

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Gun Test Produces Mystery

Mystery surrounds the apparent firing of the gun used by convicted assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan during his trial in 1968 and the test firing this year.

The possibility of the unauthorized firing of the .22 caliber revolver by unknown persons was brought out in Superior Court here yesterday by attorney Vincent T. Bugliosi, acting for former Robert F. Kennedy campaign aide Paul Schrade.

The unauthorized firing theory is based on the leaded condition of the gun barrel when examined last month by a panel of firearms experts.

Patrick Garland, chairman of the panel which reexamined the gun, confirmed yesterday in court the probability it was fired sometime after police investigators had completed test firings in June of 1968.

No record exists since that time that the gun was fired prior to the court ordered re-firing last month and Garland testified the leading in the barrel must have come from bullets fired after the initial testing.

Bugliosi will attempt to further expand his Sirhan mini-probe next month after petitioning the court to admit evidence from persons who claim knowledge of additional bullets being fired when Sen. Kennedy was killed.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

CRIME PROBERS RECHECK PANTRY IN RFK SLAYING

By AL ALBERGATE

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Dist. Atty. John Van de Kamp sent a team of criminologists to the Ambassador Hotel pantry in a surprise expansion of his reinvestigation of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination there in 1968.

About 30 investigators from city, county and state agencies worked into the early morning today in a detailed reexamination of the pantry where Kennedy was gunned down.

Sirhan B. Sirhan was convicted of being the lone gunman, but several people have continued to maintain that a second gun was used in the pantry, among them Paul Schrade, a Kennedy aide who was wounded in the hail of gunfire.

Schrade's attorney, Vincent Bugliosi, contends there is "solid ... but not conclusive" evidence that more than eight shots were fired on the night of the assassination.

Police have maintained Sirhan fired all eight shots from a .22 revolver, and that they have accounted for all but one, which "was lost somewhere in the ceiling interspace" of the pantry.

The reexamination of the pantry, ordered by Van de Kamp last week, aimed at either proving or discarding the theory that there were more than eight bullets holes in the pantry.

The investigation started shortly after 6 p.m. and continued early this morning as the criminologists reportedly were examining the pantry with minute care. No word had come from the team as to their findings by early this morning.

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Richard P. Long

Van de Kamp announced the new probe late yesterday just before the team of investigators descended on the hotel pantry.

He said he had obtained a search warrant from Municipal Judge Clarence Stromwall after a new investigation into the assassination was prompted by statements "concerning the possibility that bullets were lodged in door posts." This probe was initiated as the result of interviews with two carpenters and a maitre d' at the hotel, Van de Kamp added.

The two carpenters, Dale L. Poore and Wesley S. Harrington, said in affidavits that they noticed two "apparent bullet holes" on a pantry door facing.

Poore said the bullets probably would have gone through the facing, which was removed after the assassination for investigation and subsequently destroyed by police after Sirhan's conviction, and lodged in underlying wood which remains in place.

Harrington added that he feels he can identify the underlying wood, if given the opportunity, due to various construction details he recalls.

The maitre d', Angelo Di Pierro, said in his affidavit that after the assassination he saw a bullet hole in a doorframe, about 5-foot-9 from the floor.

Affidavits from two police officers also were released yesterday by Van de Kamp. Officers Robert Rozzi and Charles Wright, who were in the pantry after the shooting, both said they saw an apparent bullet hole in the doorframe, located about 18 inches from the floor.

"These statements... indicate the potential existence of four different bullet holes in the area of the shooting of Mr. Kennedy and others," Van de Kamp said. The pantry search was made by investigators from the city Police Dept., the Sheriff's Dept., the City Attorney's office and the state Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation along with the District Attorney's office. The team was headed by Chief District Atty. Steve Trotter.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



MORE CHECKING—Donald Hale, left, and Richard Binale of the Scientific Investigation Division of LAPD carry two pieces of wood removed from Ambassador pantry for detailed examination

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

**II-1 LOS ANGELES TIMES
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Probe Backs 1-Gun Belief in RFK Death

Thursday night's search of the Ambassador Hotel by authorities tends to lend further support to the belief that only one gun was used in the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, according to Dist. Atty. John Van de Kamp.

Discussing the results of the 7½ hour probe, Van de Kamp yesterday listed three main findings:

- No spent bullets or fragments were found.

- No tangible evidence of there being any bullet fragments was found.

- The object being pointed out by two policemen in a 1968 Associated Press photograph of a door appears to have been a nail which still is lodged there.

Although he admitted there had been little expectation of finding anything new, Van de Kamp said the search was just a part of "pursuing every conceivable lead."

He added, "It may not be possible to resolve every lingering doubt . . . but we'll try."

The District Attorney said part of the wood from a center divider between double doors in the Ambassador's kitchen area had been removed Thursday night for laboratory analysis. The indentation in the piece of wood, however, does not appear to have been made by a bullet.

Experts also will be reviewing about 5½ hours of videotape made during the hotel examination. That tape will be made available to the press as soon as possible, Van de Kamp said.

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The probe, conducted by 30 men, resulted from a study of statements by two police officers and two others who said they saw what appeared to be bullet holes in wooded areas of the pantry where Kennedy was shot.

District Attorney investigators also talked to two carpenters, formerly employed at the Ambassador, who also said there appeared to be bullet holes in the 3/4-inch facing on the center divider after the murder.

Van de Kamp said Los Angeles police destroyed the wood facing routinely after apparently determining it was not relevant to the investigation. Since the original underlying wood was still intact, it was decided to see if it showed any evidence of bullets, he explained.

In a related development, Superior Court Judge Robert Wenke has scheduled a hearing for Dec. 31 on a petition to extend the hearings delving into the theory that a second gun was used in the assassination.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kennedy Case Study Extended

By United Press International

A search of the Los Angeles hotel area where Robert Kennedy was killed turned up no evidence of new bullets or bullet holes. But the district attorney is not ready to give up a reinvestigation of the 1968 assassination.

"We will pursue every avenue, including the potential use of the grand jury," John Van de Kamp told reporters Friday after an overnight search of the pantry area of the Ambassador Hotel.

Van de Kamp said officers found no evidence that any gun besides the weapon taken from convicted assassin Sirhan Sirhan was fired at Kennedy the night he won the California Democratic primary.

"The evidence we have now does not establish there was a second gun," he said.

"No spent bullets or fragments were found in the search. No tangible evidence of previous spent bullet presence was found."

Van de Kamp said he probably would oppose efforts to extend court hearings by Judge Robert Wenke, which are directed at evidence presented during Sirhan's trial. But he indicated he would support moves to expand the inquiry in other areas.

"We are happy and willing to go into some other forum," he said, mentioning a civil case and a grand jury.

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Van de Kamp said criminologists who searched the hotel established that the object in a pantry door frame pointed at by two policemen in a photograph taken several hours after the shooting was a nail, not a bullet.

Deputy District Attorney Stephen Trott, who led the hotel search, said police had not removed and destroyed that frame, as they had some others.

Former deputy District Attorney Vincent Bugliosi, now a private attorney representing one of five persons wounded in the shooting, had contended the presence of a bullet in the hole would prove the existence of a second gun.

The criminologists also examined the wood under facing removed around other door frames after Kennedy's shooting and found no evidence that bullets had been fired into them. Van de Kamp said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Expansion of RFK Miniprobe Falls Into Limbo

Expansion of the Superior Court mini-probe into Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination appears a remote possibility today, although final ruling on a petition to hear new evidence was continued into the new year.

Presiding Judge Robert A. Wenke said he will rule after Jan. 21, on a petition by attorneys Vincent P. Bugliosi and Allard Lowenstein asking the court to take testimony of police officers and others who claim knowledge about extra bullets fired when the senator was slain in the Ambassador Hotel pantry June 5, 1969.

Lowenstein and Bugliosi represent Kennedy campaign aide Paul Schrade, who joined Columbia Broadcasting System last year in a petition to re-examine firearms evidence used in conviction of Sirhan B. Sirhan for the murder.

Judge Wenke indicated he could find no authority to extend the court inquiry beyond the recently completed examination of the Sirhan trial exhibits by seven ballistic experts who concluded there was no evidence of a second gun being used in the assassination.

He suggested Schrade seek information about any extra bullets, which could indicate a second gunman or conspiracy through pretrial discovery proceedings in the civil damage suit Schrade filed before joining the mini-probe petitioners.

Bugliosi, who admitted an expanded probe should be the responsibility of the District Attorney, said Schrade lacks funds to continue the investigation.

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Judge Delays Decision on Further Kennedy Inquiry

Hints Proceeding Should Not Be Continued and Suggests Civil Action Might Be Appropriate

BY WILLIAM FARR and JOHN KENDALL

Times Staff Writers

Superior Judge Robert A. Wenke deferred action Wednesday on a petition to extend the "second-gun" inquiry into the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Wenke, the presiding judge of Los Angeles Superior Court, gave attorneys three weeks to file responses to points raised during three hours of arguments.

However, he indicated that he felt the unusual discovery-type proceeding over which he has presided since September should not be continued. He suggested a civil action seemed more appropriate.

Both Dep. Dist. Atty. Dinko Bozanic and Dep. Atty. Gen. Russell Iungerich questioned whether the court has jurisdiction to probe further in an investigative way questions raised by skeptics of the Kennedy investigation. Iungerich charged that the petitioner, Paul Schrade, wanted to use the court as a "roving commission" and suggested that Schrade, one of five persons wounded when Kennedy was fatally shot, wanted to create doubt, not eliminate it.

Some individuals, he said, have demonstrated an "insatiable appetite to pursue a red herring," at taxpayers' expense when "any rational human being" would concede the hearing had "gotten to the bottom of it."

"There is no doubt that Sirhan acted alone," Iungerich declared.

The deputy attorney general cited the findings of experts appointed to examine physical evidence introduced at Sirhan B. Sirhan's trial. The panel refuted Sirhan's gun.

In examining Sirhan's .22-caliber Iver-Johnson Colt, Iungerich said, experts found barrel imperfections that left marks in testing that were similar to those discovered on both evidence and test bullets.

For there to be a second gun, he said, another .22-caliber Iver-Johnson Colt with those same "unique" imperfections would have had to be in the pantry room when the senator was shot.

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Worfield

Since Sirhan acquired his gun second hand, Iungerich continued, a second gunman would have had to acquire an identical revolver from another source and be in the Ambassador firing at the same time.

Yet, he said, not a single witness in that crowded pantry saw the flash of a second gun or heard it.

"That boggles the mind in terms of the probability that that could happen," Iungerich concluded.

Sirhan's attorney, Godfrey Isaac, said that his client has no knowledge of a second gunman.

"Sirhan has no memory of that night," Isaac said. "All he wants to find out is whether he shot and killed Sen. Kennedy. If he did, so be it."

Schrade's attorneys, Vincent T. Bugliosi and Allard K. Lowenstein, took the position that since the court assumed jurisdiction in refiring Sirhan's gun it has jurisdiction to examine further questions.

The new area that Schrade wished to pursue was how many shots were fired in the Ambassador pantry on June 5, 1968, and their pathways.

In Schrade's action, he is seeking to call persons who said they saw holes that may have contained bullets or had been told the holes had bullets in them.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

RFK ballistics tests called inconclusive

By Meg McCormack
DB Staff Writer

"The conclusion of the seven ballistics experts in the RFK assassination case has not laid to rest the theory of the second gun," according to Allard K. Lowenstein, ex-Democratic Congressman from New York.

Lowenstein, a longtime investigator into the Kennedy assassination cases, was one of those chiefly responsible for reopening the investigation into Kennedy's death. Several discrepancies between the testimony of eyewitnesses and the police reports were brought to Lowenstein's attention four years ago.

Discrepancies

Some of the discrepancies cited by Lowenstein include:

—The autopsy performed on Senator Kennedy established that Kennedy was shot 3 times from point blank range. The fatal bullet entered Kennedy's head from a distance of one to one and a half inches. The consensus of eyewitness testimony places Sirhan Sirhan's gun no closer than two to three feet from Kennedy at the time the gun was fired.

—Sirhan's gun could and did fire eight bullets. Five bullets were recovered from bystanders, and two were recovered from Kennedy. One bullet is officially listed as "lost in the ceiling interspace." The LAPD removed three panels from the ceiling and booked them as evidence because they contained bullet holes. These panels later mysteriously "disappeared."

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AD RECHARD	

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—At the time of the assassination at least one more bullet was reported found in the pantry. An AP wirephoto taken on June 5, 1968 shows two policemen examining what Karl Uecker, one of the people closest to the actual shooting, gave this statement in his testimony: "I have told the police ... that there was a distance of at least one and a half feet between the muzzle of Sirhan's gun and Kennedy's head. The revolver was directly in front of my nose. After Sirhan's second shot, I pushed the hand that held the revolver down, and pushed him onto the steam table. There is no way that the shots described by the autopsy could have come from Sirhan's gun."

—The ballistics experts report that was released by Judge Robert Wenke stated the bullets examined by the panel could "not be concluded" to have been fired by the Sirhan revolver.

Not investigated

Many of these discrepancies, which first appeared in an article by Lowenstein on May 4, 1974, have still not been investigated.

Lowenstein, however, was not disappointed by the findings of the ballistics panel. "I had no prejudgements as to what they would find."

He added there had been a lack of cooperation on the part of the police. "God, yes, there was resistance. The investigation took two years to happen. The police commissioner still hasn't turned over needed evidence. And resistance adds to the sense that there is something to hide."

As the past two presidential elections have been marred by assassinations and assassination attempts, Lowenstein feels that it is crucial that any group or groups devoted to such violence be uncovered. Recent connections of the CIA with planned assassinations of foreign leaders open speculation that events such as these could occur internally, Lowenstein feels.

Hanging menace

"If that group exists, clearly there is a menace hanging over our heads all the time. If they exist at all, no one is looking for them," Lowenstein said. He hopes that the JFK case will be re-opened, citing that 12 marksmen have as yet failed to reproduce Lee Harvey Oswald's shot — even when the demonstration car was standing completely still.

"There are explicit allegations in the Warren Commission report that are totally unsupported by their own evidence," Lowenstein said. He feels such an investigation would be properly handled by a government agency, as he has been "nearing bankruptcy" in pursuit of the investigation.

Lowenstein described his chief motivation for investigating the assassinations. "If you are always telling people to vote, and there is a group interrupting this, then there is no democracy."



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

2nd Man in RFK Case Disputed

Attorney Thomas Kranz, appointed last August to investigate the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said he is "totally convinced that convicted killer Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone."

Kranz said he is preparing a report for Dist. Atty. John Van de Kamp that will state there was no second gunman in the Kennedy assassination:

The attorney said that based on scientific evidence, circumstantial evidence, inference, observations from eyewitnesses and common sense, "there was no second gunman."

After refiring Sirhan's weapon last fall, a panel of seven experts reported there was no substantive or demonstrable evidence to indicate more than one gun was used to fire any of the bullets examined.

Winfield

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Investigator Is Sure Sirhan Acted Alone

**Attorney Who Headed
Review of Slaying Will
Report Findings to DA**

**BY JOHN KENDALL
and WILLIAM FARR**
Times Staff Writers

No matter what some skeptics say, the special counsel appointed to review the Robert F. Kennedy assassination thinks that Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone.

"I'm totally convinced from the scientific evidence, from eyewitnesses, from circumstantial evidence, from inferences, as well as the reality of common sense, there was no second gunman," Thomas Kranz said in an interview.

The 37-year-old private attorney, appointed last August by then acting Dist. Atty. John Howard, one of Sirhan's prosecutors, is preparing a report for Dist. Atty. John van De Kamp.

Aside from concluding there was no second gunman, the report will recommend creation of an independent crime laboratory outside the Los Angeles Police Department and adoption of a policy for preserving potential evidence.

Kranz also will suggest that Van De Kamp's office investigate a mystery: How did the barrel of Sirhan's gun become severely coated with lead after it was originally test-fired in 1968?

Implicit in that unexplained anomaly, Kranz thinks, is whether Sirhan's .22-caliber Iver-Johnson Cadet was tampered with while in the care of the Los Angeles County clerk's office.

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To what end? In an entirely different suggestion of possible conspiracy, Kranz speculates that someone may have tried to discredit the LAPD or intelligence agencies by creating doubt about the case.

Whatever the reason for the lead-rd barrel, Kranz does not think it bears on whether Sirhan acted alone when Kennedy and five others were shot in the Ambassador pantry on June 5, 1968.

In Kranz' view, a hearing before Los Angeles Superior Judge Robert A. Wenke answered the "second gun" question to all but die-hard doubters, conspiracy lovers, publicity seekers or the uninformed.

A panel of seven experts re-fired Sirhan's gun last Sept. 26, exhaustively examined bullet evidence introduced at Sirhan's trial and jointly responded on Oct. 5 that:

"There is no substantive or demonstrable evidence to indicate that more than one gun was used to fire any of the bullets examined."

Although some experts came close to positive identification, none found unequivocally that bullets taken from Kennedy and two other victims, Ira Goldstein and William Weisel, came from Sirhan's gun and "no other gun in the world."

Their difficulty, the experts said, was a lack of sufficient individual characteristics—tiny scratches called striae—on the bullets to permit a positive identification.

In press conferences afterward, skeptics argued that since Sirhan's revolver had not been positively identified as the murder weapon the question of a second gunman in the pantry remained entirely open.

They accused the media of misinterpreting what the experts had found, and they again raised questions about how many shots had been fired, calling for further investigation.

Publicly ignored at the time, however, were other expert conclusions, which, in Kranz' opinion, reduce the probability of a second gunman to nonsense and nearly a "mathematical impossibility."

The experts discovered that Sirhan's revolver had been damaged—either accidentally or in manufacture—in a way that left "gross imperfections" on test bullets fired through it.

Damaged spots in the gun's muzzle marked bullets with a double furrow.

That "gross imperfection" was discovered on the Kennedy, Goldstein and Weisel bullets and on test bullets fired by the LAPD in 1968 and by the expert panel last fall.

To the experts, the identifying gouge indicated that the evidence bullets had been fired by Sirhan's damaged Iver-Johnson, but they stopped short of positive identification.

It was not their task as firearms identification experts to go beyond what they saw in their comparison microscopes or what they could testify to with absolute certainty.

Any other implications—if any—were up to others, such as Kranz, who relates the double-gouge signature of Sirhan's gun with the possibility that there was a second gunman firing at Kennedy.

For a second assassin to have shot the senator, Kranz reasons, the unseen gunman would have had to have a weapon exactly like Sirhan's, down to the damaged barrel.

If that were not so, he said, how is it possible for the Kennedy, Goldstein and Weisel bullets and the old and new test bullets fired by Sirhan's gun to have that identifying double-furrow gouge?

What are the chances, Kranz asks, that two identically damaged .22 caliber Iver-Johnson Cadet models were firing the same copper-jacketed, mini-mag, hollow-tipped ammunition at the same time?

Then, Kranz adds a further complicating factor: Sirhan bought his gun second-hand. How did a second gunman acquire a weapon exactly like it?

"That defies mathematical probability," he said. "It's totally illogical."

Kranz follows similar reasoning in considering another expert finding.

In individual reports, five of the seven experts positively found—directly or inferentially—that bullets recovered from Kennedy, Goldstein and Weisel were fired from the same gun.

Again, the experts did not pursue possible implications of that key conclusion, and again, Kranz does. He relates the point to the question of where a second gunman could have stood in the pantry.

Almost from the beginning, "second gun" theorists have suggested that a second assassin stood at Kennedy's right rear and fired point-blank into the senator.

Citing expert testimony at Sirhan's 1969 trial, they point out that bullets which struck Kennedy behind the right ear and twice beneath the right arm traveled right to left and upward.

Coroner Thomas Noguchi's findings then are related by the skeptics to eyewitness accounts of where Sirhan was standing. They insist Sirhan fired eight shots from a distance while facing the senator.

If it then follows that Sirhan was not in a position to fire right to left at point-blank range, the doubters ask, who did? It must have been someone standing to Kennedy's right rear, they suggest.

And, who was there? In that spot was a private security guard hired by the Ambassador, a guard who later told police he had pulled his gun but did not fire when Sirhan opened up.

To Kranz, however, the suggested position of the phantom gunman to Kennedy's right rear makes absolutely no sense, if—as most of the experts say—the Kennedy, Goldstein and Weisel bullets came from the same gun.

To make his point, the attorney relates the relative positions of Kennedy, Goldstein and Weisel, all in Sirhan's line of fire west to east in the pantry.

Weisel was standing about 27 feet east of Kennedy near the pantry's entrance. Goldstein was closer, about 8 feet from the senator in the same eastward direction.

Under those circumstances—and considering what the experts found—Kranz said, a second gunman would have had to shoot Kennedy close up, from the right rear, and then turn and fire behind the senator, hitting Goldstein and Weisel—without being seen by anyone in the crowded pantry.

Aside from why a second assassin might want to do such a thing, Kranz concludes that "it's logically impossible."

As part of his reinvestigation of the Kennedy case, Kranz interviewed Thane Cesar, the private guard for the Ace Guard Service who was standing near Kennedy.

"Well, why didn't you fire your gun?" Kranz said he asked Cesar. "You were there to protect Kennedy." The attorney said that Cesar replied that he was "a coward."

"He said he fell down, was getting

up and had his gun out, when someone came up to him and said, 'Put it away. It's no use.'"

Cesar told him, Kranz said, that a few hours after Kennedy was shot a police officer at Rampart Station examined his .38-caliber revolver, but the LAPD did not keep it to be test-fired.

That was a mistake, Kranz thinks, although he admits he and others are profiting from hindsight. Nevertheless, he believes it is important to examine the Kennedy investigation closely.

"I think you have to separate the fact that the evidence shows conclusively that Sirhan acted as the one gunman from the problems that developed after the shooting and Sirhan's apprehension," he said.

In Kranz' view, the LAPD did an "excellent job" in probing whether Sirhan might have been part of a conspiracy but "sloppy" scientific work, mistakes and poor judgment led to questions about the entire investigation.

Kranz is specifically critical of LAPD criminalist DeWayne A. Wolfer, who mismarked bullet evidence introduced at Sirhan's trial and who used a substitute for Sirhan's gun to conduct muzzle-distant tests.

He also criticizes what he considers to be a lack of sufficient written reports showing what Wolfer did in evaluating physical evidence in the Kennedy case.

The "second gun" hearing before Wenke produced testimony that a search of LAPD files failed to disclose analyzed evidence reports on bullets taken from the five victims other than Kennedy.

It also was reported that there were no reports on X-rays of ceiling panels taken from the pantry or spectrographic analysis of evidence bullets, both of which Wolfer testified he might have made.

"Here you have a major aspect of the prosecution's case which isn't substantially documented," Kranz said.

In Kranz' opinion, the lack of records made even worse the LAPD's destruction of bullet-punctured ceiling panels taken from the Ambassador pantry.

Asst. Police Chief Daryl Gates told the Los Angeles City Council last August that the panels had been routinely destroyed in 1969, within weeks after Sirhan's trial had ended.

"Legally," Kranz said, "it was not evidence that was destroyed. The panels were not introduced as evidence at the trial. I just think that it was lack of judgment. It was a lack of common sense and inexcusable because the case had worldwide magnitude.

"More importantly, Sirhan had been convicted and his appeal was not even in prospect yet. Potential evidence should never be destroyed until the entire case has run out.

"What the hell were these things destroyed for?

"That borders on Catch 22 insanity. It was just like they were opening up the doors to total criticism and doubt. There's no way it can be explained."

Kranz thinks the same thing about the destruction of a substitute revolver used for muzzle-distance tests because Sirhan's gun had been introduced as evidence in a grand jury hearing.

He believes the substitute Iver-Johnson should not have been used in the first place, but since it was, it should have been saved from routine LAPD destruction, even if a court order was required to do it.

"It was wrong," Kranz said. "It was just idiotic. There's no excuse or explanation that justifies why it was done, especially in the aftermath of the lack of faith in government institutions these last several years.

"You can't go into a supermarket without reading about conspiracy. Every talk show in town has orchestrated this into the new entertainment—assassination fever.

"Public agencies that refuse to use good judgment and sense in giving rational explanations are just undermining their own credibility."

In that respect, Kranz plans to recommend in his final report that the LAPD release a 10-volume summary of the Kennedy investigation, with personal histories edited out.

"It again makes no sense to keep these things private because all they do is undermine people's faith in law enforcement and public agencies," he said.

"If you're going to have secret reports issued to representatives of the people, then why shouldn't they be made public?

"I understand that files on terrorism, sabotage and threats to lives and property need to remain secret, but these 10 volumes are not that.

"This secret report and the unexplained timing of the destruction of those ceiling panels just continue to fan the fires of doubt."

Kranz still asks questions himself about at least one aspect brought out at the "second gun" inquiry, estimated to have cost Los Angeles County taxpayers about \$150,000.

Studying Sirhan's revolver before firing it, the experts found that its barrel had been severely coated with lead. After firing copper-jacketed bullets through it, the barrel was free of lead.

The mystery is how did the barrel become leaded, if copper-jacketed bullets of the type fired by Sirhan had the effect of cleaning the barrel.

It is known that Sirhan fired eight copper-jacketed bullets in the pantry. LAPD Criminalist Wolfer fired eight similar bullets into a water tank, recovering seven, which were introduced as evidence.

No other shots were supposedly fired from Sirhan's gun until the experts examined it.

Where then did the lead in the barrel come from?

Under cross-examination, the chairman of the panel of experts, Patrick V. Garland, was asked whether he thought someone fired uncoated lead bullets through Sirhan's gun sometime between Wolfer's test-firing and when the experts examined it.

"Yes, sir," Garland replied.

For Kranz, his final report to the district attorney will mark a closing of a chapter of his life which began more than seven years ago when he first heard balloon-popping sounds from the Ambassador pantry.

Kranz, a volunteer worker for Kennedy's California campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, was in the Embassy Room where Kennedy had just spoken. He had a transistor radio.

"My first reaction was, 'Well, it's just a celebration or something.' And, then I heard screaming, and the screaming was like cheers and several seconds later, more.

"Then, more cheers that I felt sounded strange, and I realized they were screams. They were really screams of panic.

"The next thing was someone up there on the microphone saying, 'Is there a doctor in the house? Is there a doctor?' It just kept going over and over.

"Within maybe a minute, the radio came on and the agony was knowing he had been shot. I sensed then that he was dead.

"What I hope is that my final report will cut through all of that and provide a realistic picture for the public."



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Did RFK's Order Seal His Death?

By AL STUMP

In an angry outburst eight hours before his 1968 assassination, Robert F. Kennedy ordered Los Angeles Police Department bodyguards to stop protecting him and barred them from his presence -- thereby possibly sealing his death warrant, according to sources here.

Former Police Department security specialist Marion D. Hoover revealed to The Herald-Examiner that Senator Kennedy lashed out at a Parker Center detail assigned to him, saying, "Get the hell away from me and stay away!"

The order was obeyed with great reluctance by the dozen men named to guard the presidential aspirant during his Los Angeles campaign visit.

"At 4:30 p.m. of June 4, our intelligence group was forced to withdraw all of our protection," disclosed Hoover, who headed the "hot-squad" unit.

"Kennedy irately demanded that we pull out.

"The senator insisted, even though earlier in the day he'd been swarmed over, knocked down and almost trampled by downtown crowds."

Hours later -- when Bobby Kennedy was fatally shot at the Ambassador Hotel -- the Los Angeles police force did not have one officer stationed inside the building.

"The truth is that we had nobody there for only one reason -- we were told to stay away, and far away, by Kennedy, personally," Hoover now reports.

Routine procedure for LAPD Intelligence would have been to check out the hotel's pantry before the V.I.P. and his party entered it and to positively identify everyone there, pointed out Hoover.

"We also would have had three trained men on either side of him and one out front. And, although some of us might have been shot, we could have made all the difference in the world," added the retired officer, who won 27 citations and two Medals of Valor in his 25-year police career.

Early in the morning of June 5, 25-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, an intruder in the pantry, fired fatal bullets into the brother of assassinated President John Kennedy.

one of them all here because we were not wanted."

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

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The detailed account supplied by ex-Secret Service Chief, traveling in two cars, is the first inside report on what advisers LAPD commanders that they were evidently was a case of open hostility by "walking on eggs" and that they were worried about their man's constant exposure determined attempt by police despite this to from point to point. One LAPD official says, guard him against a situation which grew. "We learned that Kennedy wished to appear more dangerous through a frantic day. anti-police, non-establishment and to not

Chief of police at the time, Thomas Red, need our help because it was the politically din, confirmed the Hoover story, adding: smart thing to do at the time."

"Robert Kennedy very definitely wanted. Moving to the Old Plaza near Olvera no part of us from the beginning of the trip. Street, Kennedy drew a crowd estimated at despite implicit hazards. from 12,000 to 15,000, which "went wild" when

"He even tried to prevent us from he agreed to pose for snapshots with supervising his motorcade through central various individuals. Hoover's detail had but streets on the morning of his death. ons torn off their jackets as they struggled to

"And he blocked us out of the Am-prevent people from overrunning a speaker's bassador, where we were allowed only out-podium. side plainclothes and traffic details.

"Had we been able to control security from the start, certainly the attack on him quite possibly could have been averted."

Street scenes which continued to leave local lawmen with feelings of deep regret began building toward a tragedy at mid-morning. Deplaning at International Airport, the senator was warned by Hoover to "get ready for a rough day." Racial tension had built locally after firings of some East Los Angeles Mexican-American teachers, who were supported by Senator Kennedy.

"At the outset, at the airport," says Commander Peter Hagan of the LAPD, "a bunch of non-official, grey-shirted and very arrogant motorcycle riders appeared to escort Kennedy from LAX to the garment district downtown. We objected.

"We were informed they were Kennedy backers and to keep that in mind. But in the first few miles they raced through one red traffic light after another. We counted 31 violations and planned to send them to the city attorney's office for prosecution.

"However, when Kennedy died, we dropped the matter."

On Spring Street in the garment section, bodyguard Hoover stuck close to Kennedy, but was unable to prevent him from being knocked to the pavement by a milling 3,000 friends and opponents.

Hagan recounts that an LAPD motor sergeant ran up to help Bobby to his feet. "His hand was batted away by Kennedy who told him to get out of there," says Hagan. That was one of first indications that he intended to waste our usefulness and depend upon his small Secret Service contingent, alone."

Other witnesses testify that the garment throng became so unruly that Kennedy's shoes were torn off and taken. An hour later, new shoes were purchased during his brief stop at the Biltmore Hotel.

Hoover. "Here Kennedy had several sets of cuff links torn off — he kept replacing them — and there was no way in the world to protect him."

Ethel Kennedy, pregnant, sat in a parked car and expressed fear over what was going on and asked the LAPD to "please get him out — and fast."

When a route was created through the massed crowd, Kennedy climbed onto his white Chrysler convertible with Marion Hoover and other police holding onto his legs.

"A man I recognized as a punk local pickpocket reached up and grabbed Kennedy's watch off his wrist and began to run."

"I tackled him and threw him into the arms of one of our plainclothesmen," relates Hoover.

"With that, Kennedy blew up."

"He came totally apart and began to scream at me to get away from him and take the other officers with me. He told us, 'Everybody off the car from now on!'"

"And the senator shouted at newsmen around us that he'd have no more pictures taken with local police."

"We protested, but he ordered his car started and they took off at speed, leaving us standing there in the Plaza."

"As the car shot away, it grazed a Los Angeles police officer who was running alongside to offer security and knocked him head-over-heels."

With the intelligence detail of 12 left behind, Kennedy's motorcade proceeded to the Greek Theatre in the Los Feliz district. Hoover radioed Parker Center and reported to his superiors that he'd just been "fired" by the former attorney general and eventual winner of the California primary.

"We'd already heard about it," says Chief Ed Davis, "and we told the unit to pull out, if that was the way the senator insisted on having it."

An incident at the Greek Theatre raised police hackles. The unchecked crowd knocked down women and children, claims Commander Hagan, including one infant. "Her grandmother called us to complain we weren't upholding law and order in Los Angeles. We told her with regrets that the Kennedy people wanted no assistance from us."

Meanwhile, at headquarters, Chief Reddin contemplated what steps he could take to shield the senator at the sprawling Ambassador, where he would appear that night.

"Contact with the Kennedy people was made and it was made clear that our presence not only wasn't wanted, but was inimical to what was called his best interest," states the one-time chief.

Thus not one civic sworn officer was among the several thousand packed into the Ambassador to join in an election victory party the night of the assassination.

This was unprecedented in the city's modern history.

"We've set up elaborate protection for Russia's Nikita Khrushchev, Queen

Wilhelmina of Holland, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, Dwight Eisenhower, John Ken-

edy and many more, but never were we excluded from anywhere they went," said Ed

Davis, adding wryly, "Jack Kennedy was absolutely uncontrollable when he was in Los Angeles, jumping out of cars into the crowd and leaving police in the lurch at 80 m.p.h."

"But at least he didn't tell us to buzz off."

Marion Hoover, bodyguard to two city mayors and remembered as the security cop who refused Khrushchev a trip to Disneyland, to the premier's fury, was at home, watching TV, when he learned that Bobby Kennedy had been shot.

And his 11 partners of the Intelligence unit also were off duty when shots rang out.

"I can't tell you what I thought then. I've never told anyone," says Hoover. At 52, he is the model for the 'Bumper Morgan' character in television's "Blue Knight" series.

Parker Center veterans don't bother to conceal their disgust over a presidential candidate entering a strange room, "with only a few amateur sport stars and what Secret Service could get through the mob to cover him."

Following the shooting, police here came in for heavy — but temporary — criticism for alleged failure to provide a tight network around their guests.

"That stopped very quickly," states Commander Hagan.

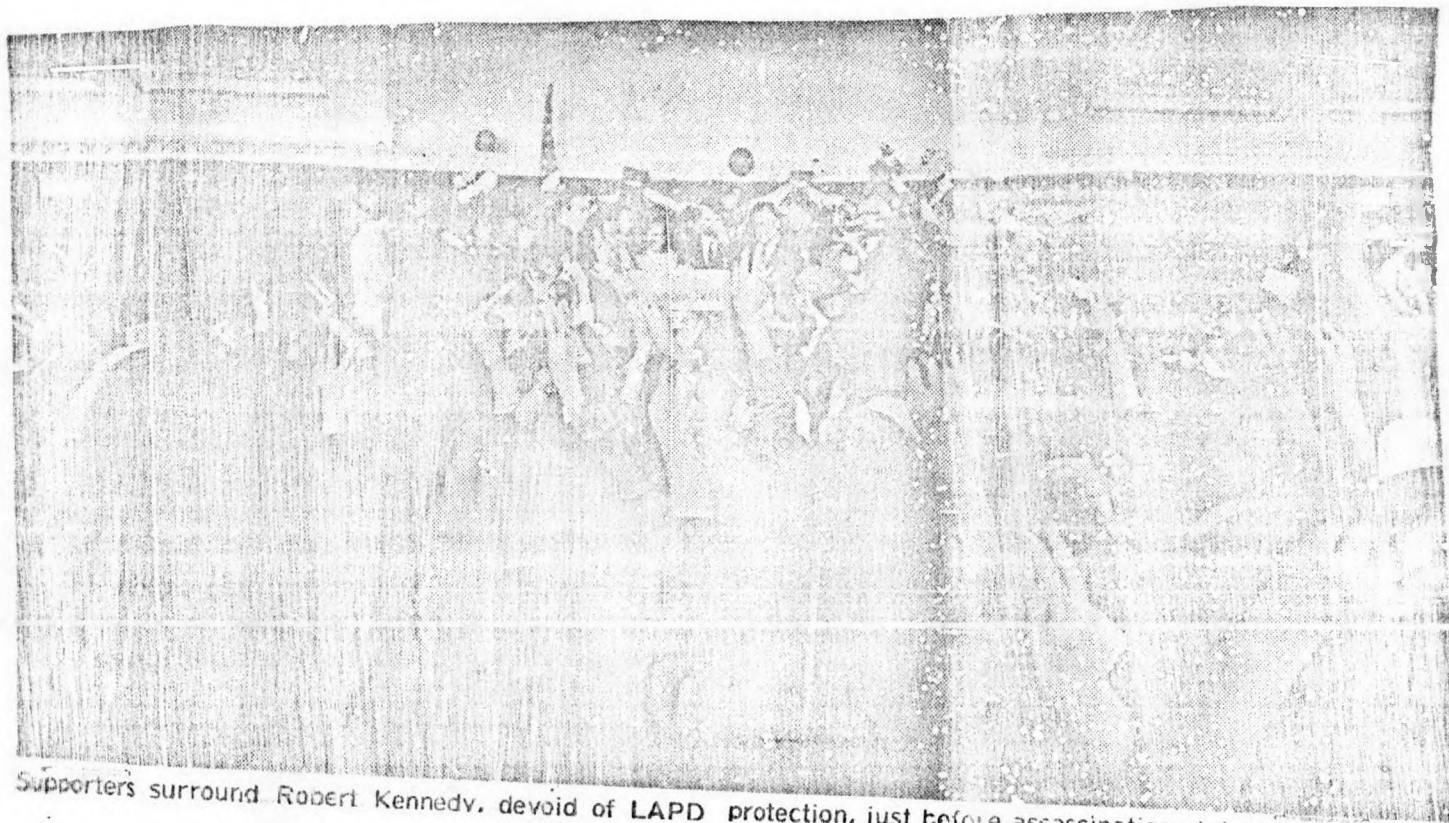
"We notified Washington that he had dozens of witnesses to our rejection right down the line, and would be glad to make full public disclosure of Robert Kennedy's attitude that we stay out of the picture.

"After that we never heard another complaint from Washington or anyone else."

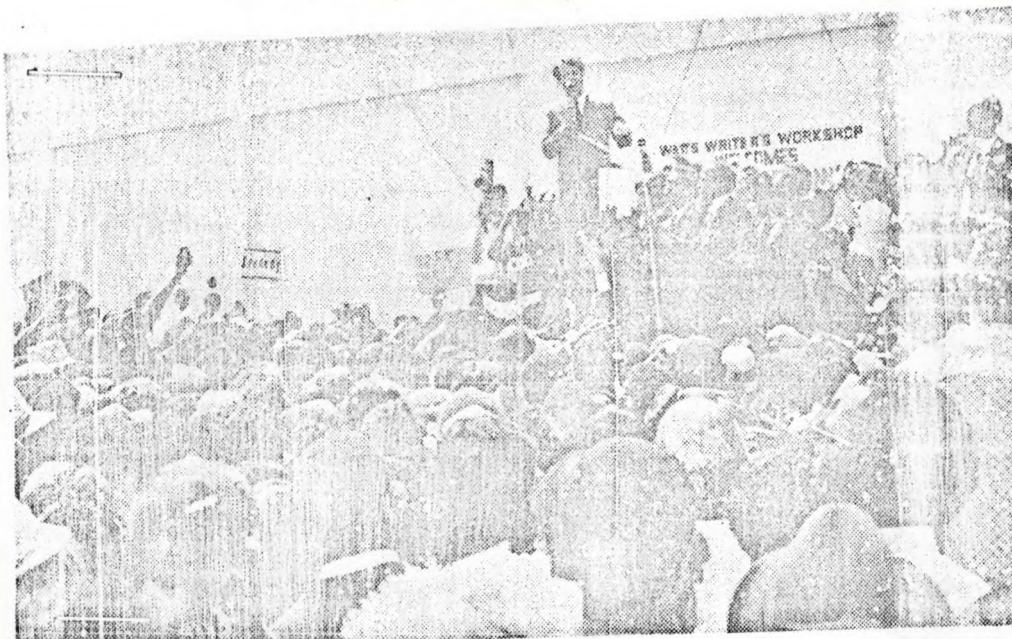
When Washington asked the LAPD to provide escort of Senator Kennedy's body to the airport, for a flight east, this was done.

"And, unbelievable as it sounds, the same grey-shirted, lawbreaking bunch on motorcycles who'd ridden with Kennedy on June 4 showed up to help with the escorting," Hagan said.

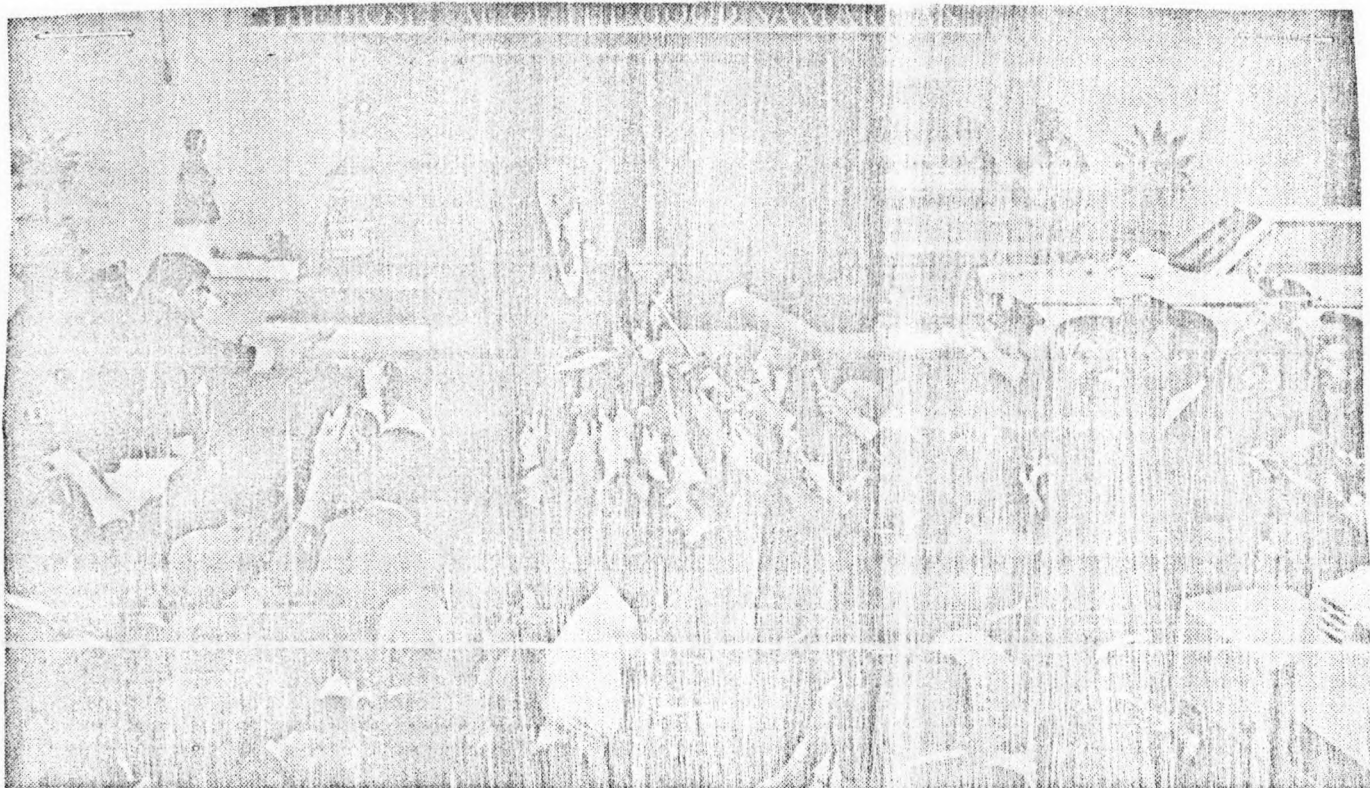
"We had to use some muscle to chase them away."



Supporters surround Robert Kennedy, devoid of LAPD protection, just before assassination at Ambassador Hotel.



At Watts Writer's Workshop, Kennedy addressed members of the black community. Again, the absence of Los Angeles police is notable.



Before he was shot, RFK angrily ordered all protection by Los Angeles police to cease. As Kennedy lay

critically wounded in Good Samaritan Hospital, police surrounded his press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz.



Early June 4, 1968, before his outburst demanding removal of L.A. police protection, Robert Kennedy was already surrounded by turbulent crowds. One policeman's cap can be seen at far left. At various points in the tour that day, RFK's shoes, cufflinks and even his watch were snatched from his possession.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

RFK Assassination Researcher Tells KNXT News that FBI Reports Reveal Eleven Shots Fired During RFK Death

by Greg Roberts

As a result of a series of special requests and lawsuits made to the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act by Washington D.C. attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, a little more than 800 pages of once classified FBI reports pertaining to the Bobby Kennedy assassination were recently released by Director Clarence M. Kelley.

The late U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968, shortly after he had just claimed victory in the California Democratic Party Presidential Primary race of that day.

"Some of the FBI reports and photographs released under the Freedom of Information Act indicate that the FBI agents believed strongly that they had located bullet holes where the Los Angeles Police have since said there were none," Dr. Robert Joling, an RFK assassination researcher, told KNXT-TV, Channel 2 newsmen Bill Stout in a televised interview broadcast last Sunday night, June 13th.

"Here you see (in a photograph shown on television) Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the Los Angeles County Coroner, in (an) FBI photograph, pointing to a bullet hole in the door-jamb," Dr. Joling, a former president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, added.

All in all, according to what Dr. Joling stated, the Federal Bureau of Investigation team which went over the kitchen pantry at the Ambassador Hotel, recorded four extra bullets which the LAPD was willing to acknowledge the existence of.

That is, the Los Angeles Police and District Attorney's Office have repeatedly asserted that Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone and fired only eight gunshots at Robert Kennedy.

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But if the FBI investigators found bullet holes in these four separate locations, then there were at least 11 gunshots fired, and obviously all of the shots not coming from the deranged lone assassin and patsy.

The lawyer who obtained the once classified FBI reports, Bernard ("Bud") Fensterwald, is the co-founder of the now defunct Washington D.C. based Committee to Investigate Assassinations (CTIA), and who once represented Nixon administration Watergate defendant James McCord, and alleged Martin Luther King assassin James Earl Ray.

In a telephone interview, Art Kevin of KMPC Radio said he was familiar with the FBI reports in question.

"It is my feeling on this that they were assumptive bullet holes on the part of the FBI, or 'holes' which they initially thought could be bullet holes but later proved to not be bullet holes," Kevin advised on June 17th.

Apparently these FBI photographs were taken on or about June 5, 1968, during the very early stages of the RFK assassination probe, and the subsequent descriptive reports were not initially intended to be total proof that legitimate bullet holes had been discovered.

On the other hand, as Asst. LAPD Chief Daryl Gates pointed out, each of the doorjamb and ceiling panels in question were destroyed by the Los Angeles Police Department on June 29, 1969, because they weren't introduced as evidence at Sirhan's trial.

At the L.A. FBI office, a high-ranking official pointed out, "The FBI in Washington D.C., which has released some reports recently under the Freedom of Information Act, told those who received the reports that there was no evidence of a conspiracy or a second gun contained in the FBI documents."

"That assertion," said another FBI spokesman in response to Dr. Joling's reported comments, "is just so much garbage."

"Those FBI reports don't say what he claims they say."

"The matter has been submitted to the courts and the judicial system has determined that Sirhan Sirhan acted alone."

"If they, or anybody else for that matter, has any new information, we suggest they submit it to the L.A. District Attorney," the FBI spokesman explained.

Two of the four RFK assassination supervising lieutenants, Lt. Manuel Pena and Lt. Enrique Hernandez, had prior connections with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency," said researcher Donald Freed, author of a paperback book on the RFK case.

The other individual, Lt. Pena, who was in charge of background/conspiracy investigations for the LAPD, also served the CIA's United Police Latin American Training project.

"He says he taught English for 10 months while traveling in Latin America," says Freed of Pena's activities before heading up SUS's conspiracy investigation.

In terms of the LAPD having con-
ducted an honest investigation, Freed
said that the police probe of the RFK
case had been "discredited" com-
pletely.

Both Freed and Rhodes contend that
Lt. Hernandez had either intimidated
witnesses with evidence of conspiracy
and "in three instances Lt. Hernandez
tore up the results of his own polyg-
raph," Rhodes contends.

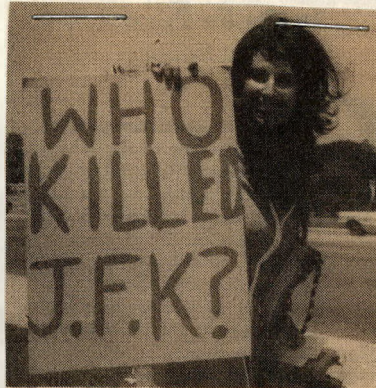
Needless to say, if RFK were the
victim of a conspiracy, as reporter Art
Kevin also advised he believes was the
case, but not necessarily a conspiracy
which used more than one gun and one
gunman, we believe that type of con-
spiracy would probably have included
Mafia members and elements of U.S.
intelligence.

As for the Bill Stout news report on
KNXT, and the interview with Dr. Jol-
ing, we respect Dr. Joling's opinion
that the FBI reports and photographs
suggest that more than one gun had
been fired at RFK, or at least in the
kitchen pantry that night.

Since the LAPD destroyed the origi-
nals, we can only conclude that ele-
ments of the LAPD, perhaps working
for another agency or group, orches-
trated the destruction of that and simi-
lar evidence of a conspiracy. ♫

Sorry, Dan Cooke, but those are the
facts of the matter!

A freelance writer, Greg Roberts
welcomes letters at P.O. Box 8491,
North Hollywood, Ca 91608.



Jan Diaz of the JFK-RFK assassination truth coalition wants to know who killed the Kennedys and why. (Photo by G. Roberts)



Researcher Rusty Rhodes
(right) and author Jeff Cohen
speaking at UCLA on the JFK,
King and RFK murders.
(Photo by G. Roberts)



In an exclusive report presented by KNXT's Bill Stout (left), Dr. Robert Joling revealed that FBI reports and photographs document 11 shots having been fired at RFK, and thus from a second gun. (Photo by G. Roberts)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Police Suppress LAPD Intelligence Records In RFK Death

by Greg Roberts

Files and records of the LAPD's old intelligence division relating to protection and security arrangements for the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and specifically "why" protection was halted before the assassination and at whose specific direction, is being suppressed by the LAPD brass of today.

"The information which you requested, seeking the name of the portion of the LAPD which has records identifying former Intelligence Division personnel, and the identities of the actual Intelligence Division officers themselves, is not available to you," said Officer Mike Butcher of press relations on Sept. 2nd.

"That information can only be obtained with a court order," Butcher added.

After being transferred around the LAPD headquarters, a woman named "Karen" at 213/485-2643, in the Planning and Research Section, refused to transfer us to the proper party in the LAPD's Personnel Management Office, who would in turn look up the necessary information.

The late Bobby Kennedy was gunned down on June 5th, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, in Los Angeles after having just won the Calif. Democratic presidential primary election contest of that day, held on June 4th, 1968.

"At that time, responsibility for the protection of VIP's was provided for by the Department's Intelligence Division," said Cmdr. Peter Hagan of Chief Davis' office.

The "old" Intelligence Division was split into two intelligence divisions on July 12th, 1970.

At that time, the "old" Intelligence Division was renamed the Organized Crime Intelligence Division (OCID), and its "child," the former 'subversive investigative services section', "grew up" and was reorganized as the Public Disorder Intelligence Division (PDID).

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

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(Info) A. O. Richards

Today, OCID is commanded by Capt. Donald E. Miller, successor to the legendary organized crime section Capt. James Hamilton, and PDID is headed up by Capt. John Thompson, who was its first capt.

In an interview with the L.A. Herald-Examiner published last Sunday, Aug. 29th, a former LAPD officer subsequently identified by Capt. Peter Hagan as once having served in the LAPD's Metropolitan Division, which in 1968 and today assists in guarding VIPs visiting the Southland, revealed that LAPD Intelligence officers had been ordered off the RFK protection function.

"At 4:30 p.m. on June 4th, our Intelligence group was forced to withdraw all of our protection," former LAPD officer Marion D. Hoover said.

As we have learned in the recent past, the LAPD's Intelligence Division of 1968 had arrived at the Ambassador Hotel, along with a contingent of Metropolitan Division "back-up" officers, and sometime during the late afternoon hours on June 4th or during the early evening, those Intelligence cops were ordered out of the Embassy Room and surrounding entrances and exits.

However, at 4:30 p.m., Robert Kennedy was still visiting movie producer John Frankenheimer and his guests at Frankenheimer's Malibu home, so it was not Robert Kennedy who told officer Hoover to leave with the withdrawing Intelligence Division officers.

"Most of what was attributed to officer Hoover in that article if not all of it, is pure fiction," officer Butcher explained on Sept. 1st.

Despite Hoover's main career with the LAPD as a Central Division beat patrolman, he undoubtedly observed or picked up a number of interesting bits relating to the Robert Kennedy assassination.

As for this officer Hoover's exact background with the LAPD, a Personnel Division supervisor named Folbert refused on Sept. 3rd to disclose any information about Hoover's career.

Neither Ms. Folbert or any of her clerks made any effort to verify that we were nesmedia, and they admitted there was no rule in writing prohibiting them from disclosing what divisions Hoover worked or when he retired.

Call the police and ask them about anything concerning the RFK assassination, and they find a reason not to tell you kexghing

~~However~~
However, in June of 1968, the commanding officer of the Intelligence Division was was Capt. Walter Colwell (Retired), and the three supervising lieutenants were Lt. George Vocham (ret.), Lt. Peter Bagove (Ret.) and Lt. Walter A. Stephenson.

"I wasn't involved in protection aspects for Mr. Kennedy, I didn't assist in the investigation, and I don't recall or remember who in the Intelligence Division, it's been so long, was down there that night, if anybody was there," said Capt. Walter Stephenson of Central Division's Investigative Support section, on Sept. 2nd.

Despite the LAPD's refusal to acknowledge it, the other pay and time sheets for 1968 are currently maintained by the Organized Crime Intelligence Division which publicly insists they don't have them, but actually is under orders by Chief Davis not to disclose any information that is duplicated in the suppressed "10 volumes" on the RFK murder.

Curiously, this Lt. George Yocham is the same officer who was Burbank's private detective Robert Duke ("Bobbie") Hall's partner in Privacy Unlimited Inc., who was himself (Hall) shot to death by an unknown assailant on July 22nd.

However, as Burbank supervising Hall investigation Det. Lt. Al Madrid will tell you, there are so many facets to the Hall case that the killer cannot be tied to any previous homicide, including the JFK and RFK assassinations, and the Johnny Roselli murder in Miami in late July, 1976.

Despite the denial of RFK press secretary Frank Mankiewicz in 1969, and after the assassination as well to the effect that neither RFK or his organization had told the LAPD not to protect Robert Kennedy; LAPD Cmdr. Peter Hagan said in 1968, and said again on Sept. 2nd, 1976, that the RFK campaign organization had told the LAPD not to provide RFK with any police protection at the Ambassador Hotel.

Objectively speaking, the facts of this issue have never been tested in court or under oath, unless very superficially.

If RFK was the victim of a conspiracy, as the evidence certainly suggests he was, the group would have sophisticated enough to be able to infiltrate both the Kennedy campaign and the LAPD.

Should history one day prove that former New Orleans D.A. Jim Garrison was right that the CIA was involved, and if San Diego television newsman Pete Noyes (KFNB-TV) was right about the Mafia having helped kill RFK, then a "CIA-Mafia" combination would have been responsible.

Certainly the mafia had its reasons for not wanting Bobby Kennedy in the White House and we know today that the CIA and the Mafia often participated in a number of other joint projects, like plotting to murder Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro.

Rather than suppressing the facts the L.A. Police Commission, L.A. City Council, L.A. Board of Supervisors and Chief Davis himself should not only reopen the RFK investigation and release most of the 10 volumes, but they should encourage Congress to investigate as well.

For example, who in the LAPD ordered the Intelligence unit off of RFK's protection, and told them that RFK wanted it this way?

Or, who in the "Kennedy campaign" told police what supervisor that they weren't wanted?

Others in the local establishment suppressing a certain amount of information is County Coroner Dr. Thomas Noguchi, whose secretary, a woman named Ruth, told us on Aug. 23rd that the good doctor did not want to discuss the Robert Kennedy assassination. Under the Freedom of Information Act, Director Clarence Kelley of the FBI recently released FBI reports and photos disclosing that FBI supervisor Al C. Greiner, and a photographer named "Dick" of the L.A. FBI's offices 1968 and present-day photo lab, had taken pictures after the assassination.

Some of the photos show Dr. Thomas Noguchi pointing to "bullet holes," where the LAPD subsequently says or said that there were no "extra" bullet holes.

After FBI Director Kelley released the RFK data in May, he became the target of a vicious smear campaign in the New York City based establishment press, where members of the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) are the master of the New York Times, Time, Newsweek, ABC, NBC, CBS, and naseum.

As we went to press, the CFR newsmedia establishment was demanding Kelley's retirement because he accepted a few hundred dollars, if that much, in petty gifts from FBI employees. (Cabinet shelves, a wrist watch, etc., and not color TV's new cars, lots of cash and other "gifts" normally associated with 'payoffs').

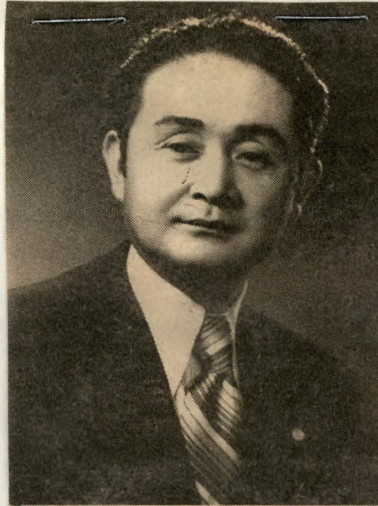
Kelley was also blasted for not disclosing that FBI security agents had broken into Weather Underground sympathizers homes, offices and apartments. (The Weather Underground is undoubtedly CIA infiltrated if not controlled by the CRF faction in the CIA).

"The 9th amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides that government shall not be prohibited from protecting the rights of the majority as a result of any of the other amendments," said W. Mark Felt, a former FBI official responsible for the break-ins, in a Aug. 29th CBS "Face the Nation" interview, in defense of them.

Meanwhile, the L.A. Police Commission and Chief Ed Davis would do all a favor if they started now to reopen the RFK case.

And they can begin by explaining "why" LAPD Intelligence left RFK naked at the Ambassador before he was ambushed.

A freelance writer, Greg Roberts welcomes letters at P.O. Box 8491, North Hollywood, Ca. 91608.



L.A. County Coroner Dr.
Thomas Noguchi refuses to
discuss the facts of RFK death
with nesmedia.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Bacon

Interference With Kennedy Investigation?

Fred Otash, well known Hollywood private eye, made some sensational charges about the Kennedys the other night on Tom Snyder's "Tomorrow" show on NBC-TV.

Fred said that Johnny Roselli, who went out gangland style a few months ago, intervened, as only Johnny could, in an investigation of JFK's private life.

"He strongly suggested that I drop a case which was about to name the President in a divorce action."

Otash said that Roselli told him that Bobby Kennedy had sent him to ask Fred to lay off. Otash said that the case involved a California millionaire who later got a divorce without introducing the Kennedy evidence.

Fred said he and Roselli met in March 1961 at the Brown Derby restaurant in Hollywood.

Roselli was slain recently in Miami. He had been a key witness in the recent Senate investigation into the relationship between organized crime and the CIA.

It was Roselli who leaked the relationship between JFK and Judith Campbell Exner who also was a girlfriend of Sam Giancana, the godfather of Chicago.

Charlie Blue Eyes (one of Sam's nicknames) also departed this earth gangland style.

Fred has a new book out called "Investigation Hollywood." Fred said Roselli was not the only one who "offered advice" that Otash lay off the investigation. He named the others as Sammy Davis, Jr., Peter Lawford and former L.A. district attorney Frank Hronek.

Otash said his files on JFK were confiscated by the Secret Service shortly after the Roselli meeting.

It sometimes pays to stay up until 1 a.m. to hear Snyder's show. He comes up with some sensational stuff for his insomniac audience.

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

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Robert Kennedy . . . involved with
Johnny Roselli?

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

D.A. Releases Conflicting Bobby Kennedy Death Report

By Greg Roberts

After more than what has amounted to a year after the so-called "two gun" possibility controversy in connection with the Robert Kennedy assassination subsided or at least significantly died down, the L.A. County Dist. Atty.'s office last week, finally released the report it had promised the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, back in August, 1975.

If one recalls, it was during that time that the onetime prestige of the whole U.S. intelligence apparatus, including the CIA and the FBI, and in turn extending into both the U.S. Military establishment to the intelligence community at the state and local level, had hit an all time record, rock bottom low point.

And, at the local level, there was fellow RFK assassination victim Paul Schrade questioning the "lone-assassin" verdict in the June, 1968 Bobby Kennedy assassination, and at the time, Scharade was demanding and getting what was left of the ballistic evidence in the case, such as the Sirhan guna and the bullets, thoroughly examined to see if they had accomplished the deed that was ascribed by honorable men (and not very many women) to them.

To explain away the unfortunate delay in connection with the release of the report on the murder of Bobby Kennedy, Special Counsel Thomas F. Kranz provided a bureaucratic explanation as to why there was a regretful delay in the Report's Foreword.

"My basic conclusion is that Sirhan B. Sirhan acted alone in the murder of Sen. Robert Kennedy," Kranz, who thinks of himself as a friend of the Kennedy Family, but who advised that the Kennedy Family does not think to highly of him, told the L.A. Board of Supervisors.

"I found no evidence of a second gun-man or of any conspiratorial activity," Kranz told the supervisors as they nearly dozed off sleep, and the nearly 50 people who packed the Supervisors' Hearing Room of the downtown L.A. Hall of Administration during that special afternoon session, on the date of the L.A. City Hall elections, when the general public wasn't around and the newsmedia preoccupied with other news to cover.

"I believe that all of the law enforcement agencies involved conducted thorough and complete investigations, and that the findings of both the trial and appellate courts that Sirhan Sirhan is guilty are completely justified," Kranz continued, wishing that the afternoon was already over, regretting to himself that he ever took such an assignment, and hoping that the "conspiracy buffs" would soon leave him alone.

When Kranz had finally finished reading the prepared statement, Supervisor Kenneth Hahn decided not to let Kranz off the hook that easy, and told Kranz to make more of an effort to talk to the incarcerated "pathetic loner," which Kranz characterized Sirhan as.

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

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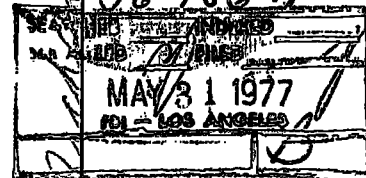
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If the late D.A. Joe Bush was a smart politician, one must assert that the present D.A., John K. Van de Kamp, who has coolly run the show behind Kranz, is not any dumber.

Indeed, if Van de Kamp plays his cards right, he may be the Los Angeles Times' editorial choice to succeed Fvelle Younner as State Attorney General, instead of rival L.A. City Atty. Burt Pines.

Thus, in the Att. Tom Kranz report (and that phrase, "Special Counsel Kranz" which should help bring some more clients to Kranz's lawfirm), D.A. Van deKamp, through Kranz, drops this little bombshell:

"Unlike the LAPD, the Los Angeles D.A. office has consistently held its files and reports on the Sirhan matter open to the public at all times.

"During the special investigation conducted by Special Counsel Kranz, numerous critics including Ted Charach, Tom Thompson, editor of the L.A. Vanguard, and columnist Jim Horowitz, often looked at the District Attorney's files, reports, and interview sheets from the investigation conducted over the past 8 years," Van de Kamp indirectly stated.

"The policy of openness reflected by the D.A.'s office should be emulated by the LAPD, and the ten volume summary should be released to the general public.

"The argument that such records of a police investigation are exempted from forced disclosure under the State Public Records Act is moot, since there is no longer an on-going investigation in the matter," Tom Kranz-John Van de Kamp continued (see page 52 of Part II of the total 108 page D.A.'s report).

While that wasn't all in the way of responsibility that the county D.A. sort of sneakily dumped on the City of L.A. or its officials, one could not believe that one was reading such a statement, to the effect that the general public has had accessibility to the D.A.'s once secret files on the RFK assassination.

While it apparently is true that RFK assassination researchers Ted Charach, Tom Thompson, and "Between The Lines" columnist Jim Horowitz have had access to certain RFK records (and each of them in turn has been involved in several lawsuits with the various authorities for access to records), the truth about this allegation is that certain D.A.'s deputies and assistants have recently denied the general public access to the D.A.'s RFK assassination records.

If the reader wishes to test the veracity of Kranz assertion that the critics and the general public have access to the D.A.'s RFK files, all one has to do is telephone the D.A.'s office of Community Affairs, at (213) 974-3258, which we did on April 8th.

"Those files are not available to you," your reporter was told once again by a secretary in that office.

After reading page 52 of the Kranz report to her, she put us on hold, and never came back on the line.

When calling back, a second secretary connected us with a woman supervisor.

"Oh, you're Greg Roberts!" the woman supervisor exclaimed, then explaining that the Kranz report was correct, and that the records were really available. (Hence, if the reader wants to view these records bad enough, know your rights, be persistent, and play it cool).

In any case, that is not all of the information which appears on page 52 of Part II, whereby the County D.A. seems to attempt to absolve the county of responsibility for the RFK assassination investigation, and in turn throw the ball back to the City of Los Angeles, by continuing:

"As the Los Angeles Times editorialized, perhaps representatives of the County Bar Association could review and excise the ten volume summary, and delete personal histories, and sensitive matters that might be embarrassing to several witnesses and people interviewed.

"In light of the unexplained destruction of (Ambassador Hotel) ceiling panels and x-ray analysis, and in light of the lack of thorough documentation in the ballistic report, and the destruction of the documentation of controversial second gun used to conduct muzzle distance and sound tests DeWayne Wolfer, and the continuing doubts expressed by conspiracy buffs or the misinformed (this is all in one sentence in the Kranz report!), the failure to release the ten volume summary will only contribute to doubt and suspicion," Mr. Kranz wrote.

"And, while Kranz, as a paid representative of the L.A. County establishment is seen above shifting responsibility from the county to the city of Los Angeles, it is interesting, at the same time, to see how Kranz carefully still insists that only "conspiracy buffs and the misinformed" can be rash enough to question the integrity or the findings of either the county or the city.

For example, on page 49 of Part II, Kranz mentions that he interviewed television newsman Peter R. Noyes, the author of a book about possible organized crime and Mafia involvement in the JFK and RFK assassinations, entitled, "A Legacy of Doubt" (Pinnacle Paperback Books, 1973).

"In an interview with Special Counsel Kranz (as pointed out earlier, Kranz's name is on practically every page of this report, which one believes could be an unethical abuse of Kranz's position as an attorney) — Noyes admitted that his research and investigation dealt with 95 per cent into the President Kennedy matter," Kranz wrote.

Actually, at the time of the Bobby Kennedy assassination, which occurred at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5th, 1968, at about 12:31 a.m., in the kitchen pantry of the Embassy Room, where RFK had just claimed victory in the Calif. Democratic Presidential primary election contest of that time, Pete Noyes was the operations control supervisor in the newsroom at KNXT-TV channel 2 studios in Hollywood.

Unlike most of the other establishment television news producers, Noyes had taken an interest in learning the actualities of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, which occurred in Dallas, Texas, on Nov. 22nd, 1963.

In the Kranz report, this statement quoted above is misleading, because Noyes, as the producer of the Big News at KNXT-TV, and later at KABC-TV as a television news producer, was in a position to learn quite a bit about the RFK assassination, and the combined FBI-LAPD-Dist. Atty. probe of it.

Moreover, while Kranz notes in his report that Noyes' book contains at least "one chapter" on the RFK case, the Kranz report gives no indication that Kranz ever followed up on the leads provided in the book, or asked Noyes anything about his knowledge of many of the other subjects in the Kranz report, particularly where KNXT news is frequently mentioned.

Noyes' book is largely about Jim Braden, a charter member of the Mob's plush LaCosta Country Club in San Diego, who was taken into custody in Dealey Plaza by the Dallas Sheriff's office, when JFK was shot there.

When Noyes "ran" Braden's Calif. drivers license with the State Dept. of Motor Vehicles (No. H751755), he learned that was really Eugene Hale Brading, a veteran crime syndicate racketeer who changed his name in DMV records on Sept. 10th 1963, and who is well known to the L.A. FBI office, and its organized crime section, as No. 799431.

Although Braden-Brading had known JFK assassination suspects like the late David W. Ferrie, Jack Ruby, and Dallas oilman H.L. Hunt's two sons, Lamar and Nelson Bunker Hunt, the FBI in Los Angeles never told the Warren Commission who "Jim Braden" really was, even though two FBI agents went out and had a "chat" with him about his "oil business" in Texas on Nov. 22nd, 1963.

As for the Kranz report and Noyes' book, Kranz carefully neglects to state in his RFK report that Noyes discusses the RFK assassination, and Jim Braden, in several other chapters in the Noyes book. For example, in Chapter 5, Noyes asserts:

"Later on, when Los Angeles police learned that Braden-Brading had indeed been in Dallas at the time of John Kennedy's murder, they decided to interrogate him immediately, mainly to determine what he was doing on the night of June 5th, 1968, when Sen. Robert Kennedy was slain."

"LAPD Homicide Sgt. Manuel ('Chic') Gutierrez, who conducted the interview at Brading's home in Lake San Marcos, Calif., became somewhat uncomfortable when he noticed an FBI agent he recognized waiting outside the house."

"Nevertheless, he proceeded with the interview, without inviting the FBI man to participate."

"As Brading told the story to Sgt. Gutierrez, he was in the Century Plaza Hotel on the West Side of Los Angeles the night of the RFK assassination," Noyes writes.

"The Century Plaza is a drive of about 15 minutes from the Ambassador, where Robert Kennedy was killed."

"Why didn't you give your true name at the Dallas Sheriff's station?" Sgt. Gutierrez asked.

"They didn't ask me," Brading responded, "and so forth."

(In Nov., 1963, Braden-Brading was on Parole and reported to Federal probation officers, and Noyes points out that Brading left Dallas, after being released by the Sheriff's Dept., to go on to Houston, for more "oil business.")

(Coincidentally, Houston was where David Ferrie, the onetime Lee Oswald associate who had gangland connections, also had the urge to drive from New Orleans after the JFK assassination).

Curiously, the FBI's case agent Braden-Brading in 1964, like the truth-hunting Sgt. Gutierrez, each died of "heart attack" in Las Vegas recently, shortly after he learned that he was under probe by the House Assassination Committee and might be called as an important witness in connection with the RFK assassination).

In any event, in Noyes' book, commenting on the LAPD's 10 volumes, Kranz claims he had complete access to, Noyes states, "A number of lawyers and private investigators, as of this writing, have filed court suits to force the LAPD to make a full disclosure of its records in the Sirhan case."

"The records consist of ten volumes covering every phase of the RFK investigation."

"I am convinced, that the LAPD will never make the records public voluntary, because it fears the information in its possession concerning Eugene Hale Brading is potentially explosive."

"Even should a court order the LAPD to release the ten volumes, I am willing to wager that the hundreds of pages dealing with the mystery man of Dealey Plaza will somehow disappear."

"For one thing, certain officials in the U.S. Justice Dept., do not want the information made public so long after the fact," Noyes commented.

That chapter was written in 1973, and since Noyes speculated that police would destroy files, the LAPD did destroy, in 1975, "tons" of Intelligence Division and Internal Affairs section documents and other files.

Anyway, after Kranz had finished telling the County Supervisors that a "pathetic loner" killed Robert Kennedy, and while Supervisor James Hayes eagerly greeted this news, one had the distinct impression that Supervisors Baxter Ward, Kenneth Hahn and even Ed Edelman were very skeptical of such a conclusion (Supervisor Pete Schabarum didn't show up), your reporter decided to ask Kranz about the Noyes book.

"Yes, I interviewed Noyes, and he admitted that 95 per cent of his book dealt with the JFK assassination, in Dallas," Kranz said gleefully.

"No, I didn't look into that!" Kranz admitted to your reporter, when asked if he had examined the "hundreds of pages" concerning Braden-Brading appearing in the LAPD's 10 volumes.

When Kranz was asked why he didn't probe that subject, he looked a little frightened, and quickly walked off.

Although there are many other examples of misrepresentation of fact in the Kranz report, and even some examples of accuracy in it now and then, the reader now has a better idea of what the Kranz report says, and it leaves out, too.

For example, Kranz doesn't mention that the U.S. Justice Dept. refused to let the L.A. Dist. Atty.'s office examine the whole set of FBI, CIA, U.S. State Dept., and Immigration & Naturalization Service records and files on Sirhan B. Sirhan.

In Sirhan's case, was there a "special relationship" with either the FBI, or the CIA, such as which Lee Oswald clearly had, as did Jack Ruby, that the FBI, or the CIA, such as which Lee Oswald clearly had, as did Jack Ruby, that the FBI, a sort of national German Shepherd watchdog, didn't want to volunteer to the public?

Or, in the case of the LAPD, why did the agency refuse to provide the Robert Kennedy Embassy rally with the protection of its Intelligence Division in 1968, which was well aware that RFK was hated by organized crime, and had officers trained in identifying racketeers, as well as political extremists, who might show up?

Certainly, if RFK's aides didn't want uniformed officers hounding Kennedy, which was the George Wallace campaign style at the time, they never said, "Don't send the Intelligence Division down," and if one or only two of RFK's high-ranking aides did say that, one can only wonder if they were participating in an assassination conspiracy themselves.

Otherwise, the name of JFK-King-RFK researcher of Jim Horowitz comes up in the Kranz report.

As a newspaper columnist and part-time newspaper and magazine publisher, Horowitz is unique in the sense that unlike many of his colleagues, Horowitz is unique in the sense that unlike many of his colleagues in the newspaper publishing field, Horowitz wants to do something about bringing the truth out, no matter what is.

And, in this light, Horowitz becomes of interest to the FBI, particularly when he starts publishing widely circulated columns containing interviews with "former undercover operatives for the FBI" who charge in the interview that the FBI in some way participated in a cover-up of the 1963 Dallas assassination of President Kennedy was involved in it.

(Horowitz' column, "Between The Lines," is available from the Burbank based Valley Publications Inc., phone (213) 877-5643).

No sooner had the March 30th-1977 interview with a "Harry Dean" appeared on April 1st, two FBI agents dropped in to see Horowitz, and personally delivered an April 1st, 1977, letter from Robert E. Gebhardt, the assistant director of the FBI in charge of the Los Angeles field office.

And, the two FBI men dropping by to deliver the letter Horowitz were not any two FBI agents but L.A. FBI Intelligence Division Special Agent in Charge Elmer F. Linberg, and FBI News Media Coordinator John F. Morrison.

"I have read your column, 'Between The Lines,' which appeared in the March 16th, 1977 edition of the Las Virgenes Independent Valley News," ADIC Gebhardt wrote.

Otherwise, as for the Tom Kranz report, while it does show that D.A. John Van de Kamp is making a much greater effort to bring the truth out about the RFK assassination than former D.A. Evelled ever did, quite obviously it still leaves a lot to be desired.

In a democratic society, you do have the right to know who killed your President, your civil rights leader, and your United States Senator as well.

A freelance writer, Greg Roberts welcomes letters at P.O. Box 8491, North Hollywood, Ca. 91608.



While researching the RFK assassination, Special Counsel Tom Kranz failed to check into reports that alleged assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan (above) had any links to Mafia figure Jim Braden whose real name is Eugen Hale Bräding.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Release of RFK Death Files Urged

Release by the Los Angeles Police Dept. of its files on the Robert F. Kennedy assassination probe could help restore public confidence in the investigation, according to a lawyer hired by the Board of Supervisors to review the case.

Attorney Thomas F. Kranz, hired by the board last August, made the comment yesterday when he turned in his report, stressing that he found no evidence of a conspiracy in the 1968 assassination for which Sirhan B. Sirhan was convicted and sentenced to life in prison.

"My basic conclusion is that Sirhan acted alone in the murder of Senator Kennedy," Kranz said. "I saw no evidence of a second gunman or any conspiratorial activity."

However, he acknowledged that he does not believe the public ever will be "totally satisfied" with the conclusions of the investigation.

Two steps toward restoring public confidence could be the release of the 10-volume set of police files and the creation of an "independent crime laboratory" which can handle work for all police agencies in the county, Kranz added.

The supervisors voted to hold a public hearing on the report at 2 p.m. May 17 at the Hall of Administration.

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