

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/26/68

Miss ONDINE VAUGHN, also known as Kathleen Vaughn, Room 236, Sunset Marguis Hotel, 1200 Alta Loma Drive, Los Angeles, California, actress and photographer, related the following:

She expects to be at the above address for two or three weeks and may go to New York City, where she can be reached at 170 West 73rd Street, Apartment 9-D, telephone 787-5087. She may remain in the Los Angeles area for a while longer and if so she can be reached at 22548 Pacific Coast Highway, Apartment 111, Malibu, California.

Miss VAUGHN, who had been doing some free lance photography in New York and recently had a contract to do work for the "New Yorker" magazine, had more recently been traveling with the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party. She was present in the Embassy Room at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, on the early morning of June 5, 1968. She did not see the shooting or the immediate aftermath. She, at the time, was in the press area overlooking the Embassy Room. She collected a number of photographs of the party in the Embassy Room which she sent to STEVE SHAPIRO in New York City, New York. He markets photographs and can be contacted through Black Star, 450 Park Avenue South, New York, New York.

The film still shots are in black and white. She expected to have copies of the film in two or three weeks. She will make the film available to the FBI if it is desired to examine it.

Following examination of photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and his brothers, Miss VAUGHN said she had no recollection of having ever seen any of these persons at any time.

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On 6/21/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SA RICHARD M. WOOLF and - 398 -  
SA LESLIE F. WARREN LFW/sro Date dictated 6/25/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/19/68.

Miss LISA LYNN URSO, 6405 Bradford Street, San Diego, advised that in June of this year she was a member of the group at Crawford High School, San Diego, supporting Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's campaign for the presidency. On the evening of June 4, 1968, LISA and two of her girl friends, who were also working in the KENNEDY Campaign, drove to Los Angeles to follow the results of the Primary Election vote at the Ambassador Hotel where KENNEDY had his temporary headquarters. Being head of the KENNEDY supporters at Crawford High School LISA had a badge which admitted her to areas not accessible to her two friends. By the time Senator KENNEDY began his victory speech in the ballroom of the Hotel, LISA was separated from her friends. She did not again get together with her friends until hours after the assassination. Her friends had no first hand knowledge concerning the shooting.

LISA said that while KENNEDY was giving his victory speech, she had left the Embassy Room, where he was speaking, and gone to the kitchen to get a drink of water. After getting the drink, she walked in the kitchen to cool off. There were about fifteen or twenty people in the kitchen at this time. She was still in the kitchen when KENNEDY finished his speech. She stayed in the kitchen because she thought he might go to the press room in the hotel after his speech and to go there he would have to go through the hallway of the kitchen. When KENNEDY came out of the Embassy Room and was in the hall of the kitchen LISA noticed, out of the corner of her eye, that a young man in front of her was reaching across his body with his right hand. She subconsciously thought he was getting ready to shake hands with KENNEDY, but when he continued the motion she had the thought that he was reaching for a gun. She then saw him bring his arm back out in front and up and he took a slight step forward. She is not certain that she saw a gun in his hand but she heard shots and saw flames coming from the tip of his hand. She recalls hearing three definite shots and then there was chaos. There could have been more shots, the sound of which was covered by the outcries of the people in the room. She saw Senator KENNEDY grab the back of his head with his right hand. People closed in on the young man and she lost sight of him, but knew the people were holding him down on a table. She did not see

339

On 7/18/68 at San Diego, California File # SD 44-394  
 by SA ROBERT E. THORNTON <sup>25</sup>h Date dictated 7/19/68

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the young man disarmed.

LISA said that she had not by this time seen the young man's face but in standing behind him she said she noticed his hair as black, thick and "real curly." Also he was wearing a jacket with a weave like denim. She does not remember the color of the jacket, but believes it was blue or beige. It was not a sports coat. He was very close to LISA's height; if anything he was slightly shorter. He had been just forward of her left shoulder but the step he took just before shooting brought him in front of her.

After the shooting LISA went into the press room and next saw the young man when he was being taken out of the building. She saw his face for the first time then as he glared at the people in the press room. She is certain that this was the same young man who had fired the shots.

LISA said that she does not believe anyone was with this young man and she did not see anyone with him nor does she recall him talking with anyone.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/13/68

JOHN PAUL VIAZANKO, 15034 Chase Street, Sepulveda, California, telephone number 894-4805 was interviewed at the Columbia Broadcasting System building located at Fairfax and Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. He furnished the following information:

His Social Security No. is [REDACTED]. He was born on December 7, 1925, at Adah, Pennsylvania. He is a free lance cameraman.

On June 4, 1968, he was assigned as a cameraman and working for the Columbia Broadcasting System at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California. His assistant cameraman was WILLIAM A. SWEARINGEN.

He was at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 6:30 PM on June 4, 1968, filming a "Youth in Politics Show". Shortly after filming that show he left the Ambassador Hotel and went to the Beverly Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles. He returned to the Ambassador Hotel approximately 10:45 PM, on June 4, 1968.

He was in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel filming and listening to Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, who was making a victory speech.

Shortly after midnight on June 5, 1968, Senator KENNEDY completed his speech and turned and walked out a door located at the rear of the platform. VIAZANKO went out a door located to the right of the platform and as he entered the hallway behind the Embassy Room he observed a white female who was crying and who was showing people that she had blood stains on her dress.

Senator KENNEDY's party had already passed through that area and had entered the kitchen area of the hotel.

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On 7/16/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SA J. C. FISHBECK, JR. and  
SA ROBERT F. PICKARD/RFP/sdb Date dictated 7/17/68

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2  
LA 56-156

VIAZANKO stated that he did not hear any sounds which would have sounded like gun shots to him.

After observing the white female with the blood stains on her dress, he rushed passed her into the kitchen area and upon entering that area he observed that Senator KENNEDY was lying wounded on the floor. He also observed other individuals who were on the floor and who appeared to be wounded.

He had his camera with him at the time and was told by someone in the room, who he assumed was a security man, to get out of the room and he did leave the room.

After he left the room he decided that he had better get back in there to get some photographs, so he reentered the room. The room where Senator KENNEDY was lying on the floor was very crowded and all he could do was hold his camera above his head and take pictures and hope that he was obtaining some good pictures.

VIAZANKO said that he was very busy attempting to obtain photographs and he did not observe the people who were subduing the person who did the shooting nor did he observe the gunman.

VIAZANKO was shown a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and he advised that prior to seeing SIRHAN's photograph in the newspaper on June 5, 1968, he does not recall ever having seen this individual.

He stated that LARRY FINDLEY was assigned as a sound man to his camera crew but he does not know where FINDLEY was at the approximate time of the shooting.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/12/68

STEVEN B. WAGNER, 12237 Califa Street, telephone number 769-1294, who was a volunteer worker for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968:

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on June 4, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel and tried to gain entry to the Embassy Room but the fire marshals had closed it. He also tried to get into the Colonial Room; however, he could not gain access to that room since he did not have the proper badge. He then heard and saw the Senator speak on the television monitors which were set up on the patio outside the Embassy Room. He was in this area when the shooting occurred. He first realized that something unusual had happened when he heard screams and someone say that the Senator was shot. He then saw a flood of people exit the Embassy Room. Standing with him was TIFFANY JONAS. They saw an injured person being carried out of the Embassy Ballroom whom he thinks was IRWIN STROLL, and many people followed immediately after him.

Also with him was another volunteer worker, VICKI CUCCIA, 730 South Kingsley Drive, and she appeared very upset over the shooting so he decided to walk her home, which is a short distance from the hotel. When they were approximately one and one-half blocks from the hotel on Normandy Avenue, he observed a man in a white uniform similar to the uniforms worn at the Ambassador Hotel climb into a blue and white Ford which was parked on the east side of Normandy, facing north. He stated there were two blue and white cars parked one behind the other and that one was a 1957 Ford and the other was a 1967 or 1968 Ford. He does not recall which automobile this individual drove off in. He cannot further describe this individual and did not observe in which direction the car went after leaving its parking space.

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On 7/9/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SA WILLIAM L. BOURQUE and - 403 -  
SA DAVID H. COOK/DHC/alm Date dictated 7/12/68

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2  
LA 56-156

After walking VICKI CUCCIA to her residence, he returned to the Ambassador Hotel and looked for TIFFANY JONAS, but he could not find her. He stated that he was concerned about her since she also appeared very upset over the shooting. He stayed at the hotel for approximately an hour and then went to the Good Samaritan Hospital.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/8/68

MICHAEL LAURENCE WAYNE, residence address, 1430 South Hi-Point, Apartment 105, Los Angeles, California, telephone WE 4-9851, was interviewed at his place of employment, Pickwick Books, Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, telephone HO 9-3191. He is employed there in the Accounts Receivable Department in the office.

He advised that he was an admirer of Presidential aspirant ROBERT F. KENNEDY and has, as a hobby, the collection of various political buttons, banners, and other paraphernalia and autographs. He stated he has done this for many years and has the autographs of President DWIGHT EISENHOWER and current Vice President HUBERT HUMPHREY, among others.

On May 20, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel to the KENNEDY press rooms, and there was given, by a KENNEDY aide, a PT 109 tie clasp. Later on that same day, he, by chance, met Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY on the stairway in the lobby area of the hotel and introduced himself to him. They shook hands, and he asked KENNEDY if he would exchange his, KENNEDY's, PT 109 tie clasp for the one that he, WAYNE, had just been given by the KENNEDY aide. They did exchange tie clasps, and WAYNE left.

On the night of June 4, 1968, after he, WAYNE, left work at Pickwick Books, he hitchhiked to the RAFFERTY headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard, east of the Ambassador Hotel and picked up various political pins there. He then hitchhiked to KUCHEL's headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard west of Vermont, where he collected some political publicity there. He then proceeded to the KENNEDY headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard, in the Miracle Mile section of Los Angeles across from the Broadway Department Store, however, left shortly after arrival, because the headquarters was closing up. He then hitchhiked to the MC CARTHY headquarters on Westwood Boulevard in Westwood, where he received further political paraphernalia for his collection as well as the hard cover book, "Limits of Power," written by MC CARTHY. He then

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On 7/8/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SAs JEROME K. CROWE and - 405 -  
R. J. LA JEUNESSE, Jr./JKC/eb Date dictated 7/8/68

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2  
LA 56-156

hitchhiked to the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where he went to the seventh floor and into a CBS television room where MC CARTHY was to appear. He saw MC CARTHY, who autographed the aforementioned book, and shortly thereafter he left and went to the hotel lobby. From there, he hitchhiked a ride with two young caucasian men and a blonde Caucasian girl to the Ambassador Hotel. These persons, whom he has never seen before or since, drove a Sprite automobile. He cannot recall the color. Shortly prior to their arrival at the Ambassador they heard on the radio that the Dodger baseball game had just ended and that DON DRYSDALE had pitched his sixth straight shut out. Upon arrival at the Ambassador, they drove through the Ambassador driveway from Wilshire Boulevard to west Eighth Street, pausing to look to their left into the parking lot to the rear of the hotel. They observed it was full, and the driver continued to West Eighth Street, where he turned right and attempted to enter a parking lot on the northwest corner of West Eighth and the next north-south street west of the hotel. The policeman there notified them that that lot was a private lot but that one could park on the street in the red zone. He, WAYNE, left the car before it was parked and never did see the persons in the Sprite again. He eventually went to the main doors leading into the press room just down the hall toward the lobby from the Embassy Room but was refused entrance thereto by a guard. He then walked from that entrance to the press room toward the Embassy Room and turned right and through the two double doors which lead into the kitchen corridor, where KENNEDY was eventually shot. From this kitchen corridor, he entered the aforementioned press room via the side door. In the press room he was given, by someone there, a blue and white rectangular badge which had printed thereon, "KENNEDY Election Night Press," and shortly thereafter, a woman gave him a green badge that had printed thereon, "KENNEDY for President," and in smaller letters below that, "Press." He clipped the two badges together with his tie clasp. He remained in the press room about ten minutes, however, did not see anyone there that he knew. He then left and went to the main lobby area, where he saw an oriental girl with a number of KENNEDY posters. He asked her for some, and she gave him two. He then proceeded to the RAFFERTY headquarters in a room off the main lobby

and picked up several RAFFERTY buttons for his collection.

He went to the fifth floor of the hotel, where he went into an open room which had a bar set up therein. He drank a scotch and soda, which was free, and he stated the room was rather crowded, however, not packed. He recognized LES GOTMAN in the room, and they exchanged greetings. He characterized GOTMAN as the youth coordinator of the KENNEDY campaign and one who had maintained a desk immediately to the right and in the corner as one would enter the KENNEDY headquarters located on Wilshire Boulevard. He also saw a KENNEDY staff member, whose name he does not know, and they discussed the PT 109 tie clasp that WAYNE had gotten from KENNEDY on the staircase. WAYNE explained that he wanted to keep that tie clasp given him by KENNEDY, and he asked the staff member if he could have another. The staff member took the one he was wearing and gave it to WAYNE. He, WAYNE, also observed, on the fifth floor, a 13 or 14 year old boy he had seen in the press room. Mr. KENNEDY then emerged from his room on the fifth floor, along with the rest of his party and proceeded toward the elevator. He, WAYNE, recognized ROSIE GRIER, and he asked Mr. KENNEDY if he would autograph the poster that he had. KENNEDY said he would later, and he and his party entered one elevator while WAYNE and members of the press entered the other. They alighted from the elevator in the kitchen of the hotel and all proceeded toward the corridor where KENNEDY was eventually shot. In the corridor, WAYNE caught up to KENNEDY and presented the poster, which was autographed by KENNEDY (There is a photograph of KENNEDY autographing the poster on Page 76 of the special edition of Life magazine captioned, "The Kennedys.") After signing the poster, KENNEDY and his party entered the Embassy Room from the aforementioned corridor, and he, WAYNE, remained in the corridor until asked to leave by a woman wearing the red, white and blue colors of the KENNEDY National Press Corps. He left via the double doors at the end of the corridor next to the press room, however, as soon as he saw the woman from the National Press leave he re-entered the corridor. He does not recall seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN in the corridor. Shortly thereafter he departed again via the same double doors and went into the Embassy Room where he heard KENNEDY finishing his speech. Just prior to the end of the speech, he, WAYNE,

went through the same double doors again and into the kitchen corridor near the press room. He did not see KENNEDY again. He did observe, however, a group, which he knew was the KENNEDY party, walking toward him from the far end of the kitchen corridor. He remembers hearing some noises that were not loud at about that time. He remembers hearing a few noises and then shortly thereafter a number more. It did not dawn on him at the time what was happening. He did not see KENNEDY get shot or fall to the floor. He heard voices shouting, "Oh, my God, he's been shot," and other such cries, and then remembers seeing ROSIE GRIER and others on top of a man on the chrome table to his front and left. The man was swarthy in complexion, and he stated he was the same man whom he has seen photographs of identified as SIRHAN. He was very shocked and immediately ran into the press room via the side door and picked up the phone and tried to dial the operator, however, could not get the dial tone or anything else. He tried it on several phones with the same results. He then ran into the hallway in the front of the Embassy Room and was asked by persons there what had happened. He advised he could not say and continued to run, seeking a phone, into the Gold Room, where he asked a busboy where a phone was. The busboy did not know, and he ran out of the room and up to a Negro Security Guard, and he asked him where a phone was. The guard wanted to know why he wanted to phone, and he replied that KENNEDY had just been shot, and he wanted to summon aid. The guard appeared to WAYNE not to believe what he had heard, and he handcuffed WAYNE and took him to some security office in the hotel. WAYNE, at this point, was very emotional and crying. The Security Guard advised him of his legal rights, and he remained in the security office about an hour, however, was allowed to get a drink of water and call his mother and girl friend. He was then escorted by two plainclothesmen from the hotel into the Gold Room, where other witnesses were. He was released and went into the next room, where the NBC television was, and ate some rolls, drank cokes, etc. He was then taken to the Rampart Station, Los Angeles Police Department in a police vehicle with many other witnesses and remained there from about 1:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m., June 5, 1968. After giving his story as a witness to the police, he was driven home by them in the Los Angeles Police Department van.

He gave no indication whatever that he was displeased with the fact that he had been detained at the hotel.

5  
LA 56-156

He furnished the following physical description of himself:

Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Born	May 19, 1947
	Manchester, England
	(Now a naturalized
	American citizen)
Height	5'9"
Weight	134 pounds
California Driver's	
License	R961514
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Wears glasses,
	occasionally contact lenses.
Prior Arrests	None
Education	Attends Los Angeles
	City College, majoring
	in Political Science and
	Pre-Law

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/9/68

1

Mrs. MARY WHALEN, 1346 Midland Avenue, Bronxville, New York, stated that during the evening of June 4-5, 1968, she was in the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, when Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY made his victory speech. Standing near Mrs. WHALEN during the speech and shooting was an unknown male. He acted peculiar in that he held a small leather-covered object near his face. Mrs. WHALEN believes that the object, which was about three inches by five inches in dimensions, was either a transistor radio or a small transmitter.

After the shooting, the unknown male approached Mrs. WHALEN and her friend, Mrs. FELICIA MESSURI, wife of National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) Producer-Director ANTHONY MESSURI, and said: "You've seen me here all evening, haven't you? Remember, you have seen me here. Don't forget." At this point the unknown male, who was alone, disappeared and was not seen again.

Mrs. WHALEN described the unknown male as follows:

Race	White
Age	45 to 50
Height	6'
Weight	190 to 200 pounds
Hair	Dark Brown or Black
Complexion	Swarthy
Peculiarity	"Wild-eyed" expression
Dress	Maroon sports jacket and dark knit sports shirt.

Mrs. WHALEN feels certain that she could identify the unknown male if she should ever see him again.

Mrs. WHALEN said she first observed the unknown male while she was going through the crowd to get Mrs.

410

On 6/19/68 at Bronxville, New York File # NY 44-1640

by SAA HOWARD G. KINALLY, JR/tp Date dictated 6/19/68

2

NY 44-1640

BARRY STODDARD, whose husband is also employed at NBC, Rockefeller Center, New York, New York. Mrs. STODDARD, who is presently in the hospital for an eye operation. probably also saw the unknown male.

411

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 7/15/68

FAY WHITE, 4149 Don Jose Drive, Los Angeles, telephone number 295-4780, advised that she was a volunteer worker for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and she furnished the following information with respect to her knowledge of the events of June 4, 1968, and June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel, where Senator KENNEDY was shot:

She arrived at the hotel at approximately 10:00 p.m., June 4, 1968, and tried to enter the Embassy Room but was denied entry to this room due to the large crowd in the room. She stated that she wore her KENNEDY staff badge which should have authorized her into this room but she was told that the fire marshals had restricted additional entry into the room. She then went to the lower ballroom and entered the Embassy Room from the fire escape which ran to the west side of the Embassy Room. She remained on the west side of the room and heard Senator KENNEDY's speech from there.

She did not hear any unusual sounds after the Senator left the podium to his rear and she did not know that anything of an unusual nature had occurred until she heard a woman scream. She then recalls hearing Senator KENNEDY's brother in-law STEPHEN SMITH ask everyone to clear the room and that is when she left the ballroom.

She was shown a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and she advised that she did not see this individual in the Ambassador Hotel at any time and she can furnish no further information with respect to the shooting.

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On 7/9/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
- 412 -  
by SA DAVID H. COOK/alm Date dictated 7/12/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/25/68

Mr. LLOYD B. WILKINS, residing at 710 West Bennett Street, Compton, and employed as a teacher at the Grate Elementary School, 112th and Wilmington Boulevard, Compton, California, was advised of the nature of the inquiry and advised as follows:

On the evening of June 4, 1968, at approximately 10:00 p.m., he, JACK WINTERS and WINTERS' brother-in-law whose name he cannot recall, went to the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, to attend the victory celebration for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He said they went to the Embassy Room but could not get in as they did not have passes so they proceeded to the Ambassador Ballroom where they watched the proceedings on television.

He said he did not hear any shots or loud noise and first became aware that KENNEDY was shot when someone came into the room and said to change channels as KENNEDY had been shot. He recalled they switched to channel 2 and observed the scene of the shooting. He said they remained in the Ambassador Ballroom for the remainder of the evening and did not go to the area of the shooting. He said he had seen numerous pictures of SIRHAN SIRHAN in both the newspapers and television but does not recall seeing this individual at any time prior to the shooting or afterwards. He was unable to furnish any additional information.

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On 6/13/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
- 413 -  
by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS/djy Date dictated 6/18/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/26/68

JOHNNY LORENZO WILLIAMS, also known as John Williams, 4335 Don Diablo Drive, Baldwin Hills, California, phone AX 4-2443, advised that he is a Negro free-lance announcer and owner of a wig shop called the Black Foxe, Ltd., 1603 South La Brea Avenue, Los Angeles, California. He furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the events of June 4 and 5, 1968 at the Ambassador Hotel where Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot.

On June 4, 1968, at approximately 10:00 P.M. he went to the Ambassador Hotel to participate in a rally for Senator KENNEDY since he, WILLIAMS, is a member of an organization called "New Images", which he described as a Negro organization formerly dedicated to the support of Senator KENNEDY for the Democratic Presidential nomination. At approximately midnight he heard the Senator speak in the Embassy Room. Following the speech, he observed that Senator KENNEDY was pressed by the large crowd as he started to turn to his, KENNEDY's, right. The Senator then turned to his left and proceeded behind the curtains at the rear of the stage. A few minutes later he heard some rapid sounds which sounded like balloons popping but which he later learned were gun shots. He then observed a female Caucasian, who he later learned was ELIZABETH EVANS, proceed from the direction of the kitchen area of the ballroom with some blood on the side of her head.

He stated that he was approximately in the center of the ballroom when the shooting occurred and did not get any closer to the scene due to the large number of people there. He did not see anyone in a polka dot dress nor can he recall seeing SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN while at the hotel at any time. He advised that BOOKER GRIFFEN, President of the "New Images" and publicity director for the Negro Industrial Economic Union was on the platform with Senator KENNEDY during the Senator's speech. He also stated that GEORGE GREEN, Vice President of "New Images" was also in the ballroom. He further recalls seeing WILLARD MURRAY, Mayor YORTY's assistant in charge of liaison with the Los Angeles Negro community, in the ballroom.

On 6/24/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SAs DAVID H. COOK and - 414 -  
WILLIAM L. BOURQUE/llg Date dictated 6/26/68

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/27/68

Mr. EARL C. WILLIMAN, 3412 Helms Avenue, Culver City, California, employed as Assistant Chief Set Electrician, Desilu Studios, and currently Vice President, Studio Electrical Technicians, Local 728, International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees and Motion Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada (IATSE), 1067 North Fairfax Avenue, Los Angeles, California advised as follows:

Representatives of Local 728 attended a breakfast meeting with Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel on June 1, 1968. WILLIMAN subsequently prepared a letter advising the Senator that the union would support him in seeking the Democratic nomination. WILLIMAN completed the letter on the evening of June 4, 1968, and left his home to mail the letter. En route to the post office, he decided to continue to the Ambassador Hotel and deliver the letter to the Senator or to one of his associates. WILLIMAN arrived at the hotel sometime after 10:30 PM, and proceeded to the press room. In the press room, he met the actor, MILTON BERLE, with whom he is acquainted, and gave the letter to BERLE for delivery to Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. WILLIMAN then decided to remain at the hotel to witness the activity there. He primarily located himself in an ante room directly behind the speaker's rostrum of the Embassy Room. Senator ROBERT KENNEDY passed by WILLIMAN to arrive at the rostrum and passed directly by him as he departed the rostrum.

WILLIMAN further described this area by saying that an ABC monitoring television set was located in the area and two men from ABC were near the monitor who apparently had something to do with the news coverage of the event. A third man was also in the area who was apparently of Latin-American extraction in that he had dark skin and black, bushy hair. This man was well-dressed and wore a polka dot necktie. He was about 50 years of age and was about 6 feet tall. He was stocky, and had a fat round face. This man sat in a chair in this area during the time WILLIMAN observed him.

WILLIMAN noted that two women also were in this area.

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On 6/23/68 at Culver City, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
- 415 -  
by SA RICHARD M. WOOLF/mdm Date dictated 6/27/68

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2  
LA 56-156

Both women were white. One was rather young, was fairly attractive and had light hair. She wore a beige dress. This girl seemed interested in WILLIMAN, asked what he was doing in the room and wrote his name down. The other was about 30 - 32 years of age, had dark hair, and wore a short black dress. Subsequent to the shooting, WILLIMAN observed that this second woman was interviewed on one of the television networks.

WILLIMAN did not learn the names of the above-mentioned individuals, and he could furnish no additional descriptive information concerning them.

Upon completion of his speech, Senator KENNEDY departed the rostrum and came into the area occupied by WILLIMAN. KENNEDY was accompanied by a large group of people who swept through this area and into the corridor beyond. WILLIMAN stayed back and watched KENNEDY and the group pass by. WILLIMAN then recalls hearing two shots, and he rushed into the corridor to see what was happening. He noted that a man was on the floor, and then observed an individual with a gun was struggling with ROOSEVELT GRIER and some other people. This individual still had the gun in his hand and GRIER and the others were attempting to obtain possession of the gun. WILLIMAN assisted in the struggle. While struggling with the assailant, WILLIMAN noted that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was also on the floor of the corridor.

In the course of the struggle, WILLIMAN observed that the assailant's arm and hand was being bent over a table or ledge which ran along the side of the corridor. WILLIMAN climbed upon the table or ledge and attempted to kick the gun from the assailant's hand. WILLIMAN noted that RAFAEL JOHNSON came to assist in controlling the assailant. After the assailant was controlled, JESS UNRUH attempted to control some of the crowd and keep the crowd away from the area.

3  
LA 56-156

WILLIMAN noted that a hotel bus boy also was in the group attempting to subdue the assailant, and WILLIMAN asked that he obtain a rope or cord to restrain the assailant. This employee obtained an electric light cord or something similar, but either ROOSEVELT GRIER or RAFAEL JOHNSON said they should not tie up the assailant but should hold him physically for the police. WILLIMAN then assisted in holding the assailant until the police arrived and took custody of him.

WILLIMAN said he did not get a good look at the assailant and mostly observed only the back of the assailant's head in the struggle and in holding him. WILLIMAN said, however, he could identify the assailant as being identical with SIRHAN SIRHAN from photographs which appeared in various news media following the assault.

WILLIMAN said he did not see SIRHAN prior to the shooting and did not witness the actual shooting. Following the shooting, WILLIMAN went to the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department where he related his observations in a taped interview.

WILLIMAN said SIRHAN put up a super human struggle to maintain possession of the gun and to escape from the grasp of his restrainers. WILLIMAN said that although he did not observe SIRHAN's face and expression, he received the impression that SIRHAN was not mentally berserk and apparently was in possession of his faculties.

WILLIMAN additionally noted that in the event someone describes him as being involved in the struggle, that he is 52 years of age, 5'5½" tall, 162 pounds, brown-greying hair, with brown horn-rimmed glasses. WILLIMAN said he was wearing a maroon sport coat, black slacks, white shirt, dark tie, and cordovan shoes.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/5/681

Mr. WARREN G. WILSON, 1966 Barnett Way, Los Angeles, California, employed as news broadcaster, Radio Station KFWB, 6419 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles, advised as follows:

He was assigned as part of a three-man team by KFWB to cover the activities at the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968. He did not witness the shooting and did not see SIRHAN. The other members of the KFWB news team were JOHN MARSHALL, announcer, and LOUIS GOLDOWITZ, engineer.

WILSON said KFWB had signed-off the air following the completion of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's speech. WILSON said he was just behind the Senator during the speech and then returned to his news desk. When the activity behind the rostrum was noted, he attempted to get into that area but was kept out by security guards and also by the mass of people in the area which physically precluded his passage.

WILSON could furnish no pertinent information concerning this matter.

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On 7/2/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

- 418 -

by SA RICHARD M. WOOLF/rem Date dictated 7/3/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/20/68

On June 19, 1968, JIM WILSON, 14527 Barkwood Drive, Rockville, Maryland, was interviewed and furnished the following information:

WILSON stated he is a photographer and at the time of assassination was under contract for CBS. He was with Senator ROBERT KENNEDY in Oregon and California, carrying out his assignment with other members of his team. The other two members were JOHN W. LEWIS and BOB FUNK.

WILSON said, prior to the Senator's speech in Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, he had met with the Senator and BILL BARRY to discuss coverage of the speech. He asked permission of the two to let him precede them into the Embassy Room for filming purposes. Permission was granted and they left the Senator's room to ride the elevator downstairs. He missed the first elevator but got onto the second one. This elevator did not work so he ran down five flights of stairs and arrived in the Embassy Room before the Senator. He filmed the party entering the room and up to the stage. During the speech he stood on a chair on the stage and filmed the speech. After the speech was completed, he filmed the Senator until he reached the curtains at back of stage then followed him. WILSON said the means of exit was of no surprise to him. He had no difficulty with the crowd at this time and followed the Senator and his party down the corridor. Near the swinging doors in corridor he heard the first shot but did not realize what it was. At the sound of the second shot BILL LEWIS said, "They are shooting." He said he did not recall seeing BILL BARRY or ETHEL KENNEDY at this time. WILSON stated there were approximately fifteen rows of people between the Senator and his crew when the shooting started but they moved over to the wall leaving an open aisle from him to the Senator who was on the floor. He moved forward filming to within five feet of the Senator's head and dropped to his knees. WILSON said

419

On 6/19/68 at Rockville, Maryland File # WFO 173-135

by SA ROBERT F. PETTY:sjp Date dictated 6/19/68

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he had approximately one hundred feet of film or three minutes left on his magazine and he used this. ETHEL KENNEDY came up to the Senator's side at this time screaming for people to move back. WILSON said he also started shoving and yelling for the people to move.

BILL LEWIS fought his way through the crowd to the Colonial Room, this location is correct to the best of his knowledge, for a fresh magazine of film. On returning, WILSON said he reloaded the camera but was so upset he could not continue his assignment. A friend, JERRY SIMS, Life Magazine, New York City, asked if he could help and WILSON gave him the camera to continue the filming.

WILSON said he and another person moved two laundry carts in front of the corridor which led to the elevator to block this entrance off. A few minutes later two Los Angeles policemen entered through this corridor and WILSON had to move the carts to allow them to enter. The only others who left or entered by this corridor were the ambulance attendants and then Senator ROBERT KENNEDY was removed on stretcher through the same corridor.

WILSON stated he stayed in the corridor approximately ten to fifteen minutes following the removal of Senator KENNEDY then went into the Ballroom and talked to WALTER DOMBROW of CBS. He was with him a short time and then went to his room at the Ambassador Hotel.

WILSON said that his crew was the only crew with Senator KENNEDY at time of shooting. The other newsmen that he could recall were BILL EPFRIDGE, Life Magazine, New York, and HENRY KOKOJAN, NBC, Washington, D. C., that were in the corridor during the shooting. He, at no time, saw SIRHAN either before, during or after the shooting. He said he could not recall seeing SIRHAN in Oregon but if he had it would not have registered. He said he could not recall seeing "the girl in the polka dot dress."

WFO 173-135

3

WILSON stated he had heard and read, following the assassination, that Senator KENNEDY was heading to the Colonial Room to talk to the "pencil press" but to the best of his knowledge, the only thing in the room was equipment of the newsmen. He knew of no changes in plans or changes in departure route of Senator KENNEDY.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/25/68

Mr. JACK WINTERS, residing at 1322 Atlantic Drive, Compton, California, and employed as a security salesman for Investors Diversified Services, 4220 Long Beach Boulevard, Compton, was contacted at his residence at which time he was advised of the nature of the inquiry by SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS. He advised as follows:

On the night of June 4, 1968, he, LLOYD B. WILKINS, and ENNIS WHALEY, went to the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, arriving around 10:00 p.m., to attend the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY victory celebration. He said his group went directly to the Embassy Room where the victory speech was scheduled but were unable to get in as the hotel security guards would not admit anyone without a "press pass". He said they proceeded directly to the Ambassador Ballroom where they remained for the entire evening watching the proceeding on television monitors.

He recalled his first knowledge of KENNEDY being shot was when someone came into the room and said to switch the monitor to channel 2 as KENNEDY had been shot. He said he remained in the Ambassador Ballroom as there were so many excited people running around he felt it was wiser to remain where he was rather than try to go to the scene of the shooting.

He said he had seen numerous pictures of SIRHAN SIRHAN in the papers and on television but does not recall seeing him during his stay at the Ambassador Hotel.

He said he was unable to furnish any additional information.

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On 6/20/68 at Compton, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SA ROBERT F. JACOBS and - 422 -  
SA WILLIAM D. HOSKINS/djy Date dictated 6/20/68

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 28, 1968

1

JULES J. WITCOVER, 2505 Fowlers Lane, Reston, Virginia, telephone number: 471-1539, advised he is employed as the Senior Correspondent by Newhouse National News Service, Washington, D. C. He related he followed the ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign both in Oregon and California. WITCOVER related he was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California on the night of June 4 - 5, 1968, when ROBERT F. KENNEDY was assassinated.

WITCOVER informed that he had congratulated him on his victory when he came into the area of the hotel where he was located and had followed KENNEDY to the platform in the Embassy Room of the hotel. When KENNEDY finished speaking, he passed through the corridor the same way that KENNEDY had come into the Embassy Room. FRED DUTTON or RICHARD GRAHAM, aides to KENNEDY, had advised him that a press conference was to be held immediately after in the Colonial Room and thus he presumed that KENNEDY would be going to the Colonial Room via the kitchen, through which he had come to enter the Embassy Room. WITCOVER stated that access to the Colonial Room and the Embassy Room could be gotten by going through the kitchen. WITCOVER stated that when KENNEDY left the platform in the Embassy Room he was approximately thirty feet ahead of KENNEDY going down the corridor which was ten to twelve feet wide and he noted that two women were sitting in this corridor. They were sitting in chairs on the right side. He believed these women were with the KENNEDY party and possibly wives of some of the aides and he based this upon the fact that they were very casually dressed and definitely not actively working for the KENNEDY campaign as they were not visibly excited at the particular time. WITCOVER stated he then came to a passage way about six feet wide. At no time did he see anyone other than these two women in the corridor. He stated he had almost reached the doors into the kitchen when he heard a shot. He first was unimpressed and thought it was a firecracker and then he heard rapid firing, at least four or five shots. He informed he could not be positive that there

-23

On 6/28/68 at Reston, Virginia File # Los Angeles (56-156)  
Richmond 62-2248

by SAs ARTHUR P. ROEHRL and WILLIAM H. CROWDER Date dictated 6/28/68  
APR:jon

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LA 56-156  
RH 62-2248

2

were four or five shots, or more. He informed that there was a definite pause between the first shot and the subsequent shots. WITCOVER stated that he turned around and first noted ROOSEVELT GRIER and others whom he did not immediately identify. He advised he did not notice the suspect immediately as there was a lot of pushing in one area. He did notice an individual with his hand in the air and there was a gun in this hand. He advised he is not certain at this time in which hand the gun was, but he believed it was in the right hand.

WITCOVER informed that he did not see KENNEDY on the floor immediately as there were three or four people around him. He stated there was no crowd at that particular time. He advised that he noticed blood on KENNEDY's head and his hand and that his mouth and eyes were open. He thought that KENNEDY had been shot in the head and stomach, inasmuch as the hand on his stomach had blood on it. He noticed that KENNEDY at this point was still alive.

WITCOVER informed that he then turned around and noted a scuffle was continuing with the suspect and now ROOSEVELT GRIER and RAUFER JOHNSON and others were holding the suspect. Present at this point were yells, "Get the gun, kill him, don't kill him," and the scene was complete pandemonium.

He informed that there were no police or doctors for approximately fifteen minutes and it was his thought that it took approximately five minutes to get the gun from the suspect.

He noticed that GRIER had a headlock on the suspect and that they had finally succeeded in removing the suspect down the corridor away from KENNEDY.

He related that photographers were all around KENNEDY at this time taking photographs and finally the aides came and pushed the photographers out of the way,

LA 56-156  
RH 62-2248  
3

however, the photographers continued to take photographs. Mrs. ROBERT F. KENNEDY came several minutes later, knelt down beside her husband and said something to him or was praying. She finally got up and asked the photographers to leave and then knelt back down by her husband. Shortly thereafter, a security police came, took his gun out and then WILLIAM BARRY, an aide to the KENNEDY campaign, told this man to put his gun away. This man then went to the area where the suspect was. Finally, about one half dozen Los Angeles police officers came into the area and relieved GRIER of the suspect and took him away. Shortly thereafter, an attendant came, placed KENNEDY on a stretcher, and he was taken out of the area and put into an ambulance. WILLIAM BARRY and Mrs. KENNEDY accompanied KENNEDY in the ambulance.

WITCOVER informed that after KENNEDY was taken out, he stood in the room, observed the room, and went to the press room to write his story.

WITCOVER stated that at one time he noted that they had moved the suspect down to the end of the table, and heard the suspect say, "My leg, my leg."

He described the gun as being a snubnose revolver.

WITCOVER stated that he did not see anyone else on the floor initially, however, all attention was focused on KENNEDY, but then noticed another individual on the floor who was wearing a press badge. He later found out that this person was PAUL SCHRADE.

WITCOVER stated in reconstructing the matter that when he left the platform he had a clear passage way before him, although there were two women sitting in chairs on the right side of the corridor and when he turned around, he also had a clear passage back to the group of individuals. He stated he believed he was immediately ahead of KENNEDY when proceeding through the corridor. He stated that he was concerned with getting to the Colonial Room which was to be used for the press conference, inasmuch as he was interested in getting the best possible story.

LA 56-156  
RH 62-2248

4

WITCOVER stated that another reporter, ROBERT HEALY, The Boston Globe political editor, wrote a story stating he was coming through the door at the time of the shooting, however, WITCOVER informed that he has no recollection of HEALY being in that position.

WITCOVER stated that others that were in the area as he recalls were RICHARD TUCK, a KENNEDY advance man; RICHARD DRAYNE, a KENNEDY press man actually Senator EDWARD KENNEDY's press man; HUGH McDONALD another KENNEDY press man; PAUL HOPE, a reporter for the Washington Star; JIMMY BRESLIN for the New York Post; VIRGINIA GOI of Flair Magazine; and WARREN ROGERS, The Washington editor of Look Magazine. Also noted was JESSE UNRUH, a democratic leader in California.

WITCOVER stated that when he noticed the suspect he recalls thinking he was a member of the kitchen staff. He recalled this man was short of stature, with dark complexion, dark eyes and hair, and was wearing a blue denim shirt and tan pants.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/11/68

1

KRISTI WITKER, 116 East 91st Street, advised that she is an Associate Editor, American Heritage Publishing Company, 551 Fifth Avenue, New York City. KRISTI WITKER stated that she has been assigned to cover Senator ROBERT KENNEDY's campaign during different periods of time. She said that she covered the campaigns of Senator KENNEDY during the Pennsylvania, Indiana, West Virginia and California campaigns.

WITKER related that she was assigned to cover the California campaign of Senator KENNEDY from May 29, 1968 through June 6, 1968. She said at no time can she recall ever seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN on this tour.

WITKER said that on the evening of June 4, 1968, she was in Senator KENNEDY's Fifth Floor Suite from approximately 4:00 pm till 7:30 pm. She said that she went down to the Ambassador Room from approximately 7:30 pm till 8:30 pm. WITKER said this was to observe what was going on and to see what she would have to put up with at a later time. She said that she returned to the fifth floor suite of KENNEDY and remained there until 11:45 pm. WITKER said that at 11:45 pm Senator KENNEDY and his aides departed from the fifth floor suite to go to the Ambassador Room to make his victory speech. She said it was so crowded and there was no much confusion on the Fifth Floor that she and VIRGINIA GUY, of Flare Magazine, did not attempt to get on the elevator and used the stairs. WITKER said that she and GUY entered the Ambassador Room through the main entrance after being checked by the police. WITKER said that she arrived near the lectern at the same time Senator KENNEDY and his aides arrived by the way of the side entrance and/or the entrance near the kitchen.

WITKER said that after Senator KENNEDY completed his victory speech it appeared that he was going to depart from the Ambassador Room to go to the Colonial Room but he conversed with BILL BARRY and then left through the side

427

On 7/10/68 at New York City File # NY 44-1640

by SA EDWARD R. CHORY/tp Date dictated 7/11/68

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NY 44-1640

entrance, the same entrance through which they had entered. She said that the crowd was pushing as Senator KENNEDY was departing the Ambassador Room through the side entrance.

Soon after the crowd entered the passageway outside of the Ambassador Room the shooting incident took place. She said that she was approximately six to eight feet away from Senator KENNEDY when he was shot but did not see SIRHAN SIRHAN shoot anyone. WITKER said that PAUL SCHRAGE fell in front a little to her left after he was shot. She said that she did see a number of individuals restrain SIRHAN SIRHAN immediately after the shots were fired.

WITKER said that the security was relaxed when she went to the Ambassador Room and the Colonial Room between 7:30 pm and 8:30 pm as anyone could enter and leave both rooms without being challenged. She further stated that she was unaware of any plans being changed by Senator KENNEDY regarding making his victory speech prior to talking to the press.

WITKER said that the individual who would know of all plans regarding Senator KENNEDY's itinerary would be a close associate and personal friend of the KENNEDYS, HAYES GOREY, with the New York Times Washington Bureau. She said that GOREY had in the past informed her and other members of the press what they could expect during Senator KENNEDY's campaign.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/24/68

1

SYLVIA WRIGHT was interviewed in Room 3003, Time and Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, New York. She stated that she is employed as a writer for "Life Magazine" and that she resides at 42-10 Colder Street, Flushing, Queens.

WRIGHT stated that she travelled continuously as a writer for "Life Magazine" with Senator ROBERT KENNEDY during his campaign to seek the Democratic Party Presidential nomination from March 14, 1968 through June 5, 1968, other than two weekends and four other days. She was acting as a writer on June 4-5, 1968, in Los Angeles, California. She stated that during the entire period of Senator KENNEDY's campaign, she never observed SIRHAN SIRHAN.

WRIGHT stated that Senator KENNEDY always spoke to the press after he had made his speeches to his supporters and volunteers of his campaign. She said that she did not know of any planned route Senator KENNEDY was to make from the Ambassador Room to the Colonial Room or visa versa. She said that it was generally known that Senator KENNEDY in the spur of a moment, would change the route cleared or suggested by members of his staff. WRIGHT stated that Senator KENNEDY had, on several different occasions, detained his staff to meet, shake hands and converse with individuals along his route while campaigning.

WRIGHT stated that she had telephonically contacted the Rocket Messenger Service in the afternoon on June 4, 1968, and requested a messenger to be available at the Ambassador Hotel. She said this messenger was to deliver the film taken that day by BILL EPPERIDGE, photographer for "Life Magazine", regarding the events at the Ambassador Hotel. The film was to be taken to headquarters. She said for some unknown reason she thought that Senator KENNEDY's victory speech would be at approximately 8:00 pm and for this reason requested that the messenger from Rocket Messenger Service report to the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 6:30 pm.

+29

On 6/21/68 at New York City File # NY 44-1640

by SA EDWARD R. GHOY/cp Date dictated 6/21/68

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NY 44-1640

She said that at approximately 7:00 pm, when she first saw the messenger from Rocket Messenger Service, the messenger informed her that he had had no supper. She furnished him with a blue press identification card so that he could enter the Ambassador Hotel later that evening. WRIGHT said that she returned to her room, 348, at the Ambassador Hotel at which time she observed the messenger attempting to enter a room across the hall from her room. She remarked to the messenger "I thought you wanted to eat." The messenger replied, "It's too crowded". WRIGHT said that the messenger appeared to be familiar and knew his way around the hotel as it would be difficult for a person to leave the Colonial Room and get to the 3rd floor in the area of Room 348 in that short period of time.

WRIGHT said that she went to her room to change to a dress from a suit because it was too warm for a suit. She also picked up the envelope for the film of EPPRIDGE to be placed in for the messenger. She said that shortly afterward she joined the KENNEDY staff members and close friends in the suite on the fifth floor.

WRIGHT stated she gave the messenger the film at approximately 9:15 pm to be delivered to the airport and to be sent on a flight at 10:00 pm. She informed the messenger to return to the Colonial Room for another delivery to the airport after Senator KENNEDY's speech. WRIGHT said that the messenger appeared to be very excited and wanted to know would he get to see Senator KENNEDY. She said that she did not give the messenger any answer. WRIGHT stated that she did not see the messenger again until after Senator KENNEDY was shot.

WRIGHT said that DICK HARWOOD, of the Washington Post, informed her at approximately 10:00 pm that Senator KENNEDY had just informed him that after his, KENNEDY's speech, a party was to be held at the "Factory" a discotheque, for the traveling press and close friends of the KENNEDY staff. She said HARWOOD told her that he was requested by Senator KENNEDY to inform the traveling press of the party.

NY 44-1640

At approximately 11:00 pm on June 4, 1968, she went down to the Ambassador Room to locate CHARLES EVERS, as Senator KENNEDY had previously requested her to do so. She said she went down and located CHARLES EVERS in the Ambassador Room and they returned to the KENNEDY suite on the 5th floor. She said that as Senator KENNEDY departed from the 5th floor suite to proceed to the Ambassador Room to deliver his speech she escorted Senator KENNEDY to the elevator. KENNEDY pulled her head to his and whispered, "Don't go to the Ambassador Room as there will be a lot of commotion during my victory speech." WRIGHT also said that Senator KENNEDY asked her if she was going to join the party at the "Factory." She said she informed Senator KENNEDY that she thought she would join the party.

WRIGHT said that she watched Senator KENNEDY deliver his victory speech on television and near the completion left the suite by the way of the stairs to go to the Colonial Room. She said when she got to the Colonial Room the doors were closed and she was denied entry until the police officers checked her credentials. WRIGHT stated it appeared that Senator KENNEDY had been shot as she descended the stairs.

Upon entering the Colonial Room through the main entrance she observed the messenger at an exit of the Colonial Room nearest to the one that Senator KENNEDY appeared to be heading for prior to his being shot. She went to that exit and looked into the passageway where the Senator and the other individuals had been shot.

WRIGHT stated that at approximately 12:30 am on June 5, 1968, she signed the receipt requested by the messenger in the Colonial Room which covered the period of time the service of the messenger was used. She said she also obtained the receipt from the messenger regarding his delivery of the film she had given him at approximately 9:15 pm on June 4, 1968.

4

NY 44-1640

WRIGHT described the messenger as a skinny, well-tanned white male, who was approximately 45 years of age with grey hair. She said that is all she can recall of the events that took place on the evening, night and early morning of June 5 and 4, 1968.

1  
LA 56-156  
JOS/jae

BACKGROUND CONCERNING SIRHAN FAMILY

1  
LA 56-156  
JOS/jae

On June 26, 1968, FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C., made available published reports of interviews of BISHARA SIRHAN, father of SIRHAN SIRHAN, which had been furnished by the Department of State.

These published reports are set out as follows:

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1  
Enclosure No. 1Text of ad-Difaa article, June 17, 1968

## SIRHAN'S FATHER IN AMMAN: A TALK TO "AD DIFAA" AT MIDNIGHT

At 2:00 p.m. yesterday, ad-Difaa learned that Mr. Bishara Sirhan, father of Sirhan Sirhan, accused of assassinating Senator Robert Kennedy, arrived in Amman from the West Bank on a permit issued by the occupation authorities. It is said that Mr. Sirhan has come to Amman to clear up certain financial matters in preparation for his departure for America. Until 10:00 p.m. ad-Difaa searched high and low for him. In what hotel was he staying? In whose house was he a guest? At last, we found him at the Hotel Continental. Our reporter, Salah Abd as-Samad, who spent over two hours with Mr. Bishara Sirhan, wrote the following interview.

Bishara Sirhan was sitting calmly and talking confidently. You could detect in his tone parental emotions. The 52-year old man said, "The murder of Senator Kennedy saddened me because he was from the Kennedy family, but the picture has a second face..."

"Which...?"

"The political face..for the Senator was also an American politician, so on this I have a view to express."

"Please..."

"I believe that the imbalance in Senator Kennedy's speeches while electioneering for the Presidency was the primary cause of what happened."

"How...?"

"He was promising certain parties to supply them with arms and aircraft with full awareness of the consequences of that promise. Its consequences would be more displacement of children, more orphans and more widows. This is in addition to the degradation of and contempt for the Arabs in his speeches, a thing that made my son Sirhan feel insulted in that society where Senator Kennedy was speaking. And this is what pushed my son to act as he did. Had the late Senator been reserved and merely called for peace in the Middle East, nothing would have happened."

"Are you furious with Sirhan?"

"In the first moments after I learned of the incident I was furious."

"And now?"

"My heart and mind are now with him. I believe that world opinion and human conscience will stand by him."

435

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

"Why?"

"Because he is a man of good character by the testimony of his university teachers and friends. He is also a fervent Arab in every drop of his blood."

"What was the position of the Israeli authorities toward you?"

"At 4:30 a.m. of the day following the news, an Israeli military car parked in front of my house. I was then taken to the Military Governor's office in Ramallah. An Israeli officer asked about my life, that of Sirhan, and the family..."

"And the Israeli intelligence agency?"

"It also interrogated me and wrote down information similar to that which I gave at the Governor's office."

"And what is the latest news about Sirhan?"

"I learned that he told the investigators he refuses to be tried in the USA, and wants to be tried elsewhere."

"What is his pretext for that?"

"He is not American. I am not either. None of my sons got naturalized."

"What else?"

"Two Lebanese lawyers and a Swedish lawyer have volunteered to defend my son."

"What do you imagine will be the sentence against Sirhan?"

"I believe there are in the world people of free conscience. I believe world public opinion will be on my son's side because Sirhan was a model boy and did not commit his action except to prevent further tragedy and further displacement of children from their homes. Sirhan imagined that Senator Kennedy would add to those tragedies. For all that, I hope that people of conscience in the whole world will stand by my son."

"I only wish the Los Angeles Court, and the American people and members of the Kennedy family would imitate me..."

"In what?"

"In my toleration. My son Munir was killed in Jerusalem in 1946 after a car ran over him. But I pardoned the culprit and gave up my rights, even the amount given to me as compensation, 500 dinars. I donated it to mosques and churches and to the poor. I only hope that toleration will be observed by all during the trial of Sirhan."

"Did you do anything to explain your views in defense of Sirhan?"

436

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 3  
Enclosure No. 1

"Yes, I sent appeals to President Johnson, the Pope and to U Thant. I appealed to them to work for peace in the Middle East and Vietnam so that the tragedy of Sirhan and Robert Kennedy would not be repeated."

"When do you leave for America to attend the trial?"

"I am studying the matter from all angles, including the financial one and the question of my safety while there."

"That means you are afraid?"

"No. I am not afraid. The matter really requires careful study."

"Your style of talking indicates you are a lawyer?"

"I am a mechanic. The credit for that belongs to the holy books: the Quran, the New Testament and the Old Testament. I studied them all and have them in my house side by side."

"And if I request you to offer a last opinion in this interview...?"

"I say I hope the Arabs will unite."

437

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

Page 1  
Enclosure No. 2Excerpts from ad-Dustour's Interview with Sirhan

(1) "Bishara Sirhan, 52, is the father of five children and was in charge of a water section under the British Mandate Government in Palestine until 1948. He then came to Amman and worked on various water and mechanics projects until 1957 when he emigrated to the United States with his five children, Sharif, Sa'dallah, Adel, Sirhan, and Munir. Three years ago, he returned alone to his native town, Tayybeh, in the Ramallah area."

(2) "At dawn on June sixth while still asleep, I felt heavy footsteps on the stairs of my house. I awoke and heard the 'moukhtar' (elder) of the village, Fayez Ma'addi, knocking and saying, 'Open the door, Abu Sharif. Don't be afraid. It's Fayez.' I opened the door and Fayez entered with two Israeli soldiers and three civilians, one of whom began to question me in English, which I know well, about my identity and the history of my family and my son, Sirhan. I asked, 'why all these questions?' He answered that he was a correspondent of the NEW YORK TIMES and said, 'Did you hear about Robert Kennedy?' 'Yes,' I said, 'yesterday I heard that someone fired at him in Los Angeles.' The reporter then said, 'Didn't you know it was your son Sirhan who shot him?' I said, 'What do you say? My son killed Kennedy? I think that most unlikely.' When he affirmed the news to me, it was a violent shock. I was furious and sad. The reporter asked, 'what is your opinion on the matter? Do you know anything?' I answered, 'here I am asleep in Tayybeh, a village over 12,000 miles from Los Angeles. Of course I do not know anything. It is an unpleasant, stunning, shocking surprise.' The reporter asked, 'what is your feeling?' I replied, 'If the report is correct, I am sorry for Kennedy and deeply regret the incident and am grieved that this has happened to my son.'"

(3) "As I said before, there is no enmity between the Kennedy and Sirhan families. I want both Arab and American opinion to listen to this statement. Senator Kennedy had two personalities: first, he was a member of the American Kennedy family; second, he was a great American statesman. On the personal level, I am grieved by his death and shall continue to be so. As for Robert Kennedy the politician, that is a different matter. He stated time after time that he wanted certain nations to get stronger and certain nations to get weaker. This, in my opinion, was a great error. I believe thoughtful men all over the world will agree. As a statesman, Kennedy ought to have been balanced in his statements and speeches and ought to have avoided saying things liable to kindle hatred in the Middle East. As a statesman he ought to have supported peace, right and justice in the Middle East without favoring Israel."

438

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

Page 2  
Enclosure No. 2

(4) "I still believe my son is innocent despite the accusations. But even if we suppose he did it, we must examine the motives and reasons that led him to such an act. His love for his homeland and religion must have overcome everything else and incited him to act. I do not support violence or political assassination. But Kennedy was rash in his statements. I say also that the conscience of America, and its courts, and world public opinion will stand by Sirhan."

(5) "Sirhan has seen destruction and death in his own country, which last suffered war in 1967. In spite of the fact that Sirhan left for America in 1957, and lived over ten years in American society, his religion and homeland were constantly on his mind. The late Senator Kennedy was the man who lit the fuse of the mine inside my son Sirhan."

(6) "What is the program of your visit to Jordan?"

"I arrived in Amman today with a one week permit. I want to see to my account in Intra Bank, where I had some money before June 1967. After that I will return to Tayybeh."

"Do you want to go to the United States?"

"I am considering the matter in detail. I intend to hire lawyers to defend my son, but have not yet decided whether I personally will go to America to be with Sirhan during his trial."

439

UNCLASSIFIED

1  
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On June 5, 1968, the Washington Field Office of the FBI made available one copy each of the visa file of SHAREEF SIRHAN and SAIDALLAH SIRHAN which was obtained from the Visa Office, United States Department of State, on June 5, 1968.

Copies of these visa files are set out as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF SECURITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DATE: June 6, 1968

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.  
Attention: Mr. Bernard J. Rachner

FROM : Chief, Division of Protective Security

SUBJECT: Transmittal Notice

The attached material, which is described below, is transmitted for your information and retention.

Status of Special Non-Quota Visa Application regarding SIRHAN, Shareef, and SIRHAN, Saidallah.

Exempted from automatic decontrol

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
STATUS OF SPECIAL NONQUOTA VISA APPLICATION

NAME (Last) (First) (Middle)			SEX
SIRHAN Shareef			M
MAIDEN NAME		ALIAS	
DATE OF BIRTH		PLACE OF BIRTH	
		Jerusalem, Palestine	
DEPARTMENTAL SELECTION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS			
	APPROVE	REJECT	DEFER
1.	12/13		
2.	12/15		
3.			
4.			
5.			
REMARKS			
Parents in US			
COMMITTEE DECISION		DATE	
APPROVED		DEC 21 1959	
DATE POST NOTIFIED		LEAD SHEET REQUESTED	
DEC 21 1959		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
FINAL DECISION IF DEFERRED		POST NOTIFIED	
RECORD CHECKS:			
DATE LEAD SHEET RECEIVED	CHECKS MADE:		
	RW/R _____ RSC _____ SY _____ FBI _____		
	VO _____ IRP _____ CIA _____ INS _____		
RESULTS	<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE	DATE POST NOTIFIED	
VISA NUMBER ASSIGNED		DATE	
		DEC 21 1959	
MONTH VISA ISSUED	REFUSED	VISA NUMBER RETURNED	

## OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: The Department of State

Date: Nov. 28, 1958

FROM: Ambassador, Amman, Jordan (or Amconsul)

SUBJECT: REFUGEES AND ESCAPEES: Summary of Application for Visa under Section 15 (a) (3) of Public Law 85-316

REF: Department's Circular Instruction No. CA-2927, September 26, 1957.

Name of Applicant	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Sex
Alias: SIRHAN, Sharief	13.6.1931	Jerusalem, Pal.	male

Persons accompanying:

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Relationship to Applicant
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Was at school in 1948 when owing to Arab/Israeli conflict fled and took refuge in Jerusalem, Old City where he is still living. Since that time he is unemployed.

Members of family not accompanying:

Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Relationship to Applicant
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Circumstances of escape:

Applicant lived in the New City of Jerusalem till 1948 when the Palestine conflict started. As the Jordanian and Israeli troops were fighting each other for the occupation of the City he fled under bombardment and took refuge in the Old City.

Elements of hardship:

Applicant lost his home and belongings in Palestine as a result of the Arab/Israeli conflict. In Jordan he was unable to continue his studies and had to leave his school and look for employment in order to earn his living. But owing to lack of work in Jordan he has been unable to find a decent job and could not therefore resettle in a normal life. His desire is to join his parents, sisters and brothers who immigrated to USA in 1956 under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

Elements of persecution:

Applicant fled from the New City of Jerusalem for fear of persecution by the Jews because of race and religion. He cannot return to his home in Israel even if he wanted to and can claim no compensation for what he has lost there.

Although he is not likely to be persecuted in Jordan yet he may not be able to resettle in Jordan and will be dependent of UNRWA's assistance for many years to come.

Effect on welfare of U.S. if applicant admitted:

Mr. Sirhan is a well-educated, intelligent young man who can speak enough English to make himself understood. Although he has no proper skill yet he should be able to find some employment in an Office or a Factory with which he could earn his living and become self-supporting.

His parents, brothers and sisters immigrated to USA in 1956 under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 and are eager to have him join them.

We strongly recommend that this young man be given the chance to join his parents under the present Public Law as otherwise he will have to wait for many, many years before his turn on the Israeli quota is reached.

A CWS assurance was provided for him under RRA 1953 but this was received too late to allow the US Consul process the case under that Act.

Submitted by:

Ruth M. Black  
World Council of Churches  
Beirut-Lebanon.

Oct. 14, 1958.

Observations of consular officer, where appropriate:

Mr. Sirhan is applying, together with his brother, Saidallah Sirhan, (Amman Case No. 194) for consideration as a refugee-escapee. Both he and his brother are holders of a current U.N.R.W.A. ration card. His parents and all other members of his immediate family are residing in the United States. They were issued visas as Palestinian refugees in 1956, under the provisions of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, and are anxious to have the remaining two members of the family join them in the United States. Mr. Sirhan has been working as an auditor and knows a fair amount of English. American Embassy, Amman, Jordan, November 28, 1958.

Mr. Sirhan is applying, together with his brother, Saidallah Sirhan, (Amman Case No. 194) for consideration as a refugee-escapee. Both he and his brother are holders of a current U.N.R.W.A. ration card. His parents and all other members of his immediate family are residing in the United States. They were issued visas as Palestinian refugees in 1956, under the provisions of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, and are anxious to have the remaining two members of the family join them in the United States. Mr. Sirhan has been working as an auditor and knows a fair amount of English.

Lambert Heyniger  
American Vice Consul

LH:nm

444

1. Full Name SHARIF BISHARA SALAMEH GHATTAS SIRHAN  
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Nee)
2. Other Names Used NONE
3. Last permanent address C/o. P.O.Box:33, Amman, AMMAN JORDAN  
(Street) (Town or City) (Province) (Country)
4. Place and Date of birth Jerusalem, Palestine. 7th VI, 1933  
(Town or City) (Province) (Country) (Date)
5. Address of my final destination in U.S. Mrs. Mary SIRHAN, 1647 Apt.,  
N. Lake Ave., Pasadena 6, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.
6. Name of Voluntary Agency, if any Mr. Haldor LILLENAS, 1945 E. Mountain  
Str., Pasadena 7, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.
7. Present mailing address C/o. P.O.Box:33, Amman, JORDAN.  
Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Physical Description: a. Color of hair Black b. Color of eyes Dark Brown.  
c. Complexion Wheaty d. Height 165 Cts. in. e. Weight 55 Kgs. lbs.  
f. Race Semetic g. Sex Male h. Identification Marks NONE
9. Nationality JORDANIAN. 10. Former Nationality, if any PALESTINIAN
11. Ethnic classification White.
12. Religious affiliation, if any. (You may state here your religious affilia-  
tion, if any, but you are not required to make this statement) Christian.
13. Marital Status: ~~Married~~ ☐ Single ☒ ~~Widowed~~ ☐ ~~Divorced~~ ☐  
~~Separated~~ ☐
14. Accompanying members of family: NONE.  
Name Relationship Date and Place of Birth





15. Present address of persons specified under Item 14 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

16. Name, address, date and place of birth of father Mr. Bishara Salameh Ghattas SIRHAN, March 17th., 1913, Et-Taibe, Ramallah District, (PALESTINE), JORDAN.

Name, address, date and place of birth of mother Mrs. Mary Bishara Salameh Ghattas SIRHAN, January 3rd., 1913, Jerusalem (PALESTINE) JORDAN.

~~17. If neither parent is living, name and address of next of kin \_\_\_\_\_~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~

18. Places of residence during past 15 yrs; indicate exact address & dates of each.  
Khalidi's House, near the Ex. Palestine Broadcasting House, St. Paul Street, New Jerusalem, PALESTINE till the termination of the British Mandatory Regime, then in the Armenian Quarter, Old City, Jerusalem till Dec 1954, then in Amman since the beginning of 1955 up till the present time.

19. List below the names of all parties, organizations, associations, societies, fraternal or political, of which you are or have been a member, or with which you are or have been affiliated, including dates thereof, and any position held in connection therewith NONE.

20. Have you ever been: In an almshouse? NO Arrested? NO Convicted? NO  
In prison? NO The beneficiary of a pardon or amnesty? NO If so, specify in detail \_\_\_\_\_

21. Criminal Record, if any: I have no any bad record whatever, wherever.

Date of Arrest	Place of Arrest	Cause of Arrest	Disposition
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

22. Have you ever applied to any American Consular Officer, either formally or informally, for a visa or other documentation as an immigrant or non-immigrant? (If so, state when, where, and whether for immigrant or non-immigrant visa)

My father has applied to the United States Embassy at Amman, JORDA for my registration on May 31st, 1955, under Refugees Quota, for an Immigration-Visa for the U.S.A.

23. Have you ever been in the United States? (If so, indicate port of entry, period or periods of stay, and address or addresses) Never.

Have you ever been removed at government expense, excluded, or deported from the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ Never No

24. Education: Indicate satisfactory completion of:

☒ Elementary School ☒ High School ☒ College or University  
Give name and Location of High School attended: Jerusalem, till the expiration of the British Mandate.

Name & Location of College or University, Major Study Dates Attended, Degrees

- |                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 25. Languages: | (Read)         | (Speak)        | (Understand)   |
|                | <u>English</u> | <u>English</u> | <u>English</u> |
|                | <u>Arabic</u>  | <u>Arabic</u>  | <u>Arabic.</u> |

26. Military Service: NEVER.

(Unit)	(Rank)	(Serial Number)	(Length of Service)
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27. Were you ever a Prisoner of War? ☐ Yes ☒ Never No (Give Date and Place of internment, Internment number, and reported nearest of kin)

28. Have you ever been interned in a forced Labor Camp? ☐ Yes ☒ Never No (Give date, place, and period of internment)

29. Place and date of entry into country of present residence: From New Jerusalem to Old City Jerusalem, during May 10th., 1948.