a handwritten document requesting that the private attorney replace the public defender.

3—Wirin woke him up at 6 a.m.—at his room at the Elks Club where he stays when not at his Palm Springs home—and met him over breakfast at 7:30 a.m. to say that Sirhan had selected him.

4—Parsons then went to Public Defender Richard Buckley, showed him the handwritten request, and together they went to see Sirhan.

Interviews Him

"Sirhan said in the presence of the public defender that he wanted me to represent him, in lieu of the public defender's office," Parsons continued. "I met the defendant and then interviewed him in his jail cell. He also requested another lawyer."

Parsons then went to see Judge Donald R. Wright, presiding judge of the

Superior Court, and—in the presence of two other judges, three district attorney's men, Littlefield and Buckley and Under-sheriff James F. Downey—presented the little note naming him Sirhan's lawyer.

It read:

"I hereby retain Russell E. Parsons as my counsel, to represent me in my case, Peo. vs. Sirhan, L.A. Superior Court, A. 233421, and request that he be substituted as counsel in the case for the public defender.

(signed) Sirhan Sirhan."

Written by Sirhan

(Wirin said that he wrote the body of the note, because Sirhan suffered a hand injury at the time of his arrest June 5. But, he said, Sirhan signed it in his presence.)

Why was Parsons selected?

He has been practicing law in Los Angeles County almost 50 years, handling many prominent cases, including the so-called "James Rattlesnake Case" of 1935-36, in which a defendant was accused of murder after he thrust his wife's foot in a box of rattlesnakes.

But the main reason he might be recommended to a man in serious trouble is his reputation as an appeals lawyer. He kept the defendant in the rattlesnake case alive seven years, in days when appeals were harder to keep rolling than they are in the 1960s. Among his later cases were:

1—The 1954 Cahan decision, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that evidence illegally obtained cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

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Russell E. Parsons
Times photo

Prominent Lawyer

"He's a prominent lawyer who has tried many prominent criminal cases. But he is now representing a client in court, a client who has paid him a large fee to represent him," Parson said. "If it is known that he plans to be Sirhan's lawyer, it might damage the case of the client he is now representing."

"For that reason, if it is even hinted that he might be planning to represent Sirhan—while his other case is under way—he will withdraw from the Sirhan case."

Other matters mentioned by Sirhan's new attorney included these:

1—He does not expect a change of venue. Said Parsons: "Is there any city in California in which Mr. Kennedy did not plead the cause of the poor and needy?"

2—He has not met Sirhan's family, nor did he meet Sirhan prior to Wednesday. His impression of Sirhan: "He is an intelligent man. He speaks English perfectly."

3—He expects it will be "many months before the case comes to trial. The second attorney will have to review what I'll have done by the time he joins the case."

4—He will be glad to confer with attorneys who might come here from Arab nations to offer assistance to Sirhan: "I'd welcome he' from anyone. A newspaperboy once gave me an idea, and I used it in court. But I don't know if they (foreign attorneys) would be allowed to sit with us in court. I told Sirhan there were some attorneys from Jordan interested in aiding him, and

2—The 1967 Caruso case, which changed the procedure by which suspects are identified by crime victims.

Newsmen questioned Parsons again and again Wednesday—at lunch, at the county Courthouse, at his office. He spoke proudly of his appeals work:

"I file an appeal brief a month. I've been writing appeals since I first started the practice of law."

He said he is proudest of his work on the Cahan case:

"That was a landmark decision," he said. "It used to be a question of, 'Have you got the evidence?' Not, 'How did you get the evidence?'"

Does this mean the other lawyer who will defend Sirhan will be a specialist in courtroom work? Parsons wouldn't say. He accused a newsman of asking "prying questions" when he tried to guess the man's name.

he just shrugged his shoulders. He wants a local lawyer to represent him."

5—Wirin (who has said Sirhan's selection of attorney comes under coverage of the ACLU) has known him (Parsons) since they opposed one another in court in 1938-40, when Parsons prosecuted many labor cases and Wirin defended some of the same suits. Parsons was a top-ranking deputy district attorney under then-Dist. Atty. Buron Fitts.

Parsons said that he personally opposes the death penalty. As to his defending a man free of charge, he said: "It won't be the first time I've

defended someone free. There's a poor devil in trouble and that's enough for me."

The attorney was one of seven candidates for mayor in a 1950 recall election aimed at unseating Mayor Fletcher Bowron. Bowron charged that Parsons once represented underworld figure Mickey Cohen. The election ended in a victory for Bowron.

Parsons heatedly maintained Wednesday that he had never represented Cohen, although he said he represented police involved in police-Cohen scandals of almost 20 years ago.

He also showed considerable ire when news-

men asked him about his age and health.

"That's a prying, personal question," he said. "I come from a family of champions." (His brothers were pre-1920 trackmen at USC.) "I'm in fine physical condition. I walk two miles every night. I take exercises every morning."

Did he have a heart attack five years ago? "No. I had some difficulty a few years back. My doctor says I'm in fine shape. Says I can go hunting, long as I don't try and carry the deer over my shoulder."

What's his age? "In the late 60s. That's good enough. What the hell does it matter? Who're you going to tell? Some girl?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Text of Sirhan Castro Link Given

At the time Cuban exile leader Jose Duarte was questioned by the Anaheim Bulletin concerning an encounter with Sirhan Sirhan at a pro-Castro meeting, Duarte gave a statement that was recorded on magnetic tape.

Below is Duarte's statement, as he gave it, with only the address of the house deleted.

This I will have to tell you is no different than I told the police officer at the Rampart station.

On the 14th of May (later corrected after checking personal records to mean 21st of May), several Cubans in Los Angeles told me of a meeting that was going to take place at Amesbury. That is in the Las Feliz zone near Griffith Park. They showed me a printed handbill with an invitation because a student had been to Cuba recently, was coming from San Francisco to talk on the Cuban situation in favor of Fidel Castro. And he also was going to show slides of pictures he had taken in Cuba.

We Cubans are very interested in everything that is going on, not only in Los Angeles, but in the world, and the United States, concerning Cuba, Communism, or any favoritism shown to Castro.

So a group of us went that night to this mansion, and a gentleman who was supposed to speak had not arrived yet. I, as spokesman of the group, made contact with several people that were there and told them we were Cubans, we were expatriates, and seriously were going to speak on Cuba, on Castro, on the Cuban revolution and we were entitled to be there.

Should we have to pay to get in or was there invitation?

They asked, how many of us there were. There were about 12 or 14. After a little while someone came out and said that we could go in and wait for the person who hadn't arrived yet from San Francisco.

There were quite a number of people there. I should say about 50. Old people, middle age and young men. I went in on my own and took the initiative to speak to those people. And I told them in the true American sportsmanship spirit, there were two sides to the question that they should hear, that I was asking of them the opportunity either to concur with the person that was going to speak or to challenge what he was going to say.

Since the person had not arrived, a discussion ensued, and a vote was taken. It came out 27 to 28 that they should let me speak, to make time before the person came. Some people opposed it, but while the discussion was going on, this person arrived. He was a young man they called Paul. I heard that he came from San Francisco. Some one said that he had attended Frisco College. I don't know if he was from San Francisco State College or what. And they told him that I was there. Would he give me an opportunity? Would he mind?

Some of the people did mind. They said they had heard the other side of the question, they knew what I was going to say and so forth. Anyway, I quieted the Cubans who worked with me, and he started his presentation. Naturally, his presentation was full of falsehoods, propaganda, derogatory remarks

about the United States, praising Castro. He said a group of them are going to Mexico and some of them have been placed in a car by GI men and have been taken all through Mexico and dumped in Texas.

But the rest had gone to Cuba.

Then he went on to speak very well about Communism, about what the situation was in Cuba, that they had stayed about three weeks, and he went on for about an hour with questions and answers with the people. After he finished, I stood up again and asked for the right to challenge what he had said, based on the vote that had been taken. But some people very energetically opposed that. And they wanted to look at the slides first. He started projecting the slides.

In one moment, he had a slide of the Bay of Pigs, and there was a sign there in Spanish to the effect that here was the place where the mercenaries came ashore.

One of the Cubans that was there by the name of Pereira who was an expeditionary at the Bay of Pigs got very angry. And very angrily he retorted to that. He said that he was not a mercenary, that he fought for his country, that he was a patriot, and he started an argument there.

The lights were turned on. So Paul apologized to him. So he kept on presenting the slides. There was a pause every time he presented something that was favorable to Castro. He presented several slides of the people who had gone there, a group of students.

When he ended, I stood up. Some started to leave. There was quite a commotion. I raised my voice and held them to their promise to stay. Some people wanted to stay. So when I started challenging everything that he had said, there was a small fellow, olive skin, looked like a jockey, about 125-30 pounds, sitting on the side there in a group. And he very angrily stood up and accused me of

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He spoke English with a heavy accent, that I was paid to say that, that that was the same thing that they had done in the Middle East with the Arabs. So people started protesting.

Some people backed him up in what he was saying. I very sternly told him to keep a civil tongue in his head, because he was getting down to personal issues, that I was not going to stand for it, and we were in a private home, and if he did not abide by the laws of gentleman-ship, I was going to take action against him. So he quieted down.

I kept on challenging and making my presentation. And there was a great big argument. Some people disagree. Some people agree. All of a sudden this fellow stood up again and called me a liar. And he said I was being paid by the

CIA once again. So I very heatedly answered him. We started pushing each other. Some people interfered. So they had to calm him down. I was quite excited, also.

So two of the Cubans that went there came to my side because I was alone there. There were about 15 people around me. It was a turmoil. So we started talking to each other in a very loud voice. So then I asked him, and I said that this matter should be settled on the outside, he and myself. And he was ready to do that.

And he started out with several of his friends. And when I started after him, some of the people came and told me to keep my cool and started talking to me. I calmed down. The meeting just broke up. All of the Cubans who were there, some of them were kicked, some of them were attacked. It was a turmoil.

So when I went outside and started looking for him, he had left. We went back in, and the people there apologized. I gave some of them my name. Some of them wanted to hear me on another occasion, because they thought what I had presented was worthwhile hearing. And we left.

When Senator Kennedy was assassinated, when the paper came out, it had the picture of this person. I immediately recognized the person with which I had the altercation. Which was Sirhan Sirhan. Right away I went to the FBI office. It was closed. Some person on the outside. I don't know why he was there. Maybe it was the janitor told me I should go down to the Central Police Station. Which I did.

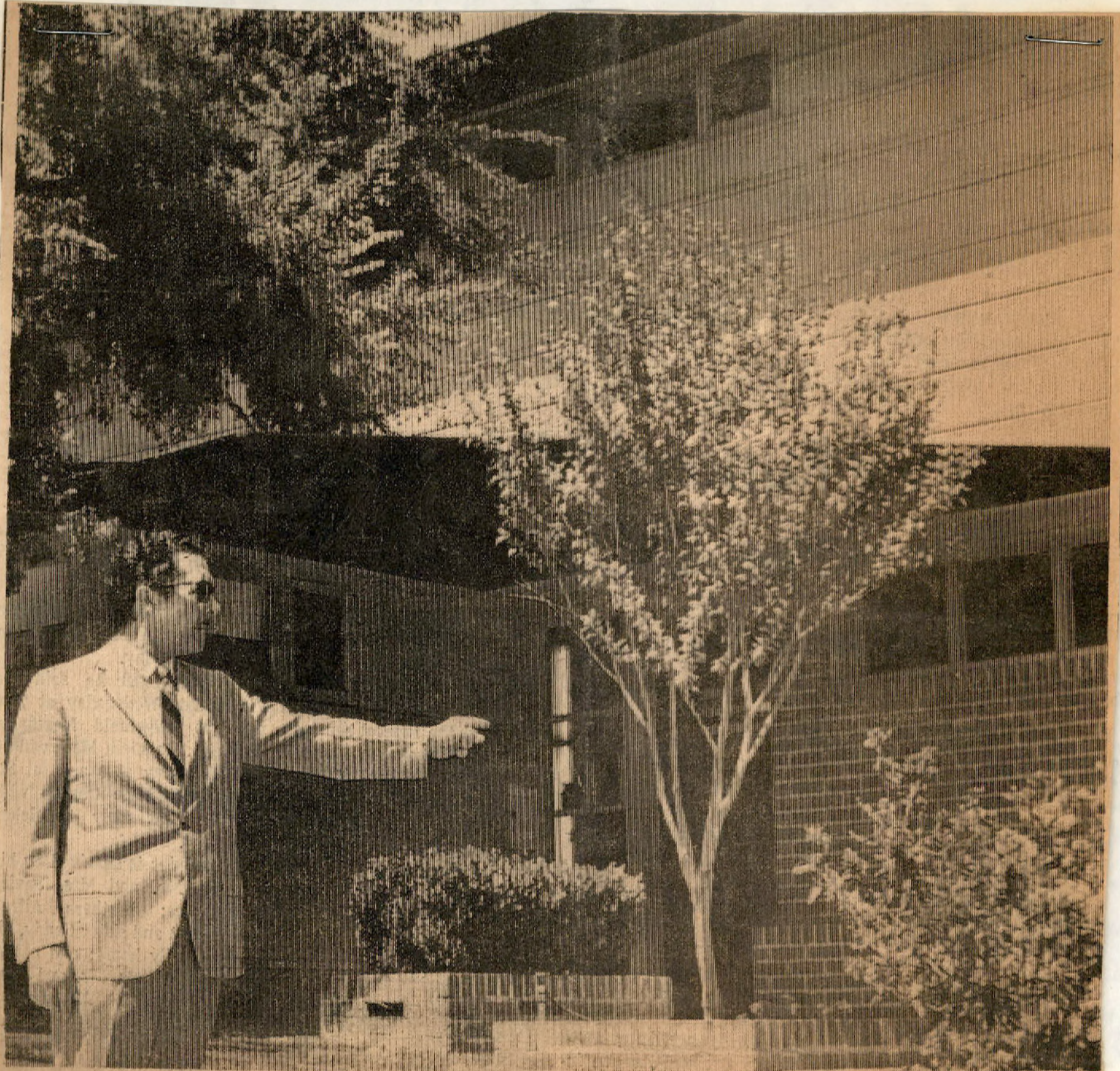
I went downtown to the Los Angeles headquarters. I talked to the man who is the information officer there, showed him the picture, told him I had some information to foster on the case, and he told me to go up to the third floor. I went to the third floor. There was a detective there. I told him the situation how it was, and then he told me this case was being handled by the Rampart division. He told me where the address was, at Temple and Benton Way.

I went to the Rampart Division. I told the same story to the officer in charge of information. He sent me back to the detective division. I explained again to the gentleman who was there. After a little while another gentlemen came in, took me in, and I told him. He showed me some pictures, and he showed me a picture in which I recognized Sirhan Sirhan, which was not the picture that had appeared in the paper. It was a different picture, a profile and a front. He showed me through all the pictures there, including pictures which I did not recognize.

Then I told him what had happened. He asked me if this was possibly the same fellow. I

told him I was pretty sure of it. And then he told me, All right, go home, they would get in touch with me if they needed me.

But what happened was that the rest of the Cubans, when they saw the picture on television, they also recognized the man that I had the altercation with. And they contacted the press media and so forth. And since I wasn't told that I should not talk about this to anyone, I thought I would be interfering with the freedom of the press.



MAJOR JOSE DUARTE SIGNIFIES WHERE MEETING TOOK PLACE
...Cuban says he encountered Sirhan Sirhan at this location

(Bulletin Photo)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Pro-Castro Link in RFK Slaying Claims Sirhan At LA Meeting

**Former Castro Major Says Suspect
Gave 'Angry' U.S. Denunciations**

By SAM CAMPBELL
Editor, Anaheim Bulletin

Two weeks prior to Sen. Robert Kennedy's assassination, the accused killer attended a pro-Castro meeting in the Hollywood Hills of Los Angeles, according to information in the hands of the Anaheim Bulletin today. Jose Duarte, a former major in Castro's rebel army, told the Anaheim Bulletin he encountered Sirhan Sirhan at a meeting in a mansion on Amesbury Rd. on Tuesday, May 21.

When Sirhan's picture was published in a newspaper June 6, Duarte said he recognized the man who since has been indicted in the fatal shooting.

Duarte said Sirhan later was identified independently by three other Cubans who attended the May 21 meeting.

Now a resident of Los Angeles, Duarte said he broke with Castro shortly after the successful takeover of Cuba in 1958. He now heads a Cuban exile organization called

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tro regime.

At the May 21 meeting, Duarte said, he got into a scuffle with Sirhan when he (Duarte) began to make an anti Castro speech.

"He, very angrily stood up and accused me of being a CIA agent," the Cuban said. He described Sirhan as "a small fellow, olive skin, looked like a jockey, about 125-130 pounds." He said Sirhan sat in a group and that he spoke English with a heavy accent.

Sirhan accused Duarte of being paid by the Central Intelligence Agency and told the

gathering of about 50 persons that the CIA had done the same thing in the Middle East with the Arabs, Duarte said.

The scuffle broke out some minutes later when Sirhan called him a liar, Duarte said.

"We started pushing each other. Some people interferred. So they had to calm him down. I was quite excited also," Duarte said.

Duarte recounted that he asked Sirhan to settle the matter on the outside and "he was ready to do that." He said Sirhan left the house "with several of his friends."

The Amesbury Road address is located in the Los Feliz area near Griffith Park, Duarte said. He happened to go there May 21 with other members of the exile organization when a handbill fell into their hands. The flyer, he said, advertised what promised to be a pro-Castro meeting.

Duarte said the program consisted of a talk by a "young man" identified only as "Paul." He said the spokesman showed slides of Cuban scenes and of students who had made a trip to Cuba. The talk by "Paul," he said, included derogatory remarks about the United States, praise of Castro, and a description of conditions inside Cuba.

At one point, he said, "Paul" took up a collection for a person whom he identified as "Newton," who was being held by Oakland authorities.

After the assassination, Duarte said he recognized Sirhan's picture in a newspaper. Duarte said he went to the Los Angeles Police Department's Rampart Division and picked Sirhan's photograph from among others in the police file. It was not the same photograph that was in the paper, he said.

Duarte said other Cubans who attended the May 21 meeting recognized Sirhan from television pictures.

The information that Sirhan

had been seen at what was described as a pro-Castro meeting came to the Anaheim Bulletin Saturday, June 8. At that time, a Bulletin writer questioned Duarte in Los Angeles. He had talked to the Cuban once previously.

That was in December, 1967, when Duarte appeared in Anaheim voluntarily to answer questions about the attendance of members of his organization at a performance of the Moscow State Circus in Anaheim Stadium, where a stink-bomb was thrown.

Monday, the Bulletin writer went to Los Angeles a second time. He questioned Duarte again, but in a different sequence, and asked to be taken to the mansion on Amesbury Road where the May 21 meeting was said to have taken place.

Duarte agreed to do so immediately. He described in advance what the house would look like and how it would be reached. Duarte directed the way there without hesitation.

Amesbury is a winding road, and the specific address where the May 21 meeting that Sirhan attended is difficult to find.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Discussed RFK, Says Youth in Mexico

JUAREZ, Mexico (UPI) — Attorney's office at El Paso said Mexican authorities are holding a Mexican-American youth who claimed he met Sirhan B. Sirhan in a public library in California and discussed with him how "the Kennedys were gaining dictatorial powers."

The 17-year-old boy, Crespin Gonzales, a native of Ephrata, Wash., told Mexican police he talked to the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a Santa Monica library. An American official said he did not believe Mexican police put much credit in the boy's story.

Juarez Police Chief Jesus Chacon quoted the boy as saying, "We came to the conclusion the Kennedys were gaining dictatorial powers by their shrewd political maneuvers, and the United States was in danger of becoming a dictator's country."

Jamie Boyd of the U.S.

Attorney's office at El Paso said the FBI was investigating the boy's claims "thoroughly" but that Mexican authorities did not take them seriously.

Boyd said the youth was arrested in Juarez when some papers he had been carrying were lost in a restaurant. Another man picked them up and turned them over to police.

One, dated June 4, appeared to be handwritten statement in which the boy told of a connection with the June 5 assassination, but Mexican police said his role was not specified. Another part of the statement said Sen. Kennedy's younger, and only surviving brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., was next in line for assassination.

The boy was arrested by Juarez police Monday as he boarded a bus on the outskirts to head back into the city.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 6/20/68
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Editor: Donald Goodenow
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	



—Associated Press Wirephoto

CRISPIN GONZALES IN JUAREZ, MEXICO
Youth claims talk with Sirhan over Kennedys

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brother Of Sirhan Fights Deportation

The 19-year-old brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is fighting a deportation order issued against him after he was convicted of felony narcotics charges, an immigration official has disclosed.

Munir Bishara Sirhan, known as Joe, was arrested June 10, 1966, for possession and sale of marijuana. He was tried as an adult and convicted in Superior Court of both charges on Oct. 13, 1966. On Dec. 1 of that year he was placed on five years probation with the first year to be served in county jail, court records disclosed.

But on May 25, 1967, the judge set aside the conviction because Sirhan was a juvenile at the time of the alleged crime and ordered him turned over to the juvenile authorities, the record showed.

The deportation order was issued in 1966, but he appealed

to the board of immigration appeals in Washington, which only just now has begun the process of reviewing the appeal, immigration authorities indicated.

He based his appeal on the argument that he was a juvenile at the time and the conviction had been set aside for this reason. The Immigration Department apparently contended that the judge had no jurisdiction to issue the later orders after the disposition of the case and that the decision to treat him as a juvenile should have been made before, not after, the trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Brain Damage' Sirhan's Defense?

TOP L.A. LAWYER PARSONS TAKES CASE

Russell E. Parsons, top Los Angeles criminal lawyer who will defend Sirhan B. Sirhan, Sen. Robert Kennedy's alleged killer, has indicated he may argue that Sirhan had suffered from brain damage.

The 74-year-old lawyer said he will have a psychiatrist examine Sirhan "from the tips of his shoes to the top of his head." Sirhan reportedly suffered injuries when he fell from a horse while employed at a race track two years ago. He collected \$2000 on a claim for injuries.

Parsons replaces Wilbur Littlefield of the Public Defender's first court appearance with the Office as Sirhan's counsel. His Jordanian will be June 28, when Sirhan is scheduled to enter a plea to murder indictment.

A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who consulted several times with Sirhan, made the announcement in behalf of Parsons.

"Sirhan Sirhan signed, in my presence, a written retainer agreement retaining Attorney Russell Parsons, a member of the Los Angeles County Criminal Court Bar Association, as his counsel," Wirin said.

Immediately after signing papers dated June 12, Public Defender Richard S. Buckley and Parsons conferred with Sirhan.

"I have been interested in the case all along," Parsons said. "I'm just going to work hard and do the very best I can."

Parsons added that he would serve without fee as a public service.

The defense lawyer is a native of Los Angeles and is nationally known for his trial work. He made legal history in California as the lawyer who got the State Supreme Court to rule that evidence illegally seized by police officers cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

Parsons has had wide experience as both a prosecutor and defense lawyer. He estimates he has tried about 5000 cases.

His first experience in public office was his election as County Attorney of Beaver County, Utah, in 1917. He served two two-year terms. Part of the time he also served as City Attorney for Beaver City.

He subsequently returned to Los Angeles to practice law. In the mid-30s he was one of defense counsel in the notorious case of accused wife-murderer

Robert S. "Rattlesnake" James, eventually convicted of slaying his wife by rattlesnake poison and drowning. After several years on death row, James' conviction was upheld and he was hanged.

In 1938, Parsons joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a top prosecutor assigned to special cases. He was one of the prosecutors of William G. Bonelli, then the "czar" of California's liquor law enforcement and control accused of accepting payoffs. Bonelli was freed by a court-directed verdict of acquittal and subsequently moved to Mexico.

While a prosecutor here, Parsons was the target of two gunmen who fired at him in 1940 on a street near Whittier. One bullet broke a window on the car, and another hit the engine cowl. Parsons was then participating in an inquiry of Communists and subversive elements in Los Angeles.

In 1950 he permitted his name to be entered as "The People's Candidate" in a mayoralty recall election here against then Mayor Fletcher Bowron. The recall failed.

The campaign was a bitter one, with aggravated charges by both factions. In this campaign, a civic group demanded Parsons be investigated for allegedly issuing small checks without sufficient funds many years before. The charges were thoroughly aired, but no official action was taken because of the business nature of the transactions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

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130

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JUN 21 1968	
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Parsons in recent years has devoted his time to private practice of law, both civil and criminal. He maintains offices at 205 S. Broadway.

He was born in Olive Street in the downtown area. His father, Harry Parsons, was a noted contractor and builder. His mother was Lillian Blackburn Parsons, a native of Petaluma, Sonoma County, whose family crossed the plains in a covered wagon. His parents settled here when the population of Los Angeles was only 17,000 persons.

His father was one of the builders of the Third Street Tunnel, the U.S. Grant Hotel in San

Diego and the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City, and many other private and public buildings throughout the west.

Parsons attended the Sixteenth Street Grammar School, the Thirtieth Street and Jefferson Street Schools, Los Angeles High School, and the University of Southern California. He has been active in the Native Sons of the Golden West, Ramona Parlor; Elks Lodge 99, and Eagles Lodge, Hollywood Earle.

He is a brother of Charles Parsons, early day USC sprint star, and an uncle of Charles Parsons Jr., a sprint star of the early 1930s.

Parsons said yesterday he could not comment on the Sirhan case until he obtains a copy of a court order recently issued by Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon restricting discussion of the case.

Sirhan, 24, a native of Jordan, accused of ambushing Sen. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel



—Herald-Examiner Photo
RUSSELL E. PARSONS
Will Defend Sirhan Sirhan

June 12, 1968
 I hereby retain
 Russell E. Parsons, as
 my counsel, to represent
 me in my case
 Peo v Sirhan, LA.
 Superior Court
 No A. 2-3421
 and request that
 he be appointed
 as counsel, in
 the case of
 the Public Defender.

Sirhan Sirhan

WITH THIS NOTE, SIRHAN APPROVED HIS DEFENSE ATTORNEY
 Dated June 12, note designates Russell Parsons "To represent me in my case"

shortly after midnight June 5 as the senator concluded a California primary election victory rally, is held in County Jail under the tightest security in Los Angeles history.

"I'll have another lawyer in the case with me, but I cannot give you his name at this time," Parsons told The Herald-Examiner at his office.

"Names of several lawyers were given to Sirhan, and he selected me, as well as one other attorney.

"I agreed to represent Sirhan because I feel there is a challenge as to whether this man can get a fair trial. However, I do think he will get a fair one.

"There will probably be three defense attorneys—there's room

in the case for that many. And I'll have help from my office which has five other lawyers." Asked if he expected "public abuse and threats," Parsons said: "I do not expect these things. Any case with this much emotion and public attention leaves a person in my case exposed to almost anything."

He said Michael A. McCowan of R. Allen & Associates, will be his chief investigator in preparing Sirhan's defense. McCowan is a former Los Angeles police officer.

Parsons said yesterday it would be up to the court whether Arab lawyers would be permitted to help. But he said he would "welcome help from any-

Although four lawyers selected by the Jordanian Lawyers Association cancelled an announced trip after a one-hour meeting with Jordanian Premier Bahjal Talhouni, other Arab lawyers reportedly will be selected by the Arab Lawyers Federation.

Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, has officially applied for permission to come here to assist his son.

Bishara Sirhan said his son suffered facial injuries in 1948 when an Israeli mortar exploded near him. The father also said his son had seen Arabs killed by Israeli terrorists and a woman stabbed by an Israeli dagger before the family moved to the United States.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Healing Satisfactorily, Pitchess Says

Injuries suffered by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in the struggle which followed the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are healing satisfactorily and he is permitted to exercise daily, Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess said Thursday.

Pitchess said the prisoner has received a visit from the Jordanian consul

for an interview which was conducted in English, with Sirhan's lawyer present.

A request for a second interview, to be conducted in private and in Arabic, was refused, the sheriff said.

Legal papers officially naming Russell E. Parsons to replace chief trial deputy public defender Wilbur Littlefield as Sirhan's attorney of record were signed at the County Jail Thursday.

Parsons went to the jail to sign the documents, as did Littlefield.

Sirhan is to appear in court for plea June 28 and Parsons indicated he will

ask a continuance at that time. The Jordanian is charged with the murder of Sen. Kennedy and with five counts of assault with intent to commit murder against spectators.

Meanwhile, Pitchess said Sirhan is being treated for the injuries by the jail's medical staff and his food is prepared in a kitchen separate from the one where other prisoners' meals are cooked.

The meals, however, are no different from those served other prisoners, according to Pitchess, and Sirhan receives only "normal prisoner privileges" in the isolated section of the jail he occupies.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-27 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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6/21

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

LA Police Chief Reddin: 'Violence Begets Violence'

By BOB HULL

"It is my personal opinion that violence begets violence," L.A. Chief of Police Thomas Reddin yesterday told a luncheon meeting of the Hollywood Radio and TV Society. "But I don't go around pushing legislation banning violence (from TV and movies). I dissipate my energies in other ways," he quipped.

While admitting to the 200-plus audience of broadcasting and advertising executives that he had not seen a definitive study on the correlation of on-screen violence to on-street mayhem, the local lawman did suggest that the entertainment industry in Southern

California bears "a responsibility" in the matter.

Reddin, flanked on the Beverly Wilshire Hotel podium by HRTS outgoing president Herminio Treveas and new president Ben Hoberman, plus personalities Ben Alexander, Howard Duff and Danny Thomas, also replied to a question concerning recent Supreme Court decisions on pre-trial publicity in the matter of capital cases, such as the Sirhan B. Sirhan story:

"We stand well on this particular case," he said, "mainly because myself and District Attorney Evelle Younger met and planned what we should do in giving out information. It was well . . ."

He was interrupted by his questioner who noted that one man obviously was not present at the meeting — meaning Mayor Sam Yorty.

Reddin laughed. "I have an agreement with my boss. That is, I'll never comment on his comments.

"Actually, what he said, in my opinion, obviously could not prejudice the entire case. The information he released was not even submitted to the Grand Jury. And, after all, he is an attorney and should know what he is doing."

In his prepared speech, which some in the audience likened to his "Let your policeman know you love him" public relations drive, Chief Reddin also made a request of the broadcasters. "Discourage the alarmist speaker, the gloom and doom prophet, the one who would be divisive. They should not get the kind of platform they receive today . . ."

"The policeman today is the middleman in our society," the Chief said. "He has emerged as the representative of the establishment. . . . The conflict boils down to a confrontation of the policeman and those who would solve the problems of social injustice, poverty, housing, and all the rest — and the policeman has nothing to do with those problems. He merely is the one assigned to keep law and order."

While praising the broadcasters, advertisers and newsmen as the most enlightened group anywhere, Reddin called for "the opinion-molders — you, gentlemen — to back law enforcement and to encourage civil stability."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

P. 1

The Hollywood Reporter
Hollywood, California

Date: 6/19/68
Edition:
Author: Bob Hull
Editor: James Powers

Title:
Thomas Reddin
Chief of Police
Los Angeles, Calif.

Character:

or

Classification: LA 1-254
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FBI — LOS ANGELES	

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6/21/68.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness To Killing**Busboy Troubled In RFK Death**

By United Press International

Juan Romero, the 17-year-old busboy who pressed a rosary into the hands of mortally wounded Sen. Robert Kennedy two weeks ago is a troubled young man.

The jolting experience of seeing a famous man who had just shaken hands with him shot by an assassin has left Romero searching for a meaning in life.

"I always liked people," he mused Wednesday. "I thought they were good. But now I wonder. If people are good, how can such a thing happen to such a man?"

Worries Father

Young Romero's tendency to mull over the scene he witnessed at the Ambassador Ho-

tel worries his father, Falvio Romero.

"Don't think about this," he tells his son. "Don't make a show. It will seem different later."

The day after Kennedy was shot Romero quit his ROTC class at Roosevelt High School. "I don't like guns anymore," he explains, adding that "everything in the world seems different now."

Photographs of Juan kneeling beside Kennedy were published in many countries, and he has received several letters since the assassination.

Three people have sent him rosaries to replace the one he gave Kennedy, another correspondent sent him a \$10 bill.

"Some people wrote the hotel and said they wanted to send some money so I could go to trade school and learn to make a good living, and this was nice. I would like to do that," Romero says.

Romero, who works six hours a day at the Ambassador Hotel during summer vacation, took a few days off from work following the assassination to pull his thoughts together.

"I think you can be happy and sad all at the same time," he concludes. "I think maybe everyone who grows up is this way. I think that is how you know you have grown up, because you can be that way. And I think now maybe I will grow up too."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2

EVENING OUTLOOK
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

Date: 6/20/68

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Editor: Robert McClure

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4/24

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cook Meals Seperately In Sirhan's Security

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Super security precautions by the "private" investigative court order which prevents me protecting Sirhan B. Sirhan, 25, firm employed by Russell E. from making any comment on accused as the assassin of Sen. Parsons, Sirhan's new attorney, the case or on Sirhan. I cannot go beyond the remarks quoted by Sheriff Pitchess."

Pitchess disclosed today. When it was suggested that diplomatic immunity might excuse him from the court order Zraikat said, "It might be so, but there is nothing more that I have to say."

The sheriff said Sirhan, a Jordanian immigrant, is served the same food as other County Jail prisoners but it is privately prepared. He remains guarded in his cell, one deputy sheriff in his cubicle, another in the corridor outside, observing them. Reached by the Herald-Examiner at the Jordanian consulate, George Zraikat said: "He is presently detained in an isolated section of the Men's

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Sirhan is under constant observation by jail deputies. ing his treatment while in the county jail system. dressed to Sirhan is delivered to his attorney of record.

"The medical staff of the county jail system reports that Sirhan's food is prepared in a kitchen separate from the ones in which all other inmates are previously reported injured. The food provided Sirhan is no different in any way than the food served to other inmates.

"He is permitted exercise in a 30-foot corridor and has no contact with any other inmates in County Jail. food is prepared. The food provided Sirhan is no different in any way than the food served to other inmates. "On Tuesday, June 18, Sirhan requested a visit with the consul of Jordan. Arrangements were made for the local representative of Jordan, Genge Zraikat, to visit with Sirhan in the presence of deputy public defender Elmer Littlefield.

"His appetite is good and he has made no complaints regarding the sheriff's department admission of deputy public defender Elmer Littlefield.

"Consul Zraikat expressed his dissatisfaction with the physical arrangements of Sirhan's confinement and praised the security measures taken by the sheriff to insure the safety of the defendant.

"Jordan diplomats, through the U.S. State Department, expressed dissatisfaction that the interview granted the local consul representatives had been in English. further requested that an accredited consular representative from their Chicago office be granted a private visit with the defendant in the Arabic language.

"The sheriff refused this request for security reasons and insisted that any visit be in English and that the defendant's attorney of record be present." Pitchess refused any further comment on the matter in compliance with a court order which regulates discussion of

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4/54

Police Halt Hunt for Mystery Girl in Kennedy Case

Officers Say 'Polka Dot'
Woman Was Product of
Hysteria After Shooting

BY JERRY COHEN
Times Staff Writer

Police investigating the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy canceled an all-points bulletin Friday for the so-called "girl in the white polka dot dress."

After doing so, officers said they had established that no such person ever existed but was the product of a young Kennedy worker's hysteria after the assassination.

"It was determined that the person who originally described the female in the white polka dot dress was erroneous," explained Inspector John Powers, assistant commander of the detective bureau.

The "person" was 20-year-old Sandy Serrano of Altadena, a Youth for Kennedy volunteer.

Said She Saw Girl

Shortly after the shooting, Miss Serrano told reporters that she had seen "a girl in a white dress with polka dots" run from the Ambassador and yell:

"We shot him."

Miss Serrano declared then, "I'm kind of sorry I said anything. But I saw what I saw."

She said she had left the hotel, where Sen. Kennedy was mortally wounded after a primary election night-victory celebration, to catch a breath of air on a terrace.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

She said the girl who ran from the hotel was accompanied by a young man of Latin appearance.

Miss Serrano said she called to the girl, "Who did you shoot? Who did you shoot?"

The girl replied, she said: "We shot Sen. Kennedy."

Bulletin Distributed

Police later questioned Miss Serrano and put out a detailed all-points bulletin on the basis of the description she gave of the mysterious girl.

However, officers and others involved in the investigation were inclined toward skepticism.

Powers, in confirming withdrawal of the alert, said the witness had been "overwrought" after the slaying when she first told her story, now determined to be without factual basis.

"She was the key witness, the one who caused the alert to be put out," the inspector said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

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Author: Jerry Cohen
Editor: Nick B. Williams
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FBI - LOS ANGELES

Miss Serrano declined comment.

If the girl as described by the witness had been found, Powers said, she would have been considered "a principal" in the case.

Other witnesses also have told of seeing girls in polka dot dresses in the room in which the victory celebration was held. "The room apparently was full of them," said Powers.

However, none has been connected with the assassination and those questions have been put in the category of potential witnesses, not principals.

Meanwhile, Russell E. Parsons, new attorney for the suspect in the assassination, repotred receiving threats on his life.

Michael A. McCowan, a private detective employed by Parsons, who will defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, a native of Jordan, said telephoned and mailed threats had been received and that the FBI and U.S. Atty. Matt

Byrne had been advised of them.

"Byrne" confirmed that Parsons had discussed the threats with him, adding: "I told him we would check it out. There was no request for protection."

McCowan said a telephone call received Thursday afternoon came from New York City. The male caller, he added, claimed that Sirhan would not receive a fair trial but would be "sold down the river."

McCowan quoted the caller as saying there are "250,000 militant Arabs" in the United States and "we're going to get Parsons and others involved in the case."

McCowan said Los Angeles police probably will be asked Monday to provide protection for the lawyer, who took the Sirhan case Wednesday.

Police Chief Tom Reddin said at a press conference Friday that Parsons had not yet asked for protection, but that if he did it would be made available "depending on what (kind of threats) he has received and how alarmed he really is."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Parsons Refuses To Name Aide

By NOEL SWANN
Evening Outlook Staff Writer

Describing accused assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan as a "poor devil in trouble," a spry, 69-year-old Los Angeles attorney, Russell E. Parsons, announced Wednesday he will formally represent the man charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Parsons—one of Southern California's best-known appeals lawyers—also disclosed that "another prominent local attorney who has tried a number of prominent cases" will join him in defense of the Jordanian immigrant.

Both attorneys are to work without pay on what will undoubtedly become their most celebrated case.

Parsons disclosed Wednesday he had been personally selected by Sirhan, sight unseen, from a list of four prominent lawyers submitted to the accused man by A. L. Wirin, chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California.

He said the request from Sirhan had been delivered to his office in the downtown Civic Center area at 205 S. Broadway around 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Immediate Acceptance

"I immediately accepted by telegram," the hawk-faced lawyer—whose fatherly outward appearance hides a tiger-in-the-courtroom personality—told newsmen in his office late Wednesday.

He then met with Sirhan and public defender Richard S. Buckley in Sirhan's cell where the accused formally told Buckley he wanted Parsons and another lawyer substituted for Wilbur Littlefield, of the public defender's office, who up to now has been his official defense counsel.

Later in the day, Parsons said he met with presiding Judge Donald R. Wright of the Los Angeles Superior Court and members of the district attorney's office to advise them of his appointment.

At the later news conference, Parsons said he had not discussed a plea with Sirhan, but indicated indirectly that Sirhan's sanity as a result of brain damage could become the focal point of the trial.

He said he will have his own psychiatrists examine Sirhan "from the tops of his shoes to the tip of his head."

"The man's life is now entrusted to us, and it's up to us to see that he gets the fairest trial possible," Parsons said.

Pleading Speculated

Speaking hypothetically, Parsons indicated it could be possible to plead a client guilty but have the hearing hinge on whether he was competent to stand trial by reason of insanity or use the insanity angle to argue for clemency.

He also conceded it could in fact be possible for an accused man to escape legal consequences for murder if it were ruled he were not fit to stand trial.

Again hypothetically he spoke around the possibility of an alien being deported for a conviction under the various circumstances centered on the insanity and not-fit-to-stand-trial angles.

But he stressed that no firm line has been taken yet and probably would not be until the other mystery lawyer joined the case.

Asked if he believed Sirhan could get a fair trial in Los Angeles, Parsons said he could not answer yes or no to the question.

"Senator Kennedy was well known throughout the country—loved by some and despised by others," he said. If he felt it necessary to seek a change of venue, he would. But he told the newsmen he does not expect a change.

Question Hedged

He hedged on answering a question as to whether Mayor Sam Yorty's statements about Sirhan's background might have prejudiced the Jordanian's case.

But later he said, "If it becomes necessary to get a motion to suppress, we'll do it."

He said he would most likely seek a continuance June 28, the scheduled date of Sirhan's next appearance in court, so that additional investigational work can be done.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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Indefinite Grant B Cooper
Q v Bu 6/24



To Defend Sirhan

Attorney Russell Parsons speaks to newsmen in Los Angeles Wednesday following the announcement that he will defend accused assassin Sirhan Sirhan. When asked if he would accept help from Arab attorneys, Parsons said he would. (UPI Telephoto.)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Polka Dot Girl' Hunt Called Off

From Evening Outlook News Services

There never was a "girl in the polka dot dress," sought for questioning since the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Los Angeles police said today.

An all-points police bulletin has been canceled. It was issued after a Kennedy volunteer reported such a girl rushed from the slaying scene with the cry, "We've killed him!"

Inspector John Powers, assistant commander of the detective bureau, said police have established that no such person with special knowledge of the killing existed.

"It was determined that the person who originally described the female in the white polka dot dress was erroneous," Powers said.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, was subdued at the scene of the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel and has been charged with murdering Kennedy.

In another development, Sirhan's lawyer, Russel E. Parsons, was reported to have received threats on his life.

Michael A. McCowan, a private detective who works for Parsons, said the attorney probably will approach Los Angeles police Monday with a request for personal protection.

Police Chief Tom Reddin said it would be made available "depending on what

kind of threats he has received and how alarmed he really is."

McCowan said a threatening telephone call was received Thursday from a man in New York City who claimed Sirhan would not receive a fair trial and would be "sold down the river."

McCowan quoted the caller as saying, "there are 250,000 militant Arabs in the United States" and "we're going to get Parsons and others involved in the case."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1
EVENING OUTLOOK
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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

City Board Raps Care at Receiving Hospital

Letter to Council Cites Kennedy Murder;
Police, Firemen Endangered, Group Says

The City Board of Pension Commissioners contended Friday that medical care at Central Receiving Hospital is so poor that city police and firemen are endangered by the city policy under which they automatically go there for emergency treatment.

In a letter to the City Council, the commission cited the June 5 assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy as exposing the hospital as "an emergency hospital facility that cannot in cases of emergency even provide a blood transfusion."

Kennedy, first taken to Central Receiving, was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he died early June 6. The Hospital Council of Southern California and Dr. M. N. Anderson superintendent at Central Receiving, later defended Kennedy's emergency treatment.

But the commission also cited another case—that of a policeman recently X-rayed and told that a shadow on his lung was of no concern. The officer sought further treatment when fatigue persisted, however, and subsequently underwent surgery for a lung tumor, the commission said.

The commission, charging that Central Receiving "Does not meet the medical demands of our time," asked the council to reach a quick decision on the hospital's future. (The council had previously ordered a study of the hospital's facilities and treatment of the city's uniformed personnel.)

"Delay in this decision affects the health and future of men," the commission said, "and may even result in the cost of lives."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-14 Los Angeles Times
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Sirhan to Enter His Plea Friday in Chapel of Jail

**Courtroom Appearance
Canceled as Work on
Security Measures Lags**

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

The chapel of the new County Jail will become a temporary courtroom again Friday when Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is scheduled to enter his plea before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

An earlier plan to move the 24-year-old suspect in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to the Hall of Justice for his court appearance was canceled Tuesday when it was discovered that security measures there will not be ready in time.

Massive precautions have been taken, and more are being prepared, to protect Sirhan during future legal proceedings at the Hall of Justice.

A special room on the 13th floor of the building is being refurbished for use in all actions not requiring full courtroom facilities.

Use Sealed Passageway

The suspect will be taken there through a sealed passageway from a temporary holding cell in the old jail atop the Hall of Justice. The same passageway will be used to move him from the cell to the eighth floor courtroom where the trial will be held.

Top floors of the Hall of Justice are almost totally inaccessible to the public. Only jail elevators run above the eighth floor, and new walls and steel doors are being erected for the room on the 13th floor.

Not yet installed, but propped against walls and waiting to be put in place once Sirhan arrives, are heavy steel plates which will block windows looking out on the corridor.

Arraigned in Chapel

Until all this is ready, however, the court will continue to use the chapel at the new County Jail, as it did in Sirhan's single previous appearance. At that time, he was arraigned on a murder charge in the chapel to make it unnecessary for him to venture outside.

The Board of Supervisors Tuesday unanimously passed a resolution declaring that, because "a great emergency exists," any construction required to assure the safety of Sirhan and others involved in the case is exempt from competitive bidding.

The "protective facilities," it noted, will be built by "the mechanical department of the county in cooperation with the sheriff and Presiding Judge Donald R. Wright of Superior Court."

The county purchasing agent's office, it added, "shall furnish necessary materials and supplies."

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6

County work costing more than \$10,000, by law, requires competitive bidding unless exempted by a supervisors' resolution.

\$20,000 Protection

A memorandum from the county attorney's office attached to Tuesday's resolution estimated the cost of the work for protection of Sirhan and others involved in his case at \$20,000.

In addition, it noted that Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess also plans to employ "armor plate, armor glass, steel plate and wire netting" during courtroom proceedings.

An informed source reported the sheriff contemplates erecting a bullet proof partition of glass, netting and metal parallel to the spectator rail in the courtroom chosen for the trial.

The protective measures are not to be taken on Sirhan's behalf alone. Threats have been received by others involved in the case, including Russell E. Parsons, who took over only last week as defense counsel.

It is anticipated that Friday's first order of business will be for Judge Schauer, who presides over Superior Court's criminal division, to ask Sirhan if he accepts Parsons—even though formal substitution of attorney papers already are on file.

Other Plans

Previously, the suspect had been represented by the public defender's office. Parsons agreed to represent him when he said he wanted a private attorney.

It is unlikely that Sirhan will enter a plea Friday, when court is scheduled to convene at 9 a.m.

Two developments appear likely:

1—Parsons will ask for more time to study the

grand jury transcript, a lengthy document which led to Sirhan's indictment.

2—Parsons, who has said another unidentified lawyer will help him with the case, will seek appointment of another psychiatrist whose report will be used by the defense to help determine the plea.

Dr. Edward Stainbrook, one of the two previously appointed by the court, declined to accept the appointment. The other, Dr. Eric Marcus, it is understood, already has examined Sirhan.

If Marcus has examined the suspect, his findings would be confidential.

Not even the judge or the prosecution would know what he established because, by law, reports of

court-appointed psychiatrists are available only to advise the defense.

The district attorney's office very likely will receive a psychiatric report on the suspect during the trial itself.

Should Sirhan enter

plea of not guilty by reason of insanity—as the prosecution reportedly anticipates—the judge would appoint still another psychiatrist and his findings would be made available to the court and prosecutor, as well as the defense.

In anticipation of such a plea, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty.

Lynn D. Compton, who heads the three-man prosecutive team, has retained

Dr. Seymour Pollock, a psychiatrist who has been involved in numerous criminal cases here, to serve the prosecution as an adviser.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cooper Denies Report He Will Defend Sirhan

Attorney Grant B. Cooper Thursday denied a report that he is taking over the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Definitely, positively, unequivocally no," Cooper said of the news service report carried on radio.

Cooper is one of the defense attorneys in the current Friars Club card cheating conspiracy case. Attorney Russell Parsons has been retained by Sirhan, but has said a prominent trial attorney currently engaged in another case would join the defense later.

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