

THE GUARDIAN

Thursday June 6 1968

A delirium of despair after victory roar

AT MIDNIGHT on June 4 a score or so of newspaper men were in a room adjoining the hotel pantry through which Senator Kennedy was going to talk to them after his victory speech in the ballroom of the Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles. ALISTAIR COOKE was among them. Here is his account of the scene:

An hour or so before midnight, it was already clear that a wake was setting in at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where the youngsters for McCarthy roamed in great numbers in and around the grand ballroom.

The percentage gap between McCarthy's lead over Kennedy was shrinking every quarter hour or so, as the returns from Los Angeles County began to overtake McCarthy's anticipated strength in Northern California. It was a young and doughty crowd gamely but hopelessly trying to keep its spirit up.

In this country, at any rate, only the very pure in heart love a loser. And it seemed a good idea to move on to the victory boy at the Ambassador. Wilshire Boulevard is one of the earliest of the long straight avenues that bisect the huge east-west spread of this city, and at such a time it seemed as long as a Roman road. The hotel's driveway was a miniature freeway in a traffic jam, and the human traffic inside the foyer was almost worse.

Glare of light

But at last, through the strutting cops and guards and the elated crowd and the din of whistles and cheers, it was possible to reach the North ballroom, a bone-white glare of light seen at the far end of the lobby.

Security is a fighting word at the Kennedy headquarters anywhere, and not without reason. You had to have a special Kennedy press card to acquire the privilege of being suffocated in the ballroom, and no other credentials for a reporter would do. I had only a general press card, a McCarthy badge, a driver's licence and such other absurdities. So I turned back and thought of fighting the way back home.

But just alongside the guarded entrance to the north ballroom was another door, around which a pack of ecstatic faces, black and white, was jostling for some kind of privilege view. There was a guard there, too, and a Kennedy man who recognised me, caught in the general wash, squeezed me through into an almost empty room. It was like being beached by a tidal wave.

Taking a breather

The place was no longer than about 40 feet. It was a small private dining room, fitted out as a press room. There was a long trestle table against one wall loaded with typewriters and telephones; and standing by were a few middle-aged lady operators taking a breather.

In one corner was a booming television set switching between the rumblings of defeat at the McCarthy hotel and the clamour of victory in the adjacent ballroom. A fat girl wearing a Kennedy straw hat sucked a coke through a straw. There were 15 or 20 of us at most, exchanging campaign reminiscences and making the usual hind-sight cracks at the Kennedys.

Pierre Salinger, Kennedy's press secretary, had promised

that once the Senator had saluted his army he would go down from the ballroom stage and come to see us through the kitchen, that separated our retreat from the ballroom.

It was just after midnight. A surge of cheers and a great swivelling of lights heralded him, and soon he was up on the rostrum with his eager, button-eyed wife and Jesse Unruh, his massive campaign manager. It took minutes to get the feedback boom out of the mikes but at last there was a kind of subdued uproar and he said he first wanted to express "my high regard to Don Drysdale for his six great shut-outs." (Drysdale is a baseball pitcher whose Tuesday night feat of holding his sixth successive opposing teams to no runs had made him a legend.)

It was the right, the wry Kennedy note. He thanked a list of helpers by name. He thanked "all those loyal Mexican Americans" and "all my friends in the black community." Then he stiffened his gestures and his style and said it only went to show that "all those promises and all those party caucuses have indicated that the people of the United States want a change."

He congratulated McCarthy on fighting for his principles. He hoped that now there might be "a debate between the Vice-President and perhaps myself." He flashed his teeth again in his chuckling, rabbit smile and ended, "My thanks to all of you—and now it's on to Chicago and let's win there."

Cheers and tears

A delirium of cheers and lights and tears and a rising throb of "We want Bobby! We want Bobby! We want Bobby!"

He tumbled down from the rostrum with his aides and bodyguards about him. He would be with us in 20 seconds, half a minute at most. We watched the swinging doors of the kitchen. Over the gabble of the television there was suddenly from the direction of the kitchen a crackle of sharp sounds. Like a balloon popping.

An exploded flash bulb maybe, more like a man banging a tray several times against a wall. A half-dozen or so of us trotted to the kitchen door and at that moment time and life collapsed. Kennedy and his aides had been coming on through the pantry. It was now seen to be not a kitchen but a regular serving pantry with great long tables and racks of plates against the wall.

He was smiling and shaking hands with a waiter, then a chef in a high white hat. Lots of Negroes, naturally, and they were glowing with pride, for he was their man. Then those sounds from somewhere, from a press of people on or near a steam table. And before you could synchronise your sight and thought, Kennedy was a prone bundle on the greasy floor, and two or three others had gone down with him. There was an explosion of shouts and screams and the high moaning cries of distressed girls.

The doors of the pantry

swung back and forth and we would peek in on the obscene disorder and reel back again to sit down, then to glare in a stupefied way at the nearest friend, to steady one boozy woman with black-rimmed eyes who was pounding a table and screaming, "Goddamn stinking country! The fat girl was babbling faintly like a baby, like someone in a motor accident."

Out in the chaos of the ballroom, Kennedy's brother-in-law was begging for doctors. And back in the pantry they were howling for doctors. It was hard to see who had been badly hit. One face was streaming with blood. It was that of Paul Schrade, a high union official, and it came out that he got off lightly.

A woman had a purple bruise on her forehead. Another man was down. Kennedy was looking up like a stunned choirboy from an open shirt and a limp huddle of limbs. Somehow, in the dependable fashion of the faith, a priest had appeared.

The arrest

We were shoved back and the cameramen were darting and screaming and flashing their bulbs. We fell back again from the howling pantry into the haven of the pressroom.

Suddenly, the doors opened again and six or eight police had a curly black head and a blue-jeaned body in their grip. He was a swarthy, thick-featured unshaven little man with a tiny rump and a head fallen over, as if he had been clubbed or had fainted perhaps.

He was lifted out into the big lobby and was soon off in some mysterious place "in custody." On the television Huntley and Brinkley were going on in their urbane way about the "trends" in Los Angeles and the fading McCarthy lead in Northern California.

A large woman went over and beat on the screen, as if to batter these home-screen experts out of their self-possession. We had to take her and say "Steady" and "Don't do that." And suddenly the screen went berserk, like a home movie projector on the

Turn to page 9, col. 5

REST OF THE NEWS

ERIC TABARLY yesterday withdrew Pen Duick IV from the "Observer" transatlantic yacht race, and two Britons were returning for repairs to their craft—but the other competitors were making good progress (report, back page)

GOLD: Britain is to draw \$1,400 millions from the International Monetary Fund, available under standby arrangements, to reorganise debt arrangements. Gold and convertible currency reserves fell by £11 millions last month (back page).

Despair after the roar of victory

Continued from page one
blink. And the blurred, whirling scene we had watched in the flesh came wobbling in as a movie.

Then all the "facts" were fired or intoned from the screen. Roosevelt Grier, a 300lb coloured football player and a Kennedy man, had grabbed the man with the gun and overwhelmed him. A Kennedy bodyguard had taken the gun, a .22 calibre. The maniac had fired straight at Kennedy and sprayed the other bullets around the narrow pantry.

Kennedy was now at the receiving hospital and soon transferred to the Good Samaritan. Three neurologists were on their way. He had been hit in the hip, perhaps, but surely in the shoulder and "the mastoid area." There was the first sinister note about a bullet in the brain.

In the timelessness of nausea and dumb disbelief we stood and sat and stood again and sighed at each other and went into the pantry again and looked at the rack of plates and the smears of blood on the floor and the furious guards and the jumping-jack photographers.

It was too much to take. The only thing to do was to touch the shoulder of the Kennedy man who had let you in and get out on to the street and drive home to the top of the silent Santa Monica Hills, where pandemonium is rebroadcast in tranquillity and where a little unshaven guy amuck in a pantry is slowly brought into focus as a bleak and shoddy villain of history.

Telephone threat

Los Angeles, June 5
Three weeks ago

Despair after the roar of victory

Continued from page one

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Telephone threat

Los Angeles, June 3
Three weeks

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/12/68

WILLIAM J. COX, 3974 West Ingraham, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information:

He was a volunteer for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and at 7:30 PM on June 4, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel to await the results of the California primary election. On arrival at the Ambassador Hotel, he went immediately to the Embassy Room and remained there the entire evening.

He was in the Embassy Room at the time of Senator KENNEDY's victory speech and shortly after KENNEDY left the podium he heard several loud bangs which he assumed were breaking balloons. There was a great deal of shouting and pushing by the crowd, but at first he assumed this was just part of the victory celebration. As he was attempting to leave the Embassy Room, ANN FERGUSON asked him to help ERWIN STROLL because STROLL had been shot in the leg. At first he thought FERGUSON was joking, but then he saw STROLL's leg had blood on it.

He, along with DAVID ESQUITH and another white male, unknown to him, helped carry STROLL from the Embassy Room to the entrance of the Ambassador Hotel where they placed him in a taxicab. DAVID ESQUITH accompanied STROLL to the Central Receiving Hospital while he attempted to return to the Embassy Room.

While attempting to reenter the Embassy Room, he met Mrs. TIFFANY JONAS and ANN FERGUSON. Mrs. JONAS suggested that they go to the Central Receiving Hospital and stay with ERWIN STROLL until STROLL's parents could be contacted. All three of them then went to the Central Receiving Hospital in ANN FERGUSON's car and waited for the arrival of STROLL's parents. After STROLL's parents arrived at the receiving hospital, he and ANN FERGUSON returned to the Ambassador Hotel for a few minutes and then went home.

On 7/9/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/jmb Date dictated 7/12/68

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LA 56-156

COX observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and advised that he does not recall seeing this man at the Ambassador Hotel. COX did advise, however, that in the course of conversation with a woman, whose first name was INGER, last name unrecalled, he had been advised that she, INGER, had observed SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN standing in the crowd during Senator KENNEDY's victory speech. COX stated that INGER had been a volunteer for KENNEDY and furnished her address as 1190 South Kensington, Los Angeles, telephone No. 931-0067. If INGER could not be located at this address, COX felt that additional information might be gained through Mrs. TIFFANY JONAS, who is also acquainted with INGER.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/26/68

FRANCIS CRITCHELEY was located and interviewed at his boarding house, 677 South New Hampshire Avenue, Los Angeles, California. CRITCHELEY advised he was born October 2, 1938, at Newark, New Jersey, and since December 1967, has been on special leave from his former employment as fireman with the Newark, New Jersey, Fire Department. He is now employed for the Gordon Bread Company on Santa Barbara Avenue in Los Angeles. He intends to return to Newark, New Jersey, in two weeks and resume his former employment as a fireman.

CRITCHELEY stated that on the evening of June 4, 1968, he was with several other young men who live at this boarding house watching television coverage of the primary election results. He became aware that the KENNEDY campaign headquarters was located in the Ambassador Hotel located only one half block from his boarding house. Out of curiosity, he agreed to accompany PAUL GRIECO who was present with him then to the Ambassador in an effort to try to see Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and possibly shake his hand. At about 10:45 p.m., he and GRIECO walked to the Ambassador but were turned away from entering the Embassy Room where KENNEDY was to appear. A fire warden advised them that this room already contained the maximum number of persons allowed. He and GRIECO then proceeded to another room in this hotel and mingled among the supporters of candidate RAFFERTY. At about 11:45 p.m., he and GRIECO came back to the main lobby of the Ambassador and learned from people standing in the lobby that Senator KENNEDY was about to make a speech in the Embassy Room and would depart after the speech through the kitchen area behind the Embassy Room. He and GRIECO then found a corridor and went to the kitchen area. They both stood in a group of people on each side of an exit behind the Embassy Room and the kitchen, where they were told by "KENNEDY girls" that Senator KENNEDY would pass after finishing his speech.

On 6/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
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by SA HARRY H. WHIDBEE/eb Date dictated 6/20/68

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After KENNEDY had completed his speech, he appeared in the kitchen area surrounded by several of his aides. There was a sizable group of people there to shake KENNEDY's hand, between 50 and 75. In the rush of persons to get to KENNEDY, CRITCHELEY found himself pushed through a small door in an adjourning area after KENNEDY had passed. CRITCHELEY recalled hearing sounds like the popping of balloons but did not realize they were pistol shots. He said he was not close enough to KENNEDY to observe him at this time. There was an immediate rush of panic stricken people backed up upon him, during which time, it was all he could do to maintain his footing. Through the screaming and pandemonium which existed, he became aware that Senator KENNEDY had been shot. After the panic subsided, he went to the area where KENNEDY was lying on the floor and then was instructed by some man, seemingly with authority, to help keep curious bystanders out of the kitchen area. He therefore stood at the door leading from the corridor to the main lobby and held people back.

He remained in the area of the kitchen until KENNEDY was removed by police attendants and then he went to a small room in an adjourning area and was interviewed by police detectives and admitted to them that he was present but did not see the shooting.

CRITCHELEY said he did not see SIRHAN before the shooting nor did he see him after the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/8/68

VICKY CUCCIA, 730 South Kingsley, Apartment 315, furnished the following information:

She was a volunteer for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and on June 4, 1968, she went to the Ambassador Hotel, to await the results of the California primary election. DAVID ESQUITH picked her and her mother up at approximately 6:30 pm and they went to the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, where they met ERWIN STROLL. At about 10:15 pm, JIM LOWE asked STROLL to watch the entrance to the kitchen, which was next to the podium.

At about midnight, Senator KENNEDY came to the podium to give his victory speech. At this point, Miss CUCCIA's mother became ill because of the stuffiness of the Embassy Room, and it was necessary for her to leave the hotel. Miss CUCCIA accompanied her mother to the elevator outside of the Embassy Room. After getting her mother on the elevator, Miss CUCCIA went to the Ballroom where she met TIFFANY JONAS. After meeting Mrs. JONAS, they both attempted to return to the Embassy Room, but were stopped in the area of the press room by the security guard. Just after arriving at the door to the press room, she heard a pop, which sounded like a bag was being broken. Immediately after the pop, there was a great deal of pushing and shouting. Some members of the press attempted to get into the press room and there was altercation between the security guard and one of the press men. As this is going on, a woman passed by who said that Senator KENNEDY has been shot.

At this point, she observed ERWIN STROLL being helped from the Embassy Room by three men and realized that he had been shot. Upon realizing that STROLL had been shot, she became very emotional and it was necessary for STEVE WAGNER to bring her home. Prior to leaving the Ambassador Hotel with WAGNER, she did observe SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN being taken from the hotel by the police.

On 7/1/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/cld - 223 - Date dictated 7/8/68

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At the time she and TIFFANY JONAS attempted to return to the Embassy Room, she did look into the kitchen, but does not recall seeing anyone identical to SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. She recalls seeing only four men, all of them in suits, and all appearing to be members of the press.

Miss CUCCIA observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and advised that on June 3, 1968, she was working at Kennedy Headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard answering phone calls. Sometime during the morning of the third, she recalls seeing a man who resembled SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN come into the headquarters office, go to a table which had literature on it concerning Senator KENNEDY and look at this literature for a short time. CUCCIA stated that she could not positively identify this man as being SIRHAN, and simply said that there was a close resemblance.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

6/28/68

Date

JAMES CUMMINGS, residence 1700 Burnside Street, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at his place of employment, Falk General Laboratories, 3450 West First Street, Los Angeles, California, telephone 383-0663. CUMMINGS advised he left his office at about 11:30 p.m. on June 4, 1968 en route to the Ambassador Hotel to join the ROBERT F. KENNEDY Campaign Party. After arriving at the hotel, he walked to the Embassy Room, arriving there shortly before KENNEDY began his acceptance speech. During the speech he entered the hallway which connects the Embassy Room podium to the Embassy Room service pantry and remained there until KENNEDY finished his speech.

CUMMINGS stated he stood in the hallway as KENNEDY surrounded by several members of the campaign party walked through the hallway and to the Embassy Room service pantry. After observing KENNEDY enter the pantry, he turned towards the opposite end of the hallway at which time he heard three gun shots with about a one-second interval between each shot and then a series of shots, however; he did not recall how many shots all together were fired.

CUMMINGS stated after the shots were fired crowds of people converged into the pantry from the Embassy Room and the hallway at the opposite end of the pantry. Due to the commotion that ensued after the shooting, CUMMINGS was unable to observe the individual who shot KENNEDY or furnish any information of value in this investigation.

CUMMINGS observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and stated it was not familiar to him. Further, that nothing came to his attention at any time prior to the shooting to indicate this event would take place.

CUMMINGS furnished the following descriptive information concerning himself:

Date of birth	January 18, 1924
Place of birth	Los Angeles, California

On 6/25/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA ROBERT F. PICKARD and - 225 -
SA J. C. FISHBECK, JR. JCF/nmb Date dictated 6/26/68

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Height	5'9"
Weight	145 pounds
Social Security No.	[REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 27, 19681

WILLIAM DEIMER of CBS News, Philadelphia, advised that he is a sound man traveling with the CBS Camera Crew, which consists of himself; WALTER DOMBROW, the photographer; and MATT DOUGLAS, the light technician.

Mr. DEIMER said that on the 5th of June, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, he and the above-mentioned men were set up in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, to film a speech by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He said their location was almost directly across from where the podium was set up, but at the opposite end of the ballroom. Mr. DEIMER said they were filming his speech and when Senator KENNEDY left the podium he was supposed to have gone out the main door of the ballroom, but then left the podium and proceeded through a door which is located near the rear of the podium.

Mr. DEIMER said he saw nothing except all of a sudden there seemed to be mass confusion as people started running back and forth in the ballroom and it was at that time he finally learned that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

He said he heard no shots, nor did he see the actual shooting since he was quite a distance from where the assault actually took place. He said he and the other two men mentioned above arrived at the spot where the Senator had been shot but, by the time they got there, the Senator had already been carried away.

Mr. DEIMER said he has no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to proceed to the Colonial Room and he did not observe the assassin at any time.

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On 6/26/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SA RICHARD E. LOGAN: AED Date dictated 6/27/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 27, 19681

MATT DOUGLAS advised that he is a light technician and travels with a camera crew for CBS News in Philadelphia. He said in his crew is the cameraman, WALTER DOMBROW; and the sound man, WILLIAM DEIMER.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he was working with these men on the 5th of June 1968, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Calif. He said the purpose of their mission there was to film the speech to be made by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He said they did film the Senator from the time he entered the ballroom and got up on the podium until he spoke, and then left the podium and went out a door near the rear of the podium.

He stated that all of a sudden there seemed to be mass confusion and people running around and shouting for a doctor and someone, whom he did not know, got up on the podium and put his finger to his head, indicating that someone had been shot.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that he heard no shots, nor did he see the assassin at any time. He stated that he and the crew were set up at the opposite side of the ballroom, quite a distance from the podium. He stated that the first he really knew about what was really going on was when some woman was brought out of the back room where the Senator had gone, bleeding from the head and that he and the crew filmed her.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that by the time he and the crew got to the spot where the Senator had been assaulted, the Senator had already been moved on his way to the hospital.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he had no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to go to the Colonial Room.

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On 6/27/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SA RICHARD E. LOGAN & DARWIN B. BARE REL/AED Date dictated 6/27/68

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Date June 27, 19681

WALTER DOMBROW advised that he is a cameraman for CBS News in Philadelphia and that he has in his crew one WILLIAM DEIMER, a sound man; and MATT DOUGLAS, a light technician.

Mr. DOMBROW stated that on June 5, 1968, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, he and his crew were filming the speech of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel ballroom in Los Angeles, Calif.

He stated that he and his crew were set up across the ballroom on the opposite wall from where the podium was located. Mr. DOMBROW said he filmed the Senator from the time he came into the ballroom and got on the podium, and during his speech, and also when he left the podium and went through a door near the rear of the podium.

Mr. DOMBROW said that he heard no shots nor did he observe the assassin at any time because of the distance from the podium and the fact that the Senator was actually into another room before the assault took place.

He said that after the confusion started, somebody brought out a blonde-headed woman who was bleeding from the head and they filmed her; it was then that they learned that the Senator had been shot.

Mr. DOMBROW said that at that time mass confusion took over with people shouting for a doctor and begging the crowd to leave the ballroom. He said that by the time he and his crew got to where the Senator had been shot, he had already been moved, on his way to the hospital. Mr. DOMBROW said he has no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to go to the Colonial Room when he left the podium, nor did he observe the assassin at any time.

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On 6/27/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SAs RICHARD E. LOGAN & DARWIN B. BARE REL/AED Date dictated 6/27/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/28/68

Mr. HENRY P. PETERS, residence 14009 North Port Washington Road, Mequon, Wisconsin, was interviewed at the home of a nephew, Dr. EARL PETERS, Route #6, Janesville, Wisconsin, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. JOHN WEIDNER, whose husband operates the Organic Pasadena Health Food Stores, Pasadena, California, is the niece of PETERS' wife. For the past several years PETERS and his wife have been visiting the WEIDNERS staying with them from around Christmastime each year until the end of April or May. During their stay, PETERS, who is an elderly retired painter, does odd jobs around the WEIDNER food stores. During his recent stay with the WEIDNERS, PETERS did become acquainted with a young dark complexioned male, whom he knew as "Saul". PETERS described this individual as a very intelligent polite person, who was an excellent worker. PETERS further described "Saul" as a loner, who did not seem to carry on much conversation concerning himself as an individual. PETERS had no conversations in which "Saul" talked of any of his political or religious philosophies and he never heard any conversations by "Saul" indicating any hate towards any U. S. political leader because of any pronouncements made by such a person. PETERS had no knowledge concerning any of Saul's associations as to individuals or organizations outside the food store.

PETERS did not connect the name of SIRHAN B. SIRHAN with SAUL until after he saw on television the interview his wife's niece had with newspaper people. It was then that the photographs and the name connected with the person he knew as "Saul".

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On 6/14/68 at Janesville, Wisconsin File # MI 157-548

by SA THOMAS L. MADDEN
SA HENRY W. CURRAN, Jr. - bb Date dictated 6/21/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/5/68

Miss CHRISTINE DE SAUTELS, presently residing at 7100 Hillside, Hollywood, California, Apartment 205, advised that she was born on July 1, 1949, at Glendale, California. She stated that for the last several months prior to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY she had been working for Senator KENNEDY on his campaign in California. She stated that she originally worked only as a part-time campaigner, but that she eventually became one of the "KENNEDY Girls" and she and several others traveled to various parts of California where Senator KENNEDY was to make a speech to help in the campaign celebrations for him.

She advised that on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 4, 1968, she was just leaving the KENNEDY campaign headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, and was in her car at the curb, when a woman knocked on the window of the car. She said that she rolled the window down and the woman told her that she needed her help and that she wanted to help save the country. Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she told the woman that the best way to help would be to go into the KENNEDY Campaign Headquarters and offer her assistance in the campaign. She stated that the woman told her that she did not understand, but that she wanted Miss DE SAUTELS to take her to the race track as she said that she "had to inform some people the way to save their country." Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she once again told the woman that the best thing to do was to help on the KENNEDY campaign, and at this point the woman stepped away from the curb.

She stated that later that afternoon she asked several individuals in the KENNEDY campaign headquarters if any woman fitting the description of the one she had talked to had been into offer her help, and she was told that no one had been in fitting that description.

She described the unknown female as follows:

On 7/1/68 at Hollywood, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA E. RHEAD RICHARDS/RB Date dictated 7/2/68

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Sex	Female
Race	White
Characteristics	Possibly of Latin- descent as she had a dark complexion
Age	Mid 20's
Complexion	Dark, rough or ruddy
Hair	Long with brown and blond highlights
Height	5'5" - 5'8"
Weight	110 - 120 pounds
Build	Slender
Clothing	Wearing capris and a sweater, carrying a notebook and a large bag-type purse

Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she did not see this woman again and that she had no indication or reason to believe that her encounter with this woman had anything to do with the KENNEDY assassination, and it was something that she recalled as she tried to thing back over the events of those two or three "hectic and tragic days."

Miss DE SAUTELS advised that on the evening of June 4, 1968, she was at the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, and was participating as one of the "KENNEDY Girls" with the rest of the campaigners. She stated that she and several others who were participating in a singing group singing songs with words which had been written by ETHEL KENNEDY, and that they were on the floor of the Embassy Ballroom or in the small press room immediately behind the Embassy Ballroom most of the evening. She advised that near midnight, or shortly after midnight, she and several others of her group went down to the next floor and joined those celebrating in the Ambassador Ballroom. She and her associates were on the stage of the Ambassador Ballroom at the time they heard the first individual shouting from the back of the Ballroom that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

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She stated that she did not recall seeing anyone run out of the building prior to that time and that she could not think of anything she had seen or heard that evening which would be pertinent to the investigation of the KENNEDY assassination.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

6/28/68

Date _____

Mrs. PATTY DE SAUTELS, 2407 West Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Tujunga, California, advised she attended the victory celebration for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel the night Senator KENNEDY was killed. She stated she is a free lance reporter and attended to prepare a story about KENNEDY's victory. She stated she was not in the area of the shooting and did not observe the shooting or the assassin.

She stated her daughter, CHRISTINE DE SAUTELS, was also at the celebration as CHRISTINE was a "Kennedy girl" who worked for KENNEDY during the campaign in California.

Mrs. DE SAUTELS advised that the day after the shooting, she returned to the pressroom of the Ambassador Hotel, on the sixth floor, to continue work on her story. While she was working on her story, she observed a husky, burly, olive skinned male watching the television set in the pressroom. The man was watching a program relating to Senator KENNEDY and he had a strange look on his face and appeared to be talking to the television set. The man was acting so strange that she called a hotel security guard who escorted the man from the pressroom. She asked other members of the press about the man and no one knew who he was and she does not know if the guard determined his identity or not. She recalled the man had dark coarse hair and appeared to have at least one day's growth of beard. He was wearing a suit which was very wrinkled.

Mrs. DE SAUTELS stated she could furnish no additional first hand information as she did not observe the shooting or the assassin.

She stated after July 1, 1968 she can be contacted at Route 1, Box 82, Santa Maria, California, or through the U. S. Forest Rangers, Pine Canyon Ranger Station, Los Padres National Forest.

On 6/26/68 at Tujunga, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
SA ORLEY A. LEESON, JR./llg 234 6/27/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

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Date 6/20/68

1

JOHN J. DOOHAN, Head Librarian and columnist, Kansas City Star, 19th and Grand, furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, he was attending a newspaper librarian's convention at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, California. On that evening he and two fellow librarians attending the convention, JAMES SCOFIELD, Librarian, St. Petersburg, Florida, Times, and EDWARD QUILL, Librarian, Boston Globe, went to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to follow California primary election returns and attend the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY rally.

During the evening of June 4, 1968, DOOHAN visited the press room in the Colonial Room of the Ambassador Hotel and attended the rally about midnight at which Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY spoke. About 1,000 persons were in attendance and he became separated from his two associates. In order to meet the fire department regulations the Embassy Room where the rally was held was closed and the overflow crowd was sent he believes to a room on a lower floor, possibly the Ambassador Room. While he had been in the press room he learned that Senator KENNEDY would visit the press room at the Colonial Room after he spoke at the rally in the Embassy Room. Therefore, after hearing Senator KENNEDY speak and watching him leave the stage DOOHAN went directly to the press room to await Senator KENNEDY'S appearance there. It was while he was on his way to the press room that he heard the commotion, although he did not hear any shots, and learned that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

Although he had not been assigned as a reporter to the California primary or to the KENNEDY party he immediately prepared a story which was printed in the June 5, 1968, issue of the Kansas City Star, the evening Kansas City Times, under his by-line giving his personal account of the assassination which read as follows:

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On 6/19/68 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 62-8651
LA 56-156
by SA ROBERT V. HARMAN, JR. Date dictated 6/19/68

"Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had just finished his short victory statement, raised his fingers in a V sign and it was now "on to Chicago.

"I was standing toward the rear of the Embassy room at the Hotel Ambassador, along with more than 1,000 others. Though the ballroom is air-conditioned, it was hot and stuffy. I thought to myself that Kennedy looked as happy as anyone could possibly be.

"As the senator turned to leave the room, I heard a rumor that he was going to pass through a temporary press room on his way to a lower floor of the hotel, where another group of his excited supporters waited for him to appear.

"I headed for the press room. I knew where it was because I had been in there a few minutes earlier talking to Pierre Salinger, press secretary for the New York senator and for his late brother, President John F. Kennedy.

"The press room was near a long, narrow corridor used as a serving room for dinner meetings in the ballroom. Senator Kennedy was to use this passageway on his way to meet reporters.

"Accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy; Jesse Unruh, speaker of the California Assembly and a leader of the Kennedy forces here, and others, Kennedy started through the serving galley. Leading the way for him were several Los Angeles police officers, Rafer Johnson, former decathlon champion and now on the R. F. K. staff in California, and Roosevelt Grier, a defensive tackle for the Los Angeles Rams professional football team.

"The room itself contained metal serving and steam tables, which were not in use early today as there had been no program or refreshments served in the Embassy room. The area is 10 to 12 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet long.

"At 12:15 o'clock this morning it was jammed with hotel employees waiting for a chance to see and, perhaps, shake hands with the Democratic presidential hopeful.

"Predictably, Senator Kennedy paused as he made his way slowly through the galley to shake hands. I was still on my way from the ballroom to the press room-kitchen, when it happened.

"I heard absolute bedlam coming from the narrow hallway, as from a range of less than 10 feet the would-be assassin began firing what turned out to be a .22-caliber revolver, wounding Kennedy and several others immediately clustered around him. I didn't actually hear the shots.

"But I got a chance to peer into the room and saw a young, bushy-haired, dark complexioned man being carried out by police officers. He was wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and a blue sweat shirt.

"I was told that Johnson and Grier and possibly one or two others tackled and held the man immediately, but, of course, the tragedy was completed.

"We don't know yet who he is. But one thing is clear in my mind. He had to know the ropes. This was all behind the door to the ballroom. It seems to me that he had to know what the Kennedy exit was going to be beforehand.

"People say that a hurricane roars. You could just heard a roar. Then in a short time-just a few moments-people were crying. All of us were stunned.

"I saw Ethel Kennedy. She was right alongside him all the time. Mrs. Kennedy remained very composed.

"Then Steve Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law, asked everyone to quiet down and "let's all be orderly." It was hair-raising; Smith's voice sounds just like Senator Kennedy's.

"I was at the hotel in the first place because I admire Senator Kennedy. Our convention business was over for the evening and three of us, a librarian from St. Petersburg, Fla., and another from the Boston Globe had gone out to eat. Instead of going back to our hotel, the tSatler Hilton, we decided to go over to the Ambassador. We had heard that the senator and his California friends had taken quarters there for the night.

"We got there about 9:45 o'clock, and the lobby was already packed with people. There must have been more than 3,000 in the lobby and the ballrooms. There was no program; people just standing around talking and catching the latest returns.

"That's how I bumped into Salinger. I told him I was from The Star, and he asked about several persons he knows on the paper. Then he told me that Kennedy probably would pass through the press room after making his television statement.

"Thus, I was by happenstance close to the scene of the tragedy, close enough, regrettable as it was, to be on the sideline as the senator was carried to an ambulance.

"Some of those closer than I felt Bobby Kennedy was conscious. Someone told me he was able to take a rosary in his hand.

"I have never seen a huge mass of people so crazed in the aftermath of the shooting. Many were knocked known in the hallways as young people ran around. It was shocking.

"I then went back to the shooting scene. The other victims were still lying on the floor. Karl Uecker, an assistant manager of the hotel, told me he was alongside the senator as they came through the kitchen.

"The senator had paused to shake hands with some of the help when the shots popped, Uecker said. 'I saw the senator fall and several others go down.

"I saw a small type gun in the gunman's hand. Two guys (apparently Johnson and Grier) pinned him over the counter.'

"I also talked with Norman N. Mamey, president of the Finance Service corporation, who said he was right next to Kennedy when he was struck.

"We came from the Embassy room and were going through the kitchen area,' Mamey said. 'The senator stopped to greet some of the help, and as he reached for a hand four or five shots were fired.

"Three men fell and I knew one of them was Senator Kennedy. I ducked in a corner and kind of under the tables. The fellow on my right was hit in the hip, I believe, and the man in front of me was hit in the leg.

"Everyone else ducked for cover. The women became hysterical.'

"After it was all over, police took over some rooms. Fourteen witnesses were giving statements right in the hotel.

"Obviously, for me, any thought of sleep was out of the question. I returned to the Embassy room, where the frenzied mood was over, giving way to tears and shock.

"'What a country we live in,' one girl said.

"'It just can't be true, it just can't be,' I heard a man say.

"At first it was fairly easy to get out of the hotel. But later entrances were blocked by police. In the press room I was told by an officer that the 14 witnesses were being questioned.

"Still later I was able to leave the hotel. I hired a taxicab to go back to the Statler Hilton. I asked the driver to stop by the Good Samaritan hospital, and he did.

"I guess there were about 150 people at one of the two entrances, just sitting on the curbing, waiting. I asked a policeman, and he said the senator was still in surgery and that was no word. At the other entrance, about 300 persons just standing around the doorway and the street. They were stunned, all stunned."

DOOHAN covered the assassination for the next two hours for the Kansas City Star and was stationed at the hospital where Senator KENNEDY was taken.

DOOHAN had no knowledge of any change in plans by Senator KENNEDY to go to the Ambassador Room or any other room instead of proceeding to the press room (Colonial Room).

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 7/10/68

TERRY DRINKWATER, news correspondent from the broadcasting system in television network news, CBS Television City, Los Angeles, telephone OLL-2345, phoned on July 10, 1968, in response to attempts to contact him and advised as follows:

Mr. DRINKWATER said that he had covered the ROBERT F. KENNEDY Campaign election party at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, on June 4 and June 5, 1968. He, at the time of the shooting of Senator KENNEDY, was broadcasting from the podium where Mr. KENNEDY had given his speech. Consequently he had not observed the shooting of Senator KENNEDY, nor had he seen SIRHAN SIRHAN.

Mr. DRINKWATER covered the ROBERT KENNEDY campaign party for ten days in early April in California and from May 20th to May 30th in Oregon and California. He had no recollection of seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN at any time.

On 7/10/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/mdm Date dictated 7/10/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/19/68

Mr. WILLIAM E. (BILL) EPPRIDGE was interviewed in Room 2850, Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, New York. He stated that he is employed as a Staff Photographer for Life Magazine and that he resides at 333 East 46th Street, New York, New York.

Approximately one week after Senator ROBERT KENNEDY instituted his campaign to seek the Democratic Party Presidential nomination, EPPRIDGE joined the campaign as the Life Magazine photographer and was acting in such capacity on June 4 - 5, 1968 in Los Angeles, California.

On the evening of June 4, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on his way to the ballroom to make a victory speech, Senator KENNEDY took a service elevator. Shortly after getting off the elevator, Senator KENNEDY got out of line and went into the kitchen of the hotel and shook hands with some of the employees in the kitchen. Senator KENNEDY then got back in line and proceeded along a corridor. At this point, EPPRIDGE was three or four people in back of Senator KENNEDY and a heavy set girl, white, about 5 feet 4 inches or 5 feet 5 inches, in her early 20's with a swarthy complexion, hefty build, olive, darkish or tan complexion, who seemed to be alone and who was wearing something polka dotted, maybe a kerchief or some such thing in possibly black and red colors, tried to get in line next to EPPRIDGE. (EPPRIDGE cannot remember her face as he just caught a glance of her.) EPPRIDGE did not think that she belonged there and he gave her a poke in the ribs to get her out of the way. She persisted in her attempts to get in line and EPPRIDGE gave her another poke.

At this point, EPPRIDGE started to go up the steps to the platform.

During Senator KENNEDY's speech, EPPRIDGE was just behind him and to the side. EPPRIDGE did not see this girl while he was on the platform.

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On 6/17/68 at New York, New York File # NY 44-1640

by SA FRANCIS L. CASHIN/np Date dictated 6/18/68

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NY 44-1640

On the platform, there was a very large crowd, the largest in the campaign and there was much shoving from behind and the crush was so great that EPPRIDGE could just barely get his arms above his head.

Immediately prior to Senator KENNEDY ending his speech, someone opened a path to Senator KENNEDY's right, off the platform, in what was apparently a route of exit for Senator KENNEDY. BILL BARRY, a member of Senator KENNEDY's staff was to the right and apparently leading the way to the path and was telling Senator KENNEDY to go that way. EPPRIDGE did not hear Senator KENNEDY's reply if there was one, but BARRY again told Senator KENNEDY to go "this way" which was to Senator KENNEDY's right. EPPRIDGE did not hear Senator KENNEDY's reply if there was one, but Senator KENNEDY did not go in the direction of BARRY. Senator KENNEDY went through a curtain out the back of the platform and off the platform.

EPPRIDGE does not know where Senator KENNEDY was going at this point. EPPRIDGE was about 12 to 15 feet behind Senator KENNEDY.

At this point, through the curtain in the back of the platform and to the right just off the platform, EPPRIDGE saw the persistent girl he described earlier.

After getting off the back of the platform, Senator KENNEDY went to the right. EPPRIDGE was following and when EPPRIDGE got to some doors that seemed small for the crowd he heard two shots in very rapid succession. EPPRIDGE at first thought these were fireworks as they had been in Chinatown, San Francisco, the day before and there were many fireworks there.

NY 44-1640

There was a pause after the second shot and people were scattering. EPPRIDGE realized that what he thought were fireworks were actually shots. He ran forward instinctively thinking he had better count the shots. He counted a total of six shots.

As he was running forward there was screaming and bedlam. He then saw a man lying on the floor. He took three pictures of this individual who at first he thought was BILL BARRY. It was PAUL SCHRADE. He then took 3 or 4 more steps forward and saw Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor with JUAN ROMERO holding his head.

EPPRIDGE stopped and took pictures of Senator KENNEDY. Forward was a mass of people around the individual who apparently shot Senator KENNEDY. EPPRIDGE did not go forward to see this individual and stayed in the area of Senator KENNEDY.

During this time JIM WILSON and his crew of BOB PUNK and BILL LEWIS, who were doing contract work for Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), were filming Senator KENNEDY. When JIM WILSON ran out of film he (WILSON) threw his camera to the floor and started pushing people back. Mrs. ETHEL KENNEDY asked people to move back and EPPRIDGE assisted in this, extending his arms out and walking backward into the crowd, taking a picture now and then.

The ambulance attendants then came and Senator KENNEDY was placed in a stretcher and taken to an elevator. EPPRIDGE followed. EPPRIDGE did not recall hearing Senator KENNEDY say anything after he was shot.

After this, EPPRIDGE went back to see what he could do about JIM WILSON who was "completely broken-up" over the whole incident.

NY 44-1640

EPPRIDGE did not see the shooting; the gun; SIRHAN SIRHAN; or SIRHAN SIRHAN being subdued.

EPPRIDGE has seen pictures of SIRHAN SIRHAN and he is not familiar to him.

EPPRIDGE is of the opinion that the path taken by Senator KENNEDY in leaving the platform was not the planned route of exit as BILL BARRY who handled such things had indicated a path to Senator KENNEDY's right off the platform.

This was the biggest crowd of the campaign. Usually in entering or leaving a crowd, Senator KENNEDY would go right through the thickest part. On this occasion, before entering the ballroom, Senator KENNEDY asked BILL BARRY if there was a backway in. This was the first time that EPPRIDGE can recall Senator KENNEDY going in the backway.

Also in leaving by the backway, EPPRIDGE thinks that Senator KENNEDY may have been tired or probably he wanted to get to "The Factory" where he was going to give a party for his staff and the press.

EPPRIDGE heard of no threats as to Senator KENNEDY's life, but he was fearful that something might happen to him as he (Senator KENNEDY) would put himself in dangerous situations. That is he might fall out of the car or some such thing. A few weeks before this, Senator KENNEDY chipped a tooth in a crowd.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/1/68

HAROLD F. FILAN, Staff Photographer, Associated Press, 202 West First Street, Los Angeles, telephone number 524-2444 advised as follows:

At approximately 8:00 p.m., June 4, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel to cover Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. Several hours before the speech by KENNEDY in the Embassy Room he took up a position on the television stand at the back of the ballroom. He heard Senator KENNEDY speak and saw KENNEDY move to his left, then to his, KENNEDY's right, and finally depart the area through some curtains immediately to the rear of the platform. A minute or two after that he heard some balloons popping and at that time he started to load his camera.

He then heard some screaming and called to one of the cameramen on the television platform, name unrecalled, to see if he knew what was going on, and this individual stated, "there is a fight". He observed a lot of confusion at the main door of the ballroom at which time he climbed on to the stand but could not see any fight taking place. He then managed to make his way over to the ballroom doors where he heard someone state, "someone shot KENNEDY". Due to the large crowd in the ballroom he could not get any closer to the scene of the action. He tried to make his way behind the platform but he was unsuccessful in doing this.

He then saw his partner, WALLACE FONG, JR., who was also in the ballroom covering KENNEDY from a close position. He gave his film to FONG and then exited the ballroom and proceeded to a rear entrance where he thought he could take a photograph of KENNEDY being moved to the hospital. When he arrived at the entrance he observed several ambulances, but he did not see the Senator. He asked one of the policemen present whether Senator KENNEDY had been removed and he was told that he had been.

On 6/28/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA DAVID H. COOK/vaa Date dictated 7/1/68

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He then went back into the hotel where he again saw FONG who was unsuccessful in taking the film back to the office. He retrieved the film which he had previously given to FONG and gave it to JACK SMITH, Los Angeles Times Reporter, who stated he would take the film to the office via taxi.

FILAN stated that he did not see Senator KENNEDY at any time following the Senator's speech nor did he observe a female caucasian wearing a polka dot dress either in the ballroom or in the hotel at any time during the evening.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/1/68

WALLACE FONG, JR., Staff Photographer, Associated Press, 202 West First Street, telephone number 624-2444, advised as follows:

At approximately 8:00 p.m., June 4, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel to cover Senator KENNEDY and he took up a position approximately three to five feet to the Senator's left on the platform of the Embassy Room at the Ambassador Hotel when the Senator spoke there. From that position he took several close shots of the Senator as well as some shots of the ballroom crowd. Just before the end of the speech, when Senator KENNEDY made his "V" for victory sign, he, FONG, climbed off of the platform and went to the door leading to the kitchen area where he sat on a table located there. He did not follow the Senator into the kitchen passageway nor did he hear any shots or unusual sounds just after the Senator entered that area. Approximately two or three minutes after the Senator left the platform, he observed a large wave of people coming toward him and was pushed back into the Embassy Room. Several people stated that a scuffle was in progress, and he later heard that KENNEDY was shot. He then saw two male caucasians, who he assumed to be aides of Senator KENNEDY, block off the door leading into the kitchen passageway.

In the ensuing confusion he wandered around until he saw his partner HAROLD F. FILAN at which time FILAN gave him some film to return to the office. He then observed a female caucasian whom he later learned to be ELIZABETH EVANS stretched out on a table approximately fifteen to twenty feet from the kitchen doors in the Embassy Room. He asked someone present what had happened and was told that she had been hurt in the scuffle. He observed that she had a lot of blood on her forehead and that she was holding her head. He then took several photographs of many of the people in the ballroom, and then he telephoned his office. He was told to give the

On 5/28/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-155

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by SA DAVID H. COOK/vaa Date dictated 7/1/68

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films in his possession to FRANK WORTH, who would be in front of the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard. When he went to that location, the police had the area blocked off and he did not see WORTH so he returned to the hotel and after finding his partner FILAN, he gave the films to him.

He then went to his automobile which was parked in the rear parking lot of the hotel and, while he was waiting in his car, he was approached by a police officer and told to open his trunk. He then identified himself using his Los Angeles Police Department Press Pass and complied with the officer's request. The officer made a search of his trunk, and then apologized for the inconvenience telling him that a woman had seen him deposit something in the trunk. FONG stated that just before getting into his car he had taken several lenses from his pockets which he carried there and which were very bulky.

At approximately 4:00 a.m., after returning to his office he again went back to the Ambassador Hotel and shot some more photographs in the kitchen area where the shooting occurred.

He did not see Senator KENNEDY at any time after the Senator left the platform, nor did he observe a female caucasian wearing a polka dot dress at any time while at the Ambassador Hotel. He estimated that from where he was standing in the Embassy Room to where the shooting occurred the distance was approximately 35 to 40 feet.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/24/68

BOB FUNK, 7019 Sheridonna Lane, Alexandria, Virginia, was interviewed on June 21, 1968, and furnished the following information.

FUNK stated he worked with the crew of JIM WILSON and BILL LEWIS which was under contract to CBS for coverage of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY's campaign. He had been with KENNEDY through the Oregon and California campaign.

He said prior to the shooting they had been in the room where the victory party was being held and was told by JERRY BRUNO that KENNEDY was going to the Embassy Room. They went up to KENNEDY's suite of rooms in order to do proper coverage. When KENNEDY got onto the elevator to go to the Embassy Room FUNK said he and his crew ran down five flights of stairs to be able to film the acceptance speech. By the time they arrived KENNEDY was on the stage. He said they had to shoulder their way through the crowd to the stage and he does not think Senator KENNEDY came in through the crowd. After the speech, KENNEDY turned and looked left then right as though trying to decide how to leave. FUNK said he heard a man, unknown say "this way Senator, it's clear." As the Senator left through the rear they followed. At approximately the swinging doors he heard what sounded like paper cups popping when someone stamps on them. He first realized it was gun fire when he saw plaster fall from the ceiling where a bullet hit. His crew shoved their way to the Senator, filming. As he knelt he could see the Senator moving his eyes and his lips were moving but FUNK said he could not hear what he was saying. FUNK stated WILSON kept filming until the magazine was empty. LEWIS left to get more film and when he brought it back WILSON removed the empty magazine and re-threaded the camera. WILSON then laid the camera down.

On 6/21/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

by SA ROBERT F. PETTY:pgp Date dictated 6/24/68

FUNK said LEWIS and he then tried to keep the crowd away. When the ambulance crew arrived FUNK said he gave the camera to JERRY SIMS and the two of them followed the ambulance to both hospitals taking photographs.

FUNK said he had given one of his passes to JENNY RONNELLI (phonetic), North Hollywood, California, telephone number 766-7626, so she could attend the speech in the Embassy Room. The day following the assassination RONNELLI told him that a man had approached her in the Embassy Room, and asked for one of her passes so he could go to the kitchen and see the Senator. She refused and when she saw SIRHAN on television she said that was the man who had asked her for the pass.

FUNK said he has never seen SIRHAN or the girl in the "Polka dot-dress."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/20/68

Mr. WILLIAM F. GARDNER, Chief Security Officer, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, furnished the following information:

On June 5, 1968, at approximately 12:30 a.m., AUGUSTUS MALLARD, one of the guards hired from Ace Guard Service for the night, came to him, at which time MALLARD had a white male in custody.

As he recalls, MALLARD told him he took this man into custody on the Embassy Room floor level, shortly after the shooting.

GARDNER could not recall the individual's name who was in custody of MALLARD, but believes the man's last name was WAYNE.

As he recalls, it was determined that this individual was a witness to the shooting and was turned over to the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department as a witness.

On 6/14/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA ROBERT F. PICKARD/mmc Date dictated 6/17/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/12/68

MARY E. GILLESPIE, 1643 North Dillon, telephone number NO 4-7469, furnished the following information:

GILLESPIE advised that she was the Organization Chairman for the Los Angeles County Democratic Central Committee until she relinquished this position to work as a volunteer worker at the Kennedy Campaign Headquarters located at 5615 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles. She stated that at the Kennedy Campaign Headquarters, she supervised the telephone soliciting program and explained that this program was instituted in an effort to poll the registered Democratic voters in Los Angeles and determine if they intended to vote for Senator KENNEDY.

GILLESPIE advised that there was a great deal of confusion at the campaign headquarters on the days prior to election day. She placed individuals wherever empty telephones appeared throughout the campaign headquarters and attempted to keep everyone busy making as many soliciting calls as possible. She stated that due to the large number of individuals working at the campaign headquarters, and the confusion and activity that existed, it is difficult for her to specifically recall any particular individual. She stated, however, that she does recall one male volunteer worker who was seated facing the wall at the front right hand side of the telephone soliciting area. She stated that she is unable to recall this individual's name but remembers having a conversation with him concerning a transportation request by some registered voter. She added that she is unable to further describe this conversation and believes this brief conversation was the only one she had with this individual. GILLESPIE advised that she is able to further recall this individual as she felt he was quite handsome and that he resembled a younger version of the movie actor OMAR SHARIF. GILLESPIE further advised this individual wore some type of a metal medallion on a chain or leather strap around his neck, further drawing her attention to him. GILLESPIE stated that she believes she could recognize this individual and described him as follows:

On 6/8/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

SA JAMES M. KELLOGG and - 252 -
by SA DANIEL R. BRAINARD/JMK/asi Date dictated 6/11/68

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Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	Possibly of Middle Eastern descent
Complexion	Dark, as if well tanned
Height	6' to 6'1"
Build	Slender
Hair	Dark, worn long (western movie length)
Eyes	Dark
Age	19 to 23 years
Characteristics	Wore a mustache which was full under nose, thinner as it tapered out to cheeks (not a handlebar mustache)
Dress	Turtle-neck type knit shirt sweater, bright light blue in color, possibly long sleeved

GILLESPIE advised that a male volunteer worker, who also worked as a telephone solicitor, was seated to the right of the above-described individual but does not know if these individuals were friends or not. She stated that she never heard them speak to one another in English, or any other language, and never observed anything which would indicate whether or not they knew each other. She stated that she is unable to describe this individual other than that he was a male, about the same age as the first-described individual and shorter in stature.

GILLESPIE advised that she was not familiar with telephone volunteer worker W. J. WOOD and was unable to recall anything concerning WOOD.

GILLESPIE advised that MONIKA FOLEY, 1208 South Marengo, Los Angeles, also worked closely with the telephone soliciting program and might possibly have information concerning the individual she described as resembling OMAR SHARIF and other telephone solicitors who were seated in the immediate area surrounding this individual.

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GILLESPIE further advised that volunteer workers, JAMES E. SMITH and DONALD GINDY, might possibly have information concerning individuals who worked at the campaign headquarters as telephone solicitors. She advised that SMITH is originally from Australia and is presently residing at 7607 Lexington Avenue, West Hollywood, telephone number 876-6924. She stated that GINDY resides at 1503 Bedford, Los Angeles, telephone number OR 1-0465.

GILLESPIE advised that she was not present at the campaign headquarters on Sunday, June 2, 1968, and, therefore, her recollection of the individual resembling OMAR SHARIF and the brief conversation she had with him had to take place on Monday, June 3, 1968. She added that most of the volunteer workers and telephone solicitors were released from the headquarters at approximately 5:00 PM on June 3, 1968. Therefore, she is certain that her contact with this individual took place earlier that day. She is unable to specifically recall exactly what time of the day except that it was either in the late morning or afternoon hours.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/12/68

MARY E. GILLESPIE, 1643 North Dillon, furnished the following information:

GILLESPIE advised that she had worked as a volunteer worker at the Kennedy Campaign Headquarters, 5615 Wilshire Boulevard, for several days prior to the election on June 4, 1968, and, in this capacity, was entitled to attend the press conference being held in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel on the night of June 4, 1968.

GILLESPIE advised that she arrived at the press conference at approximately 8:30 PM and immediately determined that, while this conference was originally scheduled for members of the press and campaign workers, there were numerous individuals present who were not members of either group. She stated that she was surprised that so many outsiders were present and that the security in limiting the attendance to authorized persons appeared to be so lax.

GILLESPIE advised that everyone appeared to be happy at the conference and most individuals were smiling and, in general, elated over the Senator's apparent election win as they viewed the results of the election on television. GILLESPIE advised that at approximately 9:30 or 10:00 PM, her attention was directed to one male individual who did not appear to belong to any group and who was very obviously alone. She stated further that it appeared odd to her as this individual did not appear to be elated over the election and, in fact, appeared to be quite somber. GILLESPIE advised that as the evening wore on, she continuously observed this individual and noticed that he never spoke to anyone but merely stood in the general area of the NBC cameras and observed the proceedings. She stated that this individual was not wearing any type of a press badge or KENNEDY badge but that he did have a drink in his hand, which she further recalls as being odd as there was no bar open to the public in the Embassy Room, where this conference took place.

On 6/8/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA JAMES M. KELLOGG and
SA DANIEL R. BRAINARD/JMK/asi Date dictated 6/11/68

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GILLESPIE advised that at approximately 12:00 PM, Senator KENNEDY appeared and gave his victory speech and that due to the confusion and excitement surrounding this speech, she lost track of this individual and did not further observe him.

GILLESPIE advised that she believed she could recognize the individual she observed for approximately two hours and described him as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	Possibly of Indian descent
Complexion	Dark
Height	5'6" to 5'8"
Build	Stocky
Age	38 to 45 years
Eyes	Dark
Characteristics	Beard worn rather short, neatly trimmed, not pointed at chin
Dress	Black business suit with white shirt and tie, canary yellow silk turban

GILLESPIE advised that she has no information whatsoever concerning this individual, his identity or that he was in anyway connected with the assassin but felt that his actions were peculiar and, in view of this, wished to relate the above incident. She added that this individual was not identical to SIRHAN SIRHAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 7/16/68

Mr. ROBERT GOODMAN, who resides at 494 North Spalding Drive, Beverly Hills, telephone No. 277-6789, advised that he and his wife, PEARL, were at the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968, when Senator ROBERT KENNEDY was assassinated. He stated that they arrived at the hotel at approximately 7:45 PM, and went to the Embassy Ballroom where they remained for most of the evening. He stated that, when Senator KENNEDY was making his remarks, they could not hear him from where they were standing so they went to the area back stage of the Embassy Ballroom and from there they went to the Colonial Room. This was the press room where they watched the end of his speech on the television monitor.

GOODMAN advised that, after the Senator left the Embassy Room and went into the kitchen area, he heard what seemed to be "balloons breaking" and what he later learned to have been gun shots. He stated that he and his wife remained at the hotel in the Colonial Room watching the proceedings on television until approximately 2:30 AM, at which time they went to their home.

He stated that he never saw any one during the entire evening at the hotel who resembled the photographs he later saw of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

On 7/16/68 at Beverly Hills, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA E. RHEAD RICHARDS, JR./sdb Date dictated 7/16/68

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WFO 173-135

WBS:jcb

1

HAYS GOREY, residence 4606 Tournay Road, Washington, D. C., a political correspondent for Time Magazine, stated that as Senator KENNEDY completed his victory talk in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, he proceeded to the Colonial Room as Senator KENNEDY was to address the press in that room.

GOREY said that he was standing near the door of the Colonial Room when he heard shots and he opened the door of this room and saw GEORGE PLIMPTON and JACK GALLIVAN holding the suspect in the shooting of Senator KENNEDY. He said a very small man in suit clothes, possibly a sports jacket was jumping on the hands of the suspect, later identified as SIRHAN SIRHAN.

GOREY stated he did not see the shooting, however, he believed he was one of the first into the area from the Colonial Room. He said he did not recall ever seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN prior to the shooting of Senator KENNEDY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/16/68

GEORGE GREEN, residence 6811 10th Avenue, Los Angeles, telephone No. 759-8740, employed at J. Avon Associates (real estate), 8301 South Western Avenue, telephone No. 753-3305, advised that he is the co-chairman of "New Images," a Negro organization dedicated to the enrichment of the black community with headquarters at 2714 West Vernon Avenue. He advised that he was active in the California primary campaign and that he sponsored the election of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the events of June 4 and 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, where Senator KENNEDY was shot:

At approximately 10:15 to 10:30 PM on June 4, 1968, he left his headquarters, 2714 West Vernon Avenue, and proceeded to the Ambassador Hotel to take part in a rally for Senator KENNEDY. He arrived at the Ambassador Hotel approximately 10:30 to 10:45 PM and parked his car on a street west and south of the Ambassador. He then proceeded to look for BOOKER GRIFFIN, Co-chairman of "New Images," so that he could obtain a press pass and thereby enter the Ambassador ballroom. He found Mr. GRIFFIN in the lower ballroom and together they went upstairs to the Kennedy Press Room, but they were unsuccessful in getting a pass for him (GREEN). He was able to enter the press room, which he understands is called the Colonial Room, and he went through the kitchen passageway to the rear of the press room.

While in the kitchen passageway, he observed a group of newsmen and photographers interviewing either FRANK MANKIEWICZ or Senator KENNEDY. He did not get close enough to see the individual being interviewed, however, he recalls the time to have been approximately 11:15 to 11:30 PM. It was at that time that he noticed SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN at the edge of the crowd near a tall thin person and a female caucasian. SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was wearing blue jeans, a shirt, a jacket and desert boots.

On 7/15/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA DAVID H. COOK/jmb Date dictated 7/16/68

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He appeared to be approximately 22 years old and of Mexican-American descent. He also appeared, to him, to be approximately five feet eight inches, 140 to 150 pounds with a dark olive complexion. The tall thin person standing near him was approximately 22 years old; however, he does not recall that individual's dress nor his ethnic group. The female Caucasian was in her early twenties and she wore a polka dot dress which was white with black polka dots. She had a good figure, but he cannot further describe her and is doubtful if he would recognize her again.

He then left the kitchen area and went downstairs where he had several drinks at one of the bars located at the rear of the lower ballroom. When the Senator spoke, at approximately midnight, he was in the ballroom and saw the Senator on the television monitors located there. Immediately following the speech he exited the lower ballroom by passing a guard, who was supposed to be guarding the lower kitchen doors. He proceeded through these doors and started up the kitchen stairway when he heard what he thought at the time were two balloons popping. He arrived in the upper kitchen passageway and in the confusion realized that what he had heard were shots being fired. He jumped onto the food preparation table, which was to his right and from there observed a struggle taking place with SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN as the culprit. He observed a gun in one of SIRHAN's hands and he noticed that it was a small calibre revolver. At this time, only a small portion of SIRHAN's face was visible since someone had an arm around him. He recalls that ROOSEVELT GRIER and RAPER JOHNSON were those who were struggling with SIRHAN SIRHAN.

He stayed in the area a short while and observed Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor with his feet facing the press room. He also observed that other individuals were apparently injured in the area. A short time after the shooting, which he estimates to be approximately three to five minutes,

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several Los Angeles Police Department officers arrived on the scene. SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was then taken away and then Senator KENNEDY was removed on a stretcher by some ambulance drivers.

Soon after the kitchen area was cleared of people, he was interviewed by the Los Angeles Police Department, as well as television Channels 4 and 5, and he recalls that he related the events of the evening essentially as related above. He advised that he can furnish no further information regarding the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/17/68

PAUL W. GRIECO, Bookkeeper at Allied Builders Corporation, 451 North La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, advised as follows:

GRIECO is a senior at Woodbury College and resides at 677 South New Hampshire Avenue, Los Angeles, a boarding house. This boarding house is located about one block from the Ambassador Hotel. GRIECO and another boarder, whose name is FRANK (LNU) from New Jersey, had been watching the primary election results on television at this boarding house. At about 10:15 p.m. on June 4, 1968, they decided to walk to the Ambassador Hotel to see Senator KENNEDY at his campaign headquarters.

When they arrived, they were told by a uniformed officer that the Embassy Room could not accommodate any more persons because of fire regulations. GRIECO and his friend, FRANK, then went to another room off the lobby of this hotel where the RAFFERTY headquarters was located. They remained at the RAFFERTY headquarters for about 30 or 45 minutes.

At about 11:45 p.m., GRIECO and FRANK came back to the main lobby of the hotel and learned from conversation with other people standing in the lobby that a corridor from the main lobby would lead to the kitchen area through which Senator KENNEDY would pass on his way from the hotel after his speech in the Embassy Room. GRIECO followed some people through this corridor to the kitchen area and stood with others in a crowd of about 50 or 60 persons near a doorway leading to the kitchen from the rostrum in the Embassy Room. Several "KENNEDY girls" had cleared a path from this doorway through the kitchen. People were standing on each side of this cleared area which led out by the steam table. While thus waiting, he could hear KENNEDY making a speech inside the Embassy Room. After this speech was concluded, KENNEDY and several of his aides appeared in the kitchen area from behind the rostrum rather than through the exit route that had been planned.

On 6/13/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 55-156
by SA's HARRY H. WHIDBEE and
PATRICK J. MULLANY (HHW:jmk) Date dictated 6/14/68
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KENNEDY was surrounded by persons who were reaching to shake his hand. GRIECO said that in the push of the crowd he finally found himself in a tight crowd about four or five waves of people behind KENNEDY and about ten or twelve feet behind Senator KENNEDY. GRIECO said he could not see KENNEDY's head but could see people reach over others' shoulders to shake his hand or touch him. Senator KENNEDY was laboriously working his way . . . through the crowd, which was pressing in around him. He had just entered a narrow corridor between the steam table and a wall. GRIECO said he heard several shots in rapid order, all within three to four seconds. This was followed by screams, confusion, and pushing by people scrambling to escape. When GRIECO recovered from the pushing crowd, he saw KENNEDY lying on the floor in the corridor between the steam table and the wall. A busboy was kneeling beside him but was apparently in shock and was doing nothing to comfort KENNEDY. GRIECO said he kneeled and took KENNEDY's head in his left hand and lifted it gently. He held his hand to the wound on the back of KENNEDY's head near his ear and tried to stop the flow of blood.

GRIECO said that KENNEDY looked up at him and asked, "Is PAUL all right?" GRIECO said he was certain that KENNEDY was not referring to him and did not know who this PAUL was; therefore, he did not reply. GRIECO said he was also concentrating on stopping the bleeding from the Senator's head. KENNEDY then asked him, "Is everybody all right?" GRIECO said he told KENNEDY, "Don't worry ROBERT, you'll be all right." At this point one of KENNEDY's eyes closed, and the other eye moved erratically. KENNEDY made no other sign of response and appeared to be unconscious. GRIECO said he held KENNEDY's head for about 1½ to 2 minutes.

At this point, an unknown man, but apparently a person of authority, came and asked GRIECO who he was. GRIECO replied that he was just trying to help stop the bleeding. This man then knelt and took KENNEDY's head in his hands. At this point, GRIECO stepped back. Sometime after this, possibly a minute or two, a doctor came and other people were bending over KENNEDY attempting to comfort him.

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GRIECO then wedged his way over to the far end of the steam table and observed several men holding SIRHAN, on his back, on top of the steam table. At this time, there was complete bedlam with reporters and photographers and others shouting and a scene of general confusion. GRIECO remained in this area until the ambulance attendants came with the stretcher, and KENNEDY was placed on the stretcher and removed from the scene.

GRIECO said that he had been separated from his friend, FRANK, so he left the Ambassador Hotel alone and walked back to his boarding house. He cleaned the blood from his hands and watched television coverage of the murder scene coming from the Ambassador Hotel. An announcer requested that all witnesses return to the hotel and contact the police. GRIECO said he then walked back to the hotel and was interviewed by a uniformed police officer who took his information and his name and address.

GRIECO said that in later conversation with FRANK in the boarding house, FRANK stated that he had not been in the area and had not observed the shooting of Senator KENNEDY.

GRIECO said he did not observe SIRHAN in the kitchen area or elsewhere before KENNEDY appeared from the rostrum in the Embassy Room, and he did not see SIRHAN shoot Senator KENNEDY. He said he did not see the murder weapon at any time. GRIECO did not observe SIRHAN until after the shooting when he was being restrained on the steam table by several men.

GRIECO said that he was standing with others in a crowd near an exit door from the Embassy Room for a period of about 10 minutes waiting for Senator KENNEDY to finish his speech. There were many others engaged in subdued conversation and being monitored by "KENNEDY girls."

GRIECO distinctly recalls standing next to a woman who was wearing a polka dot blouse, a white color with dark polka dots. She also wore a scarf made of the same material which was about her shoulders and possibly pinned in front. He said this woman was wearing a black skirt and carrying a black purse. She had black hair which was pinned close to the back of her head in a very short ponytail. He described