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LA - LOS ANGELES

ASSASSINATION REPORT

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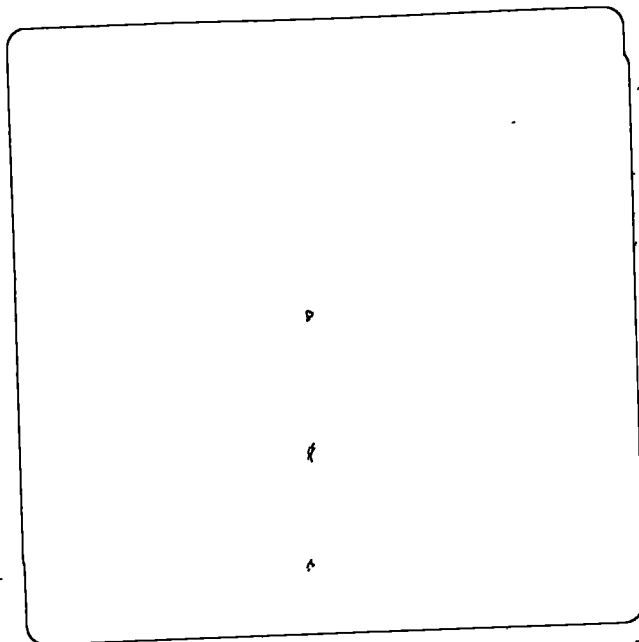


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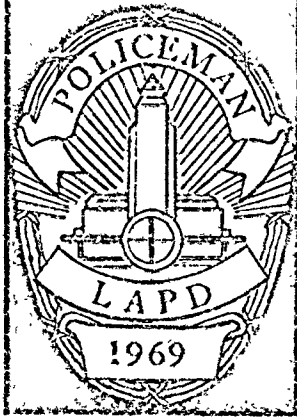
INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

Serials

Volume Number

See also Nos.



An INVESTIGATION SUMMARY
of the
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION

June 5, 1968

VOLUME I Pages 1-118
DETECTIVE BUREAU--LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



April 4, 1969

TO: Thomas Reddin
Chief of Police

FROM: Deputy Chief Robert A. Houghton
Commander, Detective Bureau

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION OF THE KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION

This is the report of the investigation into the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The investigation was accomplished by an investigative task force created within the Detective Bureau, and designated Special Unit Senator. This report was prepared by the special unit.

This report is considered to be confidential. The report distribution is: One to your office; one in my office and one to remain with the master files to serve as a file summary and an access reference.

At the time of this report the trial of the accused, Sirhan B. Sirhan, is still in progress. A supplemental report will be compiled at the conclusion of trial and will additionally cover miscellaneous investigations completed too late for inclusion in this report.

ROBERT A. HOUGHTON, Deputy Chief
Commander, Detective Bureau



An INVESTIGATION SUMMARY
of the
SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY
ASSASSINATION

The FINAL REPORT
February 1969

SPECIAL UNIT SENATOR
DETECTIVE BUREAU — LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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VOLUME I

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER II

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

On June 5, 1968, at 12:15 a.m., United States Senator Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. His assailant, a young Jordanian immigrant named Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, waited in a serving pantry of the hotel as the Senator concluded an election night victory speech in a nearby ballroom. Responsibility for the investigation of the crime was upon the Los Angeles Police Department and, initially, with the concerned geographic detective division, Rampart Detectives. To grasp the scope of this task, one needs to take a brief look at the setting, the individuals involved and the historical significance of the incident.

The shooting occurred against a backdrop of election night activities featuring supporters of Presidential Candidate Kennedy and the winners in the primary election for United States Senator, Democrat Alan Cranston and Republican Max Rafferty. At midnight Senator Kennedy made a victory speech to an overflow crowd of about two thousand enthusiastic celebrants and newsmen in the Embassy Room. At the end of his speech he left the stage and, surrounded by staff workers and well-wishers, was led into the serving pantry en route to the temporary press headquarters in the nearby Colonial Room. As the mass of people were proceeding through the corridor-like pantry Sirhan fired several shots at pointblank range into Senator Kennedy, fatally wounding him in the head and additionally in the right armpit.

Those nearest the suspect immediately grappled with him as he continued to fire. Five additional persons were wounded by the fusillade of bullets. Instantly the scene degenerated into one of pandemonium and mob hysteria. The hysteria quickly spread as news of the shooting reached Kennedy workers and supporters still massed in the adjoining ballroom. Police response was quick and shortly involved in excess of four hundred officers.

The ramifications of Sirhan's act so profoundly affected the political atmosphere in the United States that a thorough assessment of its significance can probably not yet be made. Moreover, the international consequences of Kennedy's death, seen as a political assassination in most parts of the world could not be ignored. His death followed the recent assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King and the murder of President John F. Kennedy. The massive task confronting this Department must be viewed in this light. The Department's reputation quite literally was on the line, and we were being watched by most Americans to see if we could perform the job which law enforcement in America is charged with doing. It was obvious that history would look upon the results of our investigation to ascertain if we had exhausted all possible means to uncover the complete truth about the event.

The objectives of this investigation were identical with those of any other homicide investigation, expanded in obvious areas to compensate for the national prominence of the victim, the overwhelming number of potential witnesses and the numerous

leads indicating the possible existence of a conspiracy. Simply stated, the objectives of the investigation were to locate and interview all the witnesses, ascertain all the facts, to document and record the activities, background and relevant observations of all the individuals who were even remotely involved. The probability of future reference to the investigative records regarding the assassination necessitated a high degree of detail and accuracy. Public speculation regarding real or fancied connections between this assassination and the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King would eventually put the results of this investigation and the reputation of the Department to a severe test.

Although the initial responsibility for the investigation was routinely with Rampart Detectives, it was obvious that the magnitude and complexity of the total investigation would create a workload far in excess of the capabilities of the divisional detectives. The potential of a conspiracy and the number of side issues magnified the scope of this investigation. While the Federal Bureau of Investigation had entered the case to investigate violation of Section 245 of Chapter 13, Civil Rights, Title 18, United States Code, the responsibility for the murder investigation remained with the Los Angeles Police Department. On June 9, 1968, Deputy Chief Robert A. Houghton, Detective Bureau Commander, conducted a meeting with representatives of the District Attorney, United States Attorney General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service and Los Angeles County Sheriff, which reaffirmed the Department's acceptance of its

responsibility. Recognizing the need for an investigative unit outside the normal structure of organization of the Department, the Detective Bureau Commander created a special task force to conduct the investigation. On June 10, Chief Houghton assigned Captain Hugh Brown, Commander, Homicide Division, as the Commander of the Task Force. On June 11, three detective lieutenants, eighteen detective sergeants and two clerical employees were selected for the task force, designated as Special Unit Senator.

Personnel were selected from throughout the Department to fulfill specific responsibilities. The majority of those selected were men then assigned to homicide details in detective divisions or those with previous homicide investigation experience. The highest caliber of investigator was obtained to insure quality in the investigation. Other personnel were selected for their language skills, for scientific skills such as the utilization of the polygraph, or for backgrounds in intelligence operations. Personnel were also assigned to the unit from Metropolitan Division as the need for additional investigators became known. In addition, clerical personnel were specifically assigned to the unit to implement a S.U.S. record retention and filing system to account for the vast amount of paper flow which would ultimately be produced. Within one week the original complement was expanded to thirty-seven sworn personnel and seven civilian employees.

The investigation itself was developed along three specific

lines. The first was case preparation. Standard procedures and techniques were followed with an application of painstaking and professional thoroughness. Three investigators under the direction of a lieutenant were assigned this phase with the primary function of locating and interviewing all potential trial witnesses, evaluating the physical evidence and assisting the District Attorney in the prosecution of the suspect. The enormous task of identifying, locating and interviewing every person present at the Ambassador Hotel the night of the shooting was accomplished by meticulously identifying every name through all sources of information available. When these means were exhausted, a inquiring letter was distributed through the California Democratic Party, to 10,500 Kennedy workers in California. The letter solicited the assistance of additional persons who had been at the hotel, but had not been identified and interviewed.

The second aspect of the investigation involved an intensive inquiry into Sirhan's personal background. A complete profile was developed covering Sirhan's life from his birth in Palestine until his arrest for the assassination. This included, among other things, his education, work history, social activities and religious background. Although investigators were never permitted to interview Sirhan, the completeness of their background investigation was later corroborated by information released through the defense staff and by testimony in court.

The third phase of this investigation inquired into the numerous

leads and allegations which, if true, would reveal the possibility of a conspiracy. With the arrest of Sirhan, an alien who had lived in the United States for eleven years, the implications and allegations that the crime was an international or subversive plot were obvious and numerous. By the time that this report was completed, attempts had been made to link Sirhan with groups encompassing the full political spectrum. Publicity seekers, political adventurers, opportunists and the honestly mistaken presented their "evidence" that Robert Kennedy's death had been the result of a treacherous plot of one group or another.

In view of the world attention and rumor-laden atmosphere surrounding the assassination, it was considered prudent that comprehensive administrative and command control be maintained throughout the investigation. In addition to the usual inspection and approval techniques found in major investigations, daily meetings between the Detective Bureau Commander and the S.U.S. staff were devoted to a critique and evaluation of various facets of the investigation. Particularly close scrutiny was given to the many conspiracy leads, regardless of their surface implausibility or the apparent publicity-seeking nature of the informant. Similar discussions among unit personnel occurred daily to provide maximum coordination of the various phases of the investigation.

The close personal involvement and participation of the Detective Bureau Commander and Task Force Commander in the direction of the investigation, was even beyond the type of review traditionally exercised in major investigations. This involvement

was necessarily a major part of the conduct of the investigation due to the liaison and coordination required with other agencies, and the frequent need for command decisions at many points in the investigation. The responsibility for the many major decisions regarding the direction and depth of the investigation lay with the Commander of the Detective Bureau. These were decisions which involved the opening of new areas of exploration and the terminating of old areas, which necessarily regulated commitment of the available investigative manpower of the unit. Illustrative of these command decisions was that which resulted in a survey of the shooting ranges in the four surrounding counties and the screening of 76,000 names on range rosters. Sirhan's presence at a Corona range three days before the assassination was verified through this type of in-depth investigation. Supervisors and investigators assigned to the unit understood the need for this level and degree of participation and direction, and responded to it in a professional manner.

Additional administrative review and coordination were effected by the Inter-Agency Meetings. These monthly meetings, called and chaired by the Detective Bureau Commander, were attended by representatives of the District Attorney, F.B.I. and the United States Attorney General. The purpose of these meetings was to exchange current information, minimize work duplication, provide a means for review and criticism and to assign responsibility for various phases of the investigation. The meetings were also specifically intended to give other agencies the opportunity to voice their views as the investigation progressed

and to involve them in the decision-making of the investigation whenever desirable.

A major undertaking was the creation and maintenance of a file system which would permit both the storage of all the documents accumulated during the investigation and the prompt retrieval of any information in the files. This was accomplished by the establishment of a master file, divided into alphabetical sections containing one copy of every document, report, letter, photograph, exhibit, tape or other pertinent item. At the same time, index card files were initiated, with complete cross referencing. All relevant material was sorted into categories according to the outline of the anticipated final report, including investigative summaries, pertinent portions of case progress reports, F.B.I. reports, records and other data.

Complete security measures were taken to insure the integrity of the investigation. An alarm system protected the special facilities which were established in Room 803 at Parker Center for Special Unit Senator. All entering personnel were carefully screened and only authorized personnel were allowed in the rooms. Special locks were installed and a prescribed number of keys were issued to specific supervisors.

The final report is basically a synthesis of the master files which constitute a complete record of the investigation. The project has been documented by approximately 50,000 pages of reports and related data, 155 items of evidence and 1,700 photographs. The first portion of the report is a summary and

conclusion, a condensation of the final report. This confidential report has been completed in three copies. One, the file copy, has been retained with and is a part of the master files. A second copy has been retained in the office of the Detective Bureau Commander and a third copy has been forwarded to the Chief of Police.

The judicial "Alarcon Admonition," restricting dissemination of information to the news media was issued within days after the assassination, and prevented publication of any relevant material until the trial of Sirhan. The "on going" nature of the incident also delayed final preparation of this report.

A complete documentation was maintained on the expenditure of manpower and material. A total of approximately five thousand man days has been expended at the time of the submission of this report. Supplies and other logistical support totalled approximately twelve thousand dollars. A breakdown of the cost to the Department from the initial police response to the conclusion of the investigation and report is presented in the appendix to the report.

The helpful participation and generous assistance rendered by other agencies and departments contributed materially to the success of the investigation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation brought its vast investigative resources into the case at the onset and made the results available to the Department. Once the procedures were established, the Department and the F.B.I. had complete access to information in each other's file system.

The degree to which this cooperation assisted this investigation is reflected in the completeness of this report. The Pasadena Police Department, in whose jurisdiction the Sirhans resided, gave outstanding support to the investigation in many ways. The State Department of Justice, Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation, greatly assisted this investigation by consenting to make its criminal and other information available on all the subjects checked in the investigation. Many other agencies responded in a very gratifying manner when assistance was requested. Without such thorough cooperation the investigation would have been materially impaired.

Several innovative techniques were applied during the investigation and are worthy of mention. The Program Evaluation and Review Technique was experimentally applied to the entire project. It proved to be of limited value since the investigative activities were not for the most part adaptable to network scheduling. From this trial application of P E R T, however, evolved several time charts of considerable value as investigative tools. One was a time chart graphically depicting Sirhan's activities during the several critical days prior to the assassination. Another chart visually developed a profile analysis of Sirhan, providing a ready reference to his background in the United States. A third chart revealed the comparative activities and locations of Kennedy and Sirhan. Portable tape recorders installed in brief cases were used extensively and to good advantage in expediting field interview situations. All available news media film was screened, and selected portions were combined into a

twenty minute film which depicted the activity surrounding Kennedy before and after the shooting. This was used to identify subjects as well as for the later orientation of witnesses. Mock-ups of the main floor of the hotel and of the kitchen area were of great value during the investigation. The kitchen mock-up featured a grid-coordinate system which facilitated the precise location of all the witnesses in the area of the shooting.

Cost to the Department in terms of manpower was returned in the form of knowledge, experience and training realized. A significant benefit of the operation was the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of a specially organized investigative task force. Some of the problems encountered and their solutions will be documented at a later date. A tactical manual will be constructed as a necessary guide for future use in the implementation, staffing and administration of similar task force investigations. This manual will prescribe the policies, procedures and techniques to be followed in order to attain the highest degree of quality and thoroughness in the investigation. The so called Task Force concept selectively applied was proven to be worthwhile and should be considered as a standard approach to complicated investigational problems in the future.

A valid assessment of the overall effectiveness of Special Unit Senator cannot perhaps be made until the final resolution of the Sirhan trial. At the time of this report there is every indication that the case preparation phase of the investigation was thorough, complete and professionally developed. The conspiracy

potential phase of the investigation is a continuous effort. The facts established by the investigation thus far have clearly resolved every allegation and inquiry.

Our investigation and its documentation will be examined for years to come. The degree to which these examinations supply the desired answers will be the ultimate test of the integrity of our investigation.

SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION

THE ASSASSINATION

On the afternoon of June 2, 1968, Senator Robert Francis Kennedy, his wife and four of their children arrived at Orange County Airport to begin the final two days of his campaign to win the California Democratic Party Presidential Electors being selected in the June 4th primary election.

In the course of those two days he addressed a festival in Orange County, visited Disneyland, traveled to San Francisco for a rally, returned to Long Beach for a speech and a motorcade to Venice, flew to San Diego for an appearance and spent the day of the election at the home of a friend in Malibu. At 8 p.m., on June 4th, he was driven to the Ambassador Hotel to await the election returns and his anticipated victory. The shooting of Robert Kennedy at 12:15 a.m. that night and the subsequent events surrounding that incident is the subject of this report.

Security Provided For Senator Kennedy

The ultimate question which will be asked - the same question which is still asked about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King - is whether law enforcement in a free society can provide the necessary security for its leaders and political candidates. Important to this question, as it should be, is the right of individuals to come and go freely whenever they wish; and to express their desires to be free from the unsolicited concern of others.

The assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy magnified the

importance of this question and momentarily centered the attention of the world on the Los Angeles Police Department. This investigation, therefore, closely examined the security provided for Senator Kennedy's visit to Los Angeles and the attitude of the Kennedy staff toward police security.

This Department has a prescribed policy applicable to protection of dignitaries and their participation in public gatherings. The Department assumes a position of neutrality toward personalities and political issues and the policy provides that the Department takes enforcement action wherever necessary. It further provides that Los Angeles Policemen are not assigned to public gatherings or crowd control situations for non-enforcement or extra-enforcement purposes. This includes the screening of visitors at events, acting as guards at private parties, or providing dignitaries with personnel for nonpolice purposes.

Intelligence Division is responsible for security of public figures and responds to requests for security made by dignitaries. Unless a threat has been received or a specific request for protection is made, security is not provided. During the primary campaign of Senator Kennedy in California Department security policies and the attitude of Senator Kennedy toward security came into conflict. This conflict measurably affected the conditions which existed just prior to Senator Kennedy's assassination.

Kennedy Motorcade of May 29, 1968

Department personnel became involved with Kennedy campaign

activities during a motorcade in downtown Los Angeles on May 29, 1968. On May 28th, the Department received a telegram from a Kennedy aide advising that a motorcade was planned for the next day. No request for security was made to this Department. The incidents which occurred at that motorcade illustrate the Kennedy party's attitude toward the police.

Officers of this Department were assigned to observe the course of the motorcade and to insure the even flow of traffic along the motorcade route. Several violations were observed during the motorcade as civilian motorcycle officers blocked intersections and allowed vehicles in the motorcade to drive through against red signal lights.

At one point in the motorcade, at 9th and Santee Streets, the vehicles came to a stop and Senator Kennedy was pulled from his vehicle by a large enthusiastic crowd. A Traffic Enforcement Division sergeant attempted to assist the Senator back to his vehicle when it appeared to him that Kennedy needed help.

Kennedy and his aides berated the sergeant and told him that they had not asked for the assistance of the police.

Several other incidents occurred along the route of the motorcade involving this Department's officers and Kennedy aides.

At one point, Frederick Dutton, Kennedy's California campaign manager, shouted obscenities at several officers who were attempting to keep the crowd from becoming unmanageable and spilling onto the street. These remarks were highly inflammatory and the officers considered making an arrest of Dutton for disturbing the peace.

The identification of several persons in the motorcade was obtained for the purpose of making applications for complaints for various criminal and vehicle code violations. The applications were withdrawn in the interest of justice after the assassination.

Personal Security for Senator Kennedy

William Barry, an ex F.B.I. agent, acted as sole security for Senator Kennedy. His primary assignment was to act as personal bodyguard for Kennedy and he was responsible for liaison with local law enforcement agencies. Barry did not contact the Department to request security for the Senator for June 2/4, 1968.

After the assassination, Barry advised investigators that he had been concerned about Senator Kennedy's security. He had observed security problems at other events and had intended to speak to Kennedy on their return to New York. Barry told investigators that Kennedy was very difficult to protect because of his desire to allow supporters to be close to him.

Plans for Senator Kennedy's movements prior to the election night were made by Barry, Dutton and Richard Tuck, another Kennedy aide. Rafer Johnson had joined the Kennedy staff a few weeks prior to the assassination to assist in crowd control. Dutton advised investigators that police were not used for Kennedy's personal security except when they anticipated an unruly crowd. Dutton and Tuck arranged appointments for Kennedy and Barry and Johnson provided the sole physical security for him.

Hotel Security and Police Deployment In The Area

In anticipation of several victory parties scheduled to be held at the Ambassador, eleven regular hotel security guards were assigned to work crowd control election night. The head of hotel security, William Gardner, told investigators that no request was made to the hotel to provide personal security for Kennedy.

Gardner arranged for six additional guards, from Ace Guard Service, to work at the hotel. The total security force consisted of eighteen uniformed guards. Six Los Angeles Fire Department inspectors were assigned to the hotel for the evening to enforce fire and occupancy regulations.

Rampart Division deployed an additional eight officers, in four radio cars, in anticipation of the large crowds planning to attend festivities at the hotel. The radio cars were to be deployed normally and not specifically at the hotel. These arrangements were the total security arrangements which were made for the election night proceedings at the hotel.

Election Night at The Ambassador

By 6 p.m. on June 4th, many people were crowding in to the hotel where parties were beginning for Senator Kennedy, Democrat Alan Cranston and Republican Max Rafferty. Other guests were in the hotel for business conventions. 514 guests were registered in the hotel.

The polls closed at 8 p.m., and the public bars opened in the hotel. Volunteer workers and news media personnel were preparing

for the speeches and celebrations which would come when the election results were announced.

By 8:30 p.m. admittance to the Embassy Room, where the Kennedy Victory Party was to take place, was becoming difficult. Guards were having trouble restricting the flow of persons into the room which was reaching the occupancy limit. Many people were able to circumvent the guards by using unguarded entrances and service entrances. At 9:30 p.m., a Fire Department inspector ordered the main doors to be closed to all entry, except on a one-in one-out basis. Witnesses later reported that people were able to easily circumvent these measures. By 11:30 p.m., the crowd in the room restlessly awaited the anticipated appearance of Senator Kennedy.

Press Coverage At The Ambassador

The night of the assassination a large number of press personnel crowded into the Ambassador Hotel to report on the anticipated victory of Senator Robert Kennedy. Representatives of the world press were also present. More than 150 of those interviewed in this investigation stated that they were reporters who were at the hotel the night of the shooting. The Colonial Room of the hotel had been set aside for the press. The Kennedy Anchor Desk was established near this location. Several Kennedy workers stated that their specific assignments involved assisting or directing the media.

Because of the late returns of the primary, news items were slowing down by 10:30 p.m. Reporters in search of news followed Senator Kennedy wherever he went and photographed him whenever they could. It was rumored that some of the "writing press" were unhappy that they had no interviews with Kennedy and this was thought to be one of the reasons why Kennedy was going to the Colonial Room for a late night news conference. However, no newsmen reported being poorly treated by the Kennedy staff. Several newsmen actually observed the shooting and some assisted in the capture of Sirhan. Photographers took thousands of feet of film and video tape yet no one came forward with a photograph of the shooting.

The Victory Speech

Jesse Unruh, speaker of the California Assembly, spoke to the enthusiastic crowd. His legislative assistant, Jack Crose, had gone to Senator Kennedy's fifth floor suite to ask the Senator to come down to the ballroom. On the way to the elevator, Kennedy told a Life Magazine correspondent to avoid the crowd and meet him in the Colonial Room after the speech. He told her that the Kennedy party was planning to go from the hotel to a private party at "The Factory," a Hollywood discotheque bar.

The small group accompanying Kennedy took a service elevator to the kitchen area at Kennedy's request so that they could avoid the crowd in the lobby of the hotel. They then walked through the employee's lunch area and Kennedy stopped to shake hands

with numerous people and he autographed a poster for an admirer. Kennedy entered the Embassy Ballroom through an honor guard of Kennedy Girls, and onto the stage. The time was 12:02 a.m.

The stage area was packed as Kennedy delivered a victory message to an audience of about 1500 persons in the crowded auditorium. Lights from the news cameras heated the already hot room. As Kennedy finished his speech one of his aides said, "This way Senator," and a small group, including Kennedy, walked to the rear of the stage and through the door to an anteroom. The decision to go through the anteroom and serving pantry area was made moments before by Fred Dutton and William Barry. Both men attempted to catch up with Kennedy as he moved quickly toward the Colonial Room where the "writing press" was awaiting his arrival. Mrs. Kennedy remarked to Barry as they walked away from the stage, "stay with the Senator."

A large crowd of people surged around Kennedy as he made his way toward the pantry area. Several persons noted that Kennedy was walking "quite fast." Kennedy stopped for a brief moment to shake hands with the kitchen help. Karl Uecker, a hotel waiter captain, was with Kennedy as he walked from the stage to the pantry and took his arm to assist him toward the Colonial Room.

Vincent Di Pierro, a college student and son of the hotel maitre d', was walking to the right of Kennedy and about five feet behind him. He observed a man standing on a tray rack at the east end of the ice machine. He recalled that the man had an unusual smile on his face and appeared to be bending over

holding his right hand against his stomach. Di Pierro looked away and turned toward Kennedy.

The Shooting

Kennedy stopped to shake hands with a hotel waiter and then with Di Pierro. As he let go of the hand of Jesus Perez, another hotel employee, a man moved toward Kennedy; his right arm fully extended, he fired four shots quickly at the Senator. Kennedy raised his arms over his head and two of the shots entered under his right arm. The first shot had struck him in the head behind the right ear; the second went through the padding of Kennedy's coat and struck Paul Schrade, United Automobile Workers Union Official, in the head.

Witnesses' recollections of the shooting varied. One thought the man was going to shake hands with the Senator. Another saw the man raise a pistol and saw an "angry and determined" look in his face. One witness saw the man push the gun toward the back of Kennedy's head but could not identify the suspect because of the chaos that followed. A thirteen year old Kennedy worker saw the man holding the gun and then he saw a flame come from it.

Uecker immediately grabbed the man as he fired the first shots. He continued firing at Kennedy and one witness recalled that "he had a tremendous look of concentration on his face." He fired eight shots; the last four while the confused crowd tried to apprehend him. Five others were wounded in the shooting.

Many witnesses thought that they heard balloons popping and

others thought the sounds were firecrackers. The accounts of the distance from the suspect and Kennedy varied. A hotel busboy thought the gun was three feet from Kennedy's head. Another witness thought the first shot came from point blank range. Subsequent laboratory examination placed the distance of the first and fatal shot at one inch.

The Capture

Karl Uecker swung around as Kennedy fell to the floor. Uecker seized the man by the neck and struck at his hand to push the gun away from the crowd; while several others close by reached out to control him. The man was wrestled to a nearby metal table and the gun fell from his hand for a moment. He was able to regain possession of the gun.

Roosevelt Grier, an ex-professional football player, approached the struggling group. He wrestled the gun from the man's hand and gave it to Rafer Johnson who was standing nearby. The men holding the man then pinned him to the serving table and held him there until the police arrived. During the struggle the suspect received minor injuries to his ankle and right hand. These were later treated at Homicide Division.

William Barry who was several feet behind Kennedy when the shots were fired told investigators that when he reached the suspect that no one was holding him. He stated that he took the gun from him and struck him twice in the face with his fist. He said that the suspect later retrieved the gun and others in the crowd assisted him in controlling the suspect. The investigation disclosed, however, that by the time Barry reached the suspect.

several others had hold of him.

Medical Treatment of Senator Kennedy

Several doctors indentified themselves immediately and offerred to aid the victims of the shooting. Dr. Stanley Abo was the first to treat Kennedy. He found his heartbeat very strong, his pulse rate between 50 and 60 and his breath shallow. His left eye was closed.

When Abo told Kennedy that he thought that Stephen Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law, had only a superficial wound. Kennedy replied, "Good." It was later learned that Smith had not been shot.

Abo found a small entry wound in back of Kennedy's right ear. At one point Abo tried to open Kennedy's left eyelid but he resisted. Later Kennedy looked around the room and recognized his wife who was kneeling near him. He called her name several times and he was able to move his hands and feet.

Abo noted that Kennedy's only apparent impairment was to his right eye. During the time that he treated Kennedy the only medical function performed was to keep the wound bleeding to prevent a clot from forming.

Dr. Marvin Esher also treated Kennedy and believed that Kennedy had sustained a cardiac arrest. He observed that Kennedy's left eyelid was closed and his right eye was open with the eyeball slightly deviated to the right. He noted that there was no visible movement in Kennedy's chest.

Removal from Hotel

A Los Angeles City Receiving Hospital ambulance was dispatched from Central Receiving Hospital at 12:18 a.m., and covered the 2.2 miles to the hotel in five minutes. The driver and attendant were directed to the pantry but due to the crowd jammed around Kennedy they were unable to open their first aid kit to provide emergency aid.

Kennedy was placed on a stretcher and carried to the ambulance. The doors to the ambulance were forcibly reopened twice by persons in the crowd who attempted to board the ambulance. William Barry and Warren Rogers, a Look Magazine editor, rode in the cab with the driver; Mrs. Kennedy, Fred Dutton, and Mrs. Stephen Smith were in the rear with Kennedy and the attendant. The ambulance left the hotel escorted by a police vehicle.

En route to the hospital the attendant attempted to stop the flow of blood from the head wound of Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy said, "Don't touch him," and she slapped the attendant across the face. The scene in the ambulance was chaotic and tempers were very short. Barry, seated in the cab, tried several times to enter the back of the ambulance through the boot; he yelled back at the attendant, "Don't touch him, you son-of-a-bitch, or I'll come back there and kill you." The driver prevented Barry from going to the back of the ambulance. At one point Mrs. Kennedy grabbed the surgical sponges from the attendant and threw them on the floor. Kennedy began gasping and the attendant administered oxygen. The ambulance arrived at Central Receiving Hospital at 12:30 a.m.

treatment at Central Receiving Hospital

Preparations had been made in Emergency Room Two prior to the arrival of the ambulance containing Kennedy. Dr. Faustin Razilauskas, a staff surgeon, met the ambulance and supervised the move of Kennedy to the treatment room. His initial diagnosis was: A comatose, weak thready pulse, in extremis, blood pressure zero over zero, heartbeat almost imperceptible, bullet wound right mastoid area with swelling, and in shock. Emergency treatment was given and decisions were made regarding the need for post-emergency treatment.

Dr. Albert Holt, of the Receiving Hospital staff, made a cursory examination of Kennedy. He found two bullet wounds and gave the opinion that Kennedy required immediate brain surgery. He recommended Dr. Henry Cueno to Mrs. Kennedy who was present in the room. Several other specialists were notified in anticipation of injury to other areas of the Senator's body. Blood samples were sent to Good Samaritan Hospital for preparation at that location for the transfer of Kennedy.

Emergency treatment continued and a heart-lung machine was installed to assist Kennedy's respiration. Adrenalin was injected into Kennedy's arm. Kennedy was then out of shock, still comatose with hyperactive reflexes. The doctors found that the Senator had responded favorably to treatment but his condition was nevertheless critical. His blood pressure was 150/90 and he continued to receive oxygen by nasal mask and he was given serum albumen intravenously.

Transfer to Good Samaritan Hospital

Senator Kennedy was moved to an ambulance at 12:45 a.m., and the vehicle carrying Kennedy, his wife, Mrs. Smith, Barry and Warren Rogers arrived at Good Samaritan Hospital at 12:48 a.m. Kennedy was taken to the intensive care ward still unconscious and unresponsive. He showed evidence of brain injury and other symptoms indicated the need for a tracheotomy.

Dr. Paul Ironside performed the tracheotomy and his breathing improved; however, two minutes later Kennedy's breathing stopped and he was placed under a respirator.

Dr. Henry Cueno arrived at the hospital and was briefed by Dr. Holt. X-rays were taken of the head and chest area. According to all of the doctors the prognosis was extremely poor and they all agreed that they were dealing with an "absolute disaster."

The Operation

Surgery was begun at 3:10 a.m. The wound area was shaved and a small window was cut in the skull to facilitate a larger area to operate. Bone fragments, clotted blood and bruised brain tissue were removed by Dr. Cueno. Some of the lead fragments were identifiable as being from a bullet.

During surgery Kennedy's condition improved slightly and he was able to breath on his own. He was able to move his right leg but he was still comatose. Surgery was terminated at 6:30 a.m., and the respirator was reapplied when his breathing became labored.

Dr. James L. Poppen, the Kennedy family physician, arrived at 11 a.m. from Boston. He consulted with Dr. Cueno and periodic checks on Kennedy were made; the family was kept advised of Kennedy's condition. Twelve hours after the operation Kennedy's blood pressure had dropped to 80/20.

At 6:09 p.m., cardiac and kidney changes were noted and his pulse was slowing. This condition was considered terminal and only time was the remaining factor. At 8 p.m., Kennedy seemed to be stabilizing but by 1:15 a.m., on June 6th no blood pressure was noted. At 1:27 a.m., no breathing or heart sounds were recorded. At 1:44 a.m., Senator Robert F. Kennedy was pronounced dead.

The Autopsy on Senator Kennedy was conducted in the hospitals Morgue Room at 3 a.m., on June 6, 1968 and completed at 9:15 a.m. Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, Chief Medical Examiner, Coroner of Los Angeles County, was in charge of the autopsy. The cause of death was a gunshot wound of the right mastoid, penetrating the brain.

Medical Treatment of Other Victims

Five others were wounded during the shooting. Each was in the line of fire in the crowd which was behind Kennedy.

Irwin Stroll, a Kennedy worker and student, was shot in the left leg but thought that he had been kicked. He ran into the Embassy Ballroom and realized that blood was running down his leg. He was treated at Central Receiving Hospital and discharged at 1:10 a.m. He was transferred to Midway Hospital in Los Angeles

where Dr. Nathan Cozen operated to remove a bullet from his left calf, next to the bone.

Paul Schrade, United Auto Workers Union Official, was walking directly behind Kennedy when the shooting occurred. He saw some flashes and lost consciousness. Witnesses reported observing him fall to the floor and several believed that he was dead. Schrade was bleeding profusely from a scalp wound. Dr. Abo made a quick examination of Schrade and determined that the wound appeared superficial.

Schrade was treated at Central Receiving Hospital for a bullet wound to the head and discharged at 1:27 a.m. He was treated at Kaiser Hospital in Los Angeles by Dr. Kasper Fuchs at 3 a.m. Examination revealed that the bullet entered behind the hair line and exited two and-a-half inches to the rear. Shattered bone had been forced into the skull. An incision was made and damaged tissue and bullet fragments were removed. The wound was directly over the sagittal sinus. There was small hole in the skull at the entry which would heal.

William S. Weisel, American Broadcasting Company News Director, was walking approximately six feet behind Kennedy and felt three thumps in his side but was shot only once. He did not see the shooting. Weisel was transferred with Schrade from Central Receiving Hospital to Kaiser Hospital. At 2:30 a.m., Dr. William Neal operated and removed an identifiable .22 caliber bullet from Weisel's left side at a point three inches above the waist line.

Elizabeth Evans a self employed businesswoman, was standing inside the door of the pantry surrounded by a crowd of people. She bent over to retrieve a lost shoe and she heard noises like firecrackers. She then realized that she had been shot. A bullet had entered the false ceiling of the pantry and ricocheted downward striking her in the forehead. She was assisted to the Embassy Ballroom and given emergency aid by doctors present.

After treatment at Central Receiving Hospital Mrs. Evans was transferred to Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena. The bullet did not penetrate or exit and x-rays revealed that the bullet flattened itself against the skull just under the skin of the forehead below the hairline. The bullet was removed by Dr. John T. Garner at 1:10 p.m., on June 5, 1968.

Ira Marc Goldstein, a Continental News Service reporter, was struck in the upper thigh. He was attended at the scene by a doctor who found the wound to be not serious. After treatment at Central Receiving Hospital he was transferred to Encino Hospital in Los Angeles. The bullet was removed by Dr. Eugene Gettleman from the left buttocks about three inches from the point of entry. The deformed .22 caliber bullet was marked by Dr. Gettleman for identification.

Each of the five victims recovered from the shooting and participated in a reenactment of the shooting in November 1968. It was determined that Schrade was struck by a bullet which went through the padding of Kennedy's coat. Weisel and Goldstein were struck directly by bullets from the gun. The bullet which

struck Stroll ricocheted from the floor of the pantry and the bullet which struck Evans left the gun, travelled through the false ceiling and ricocheted back into the pantry, striking her in the head.

Police Department Participation

Los Angeles Police Department personnel participated fully in the activities which took place from the time of the assassination through the transportation of Senator Kennedy's body to International Airport. A section of this report chronologically recounts the various aspects of the events occurring between 12:06 a.m., on June 5, 1968 and 2:30 p.m., on June 6, 1968.

These activities are described separately in sections entitled: ACTIVITIES AT THE HOTEL, CENTRAL RECEIVING, GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL TO THE LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, EMERGENCY CONTROL CENTER, FUNCTIONS OF RAMPART PATROL AND DETECTIVES AND PARKER CENTER SECURITY.

	PLM.	SGT.	LT.	CAPT.	INSP.	D.C.	DIVS.
Hotel	120	15	4	1	1	-	20
Central Receiving Hospital	73	11	3	1	-	-	13
Good Samaritan Hospital	112	33	6	2	1	1	14
International Airport	45	28	-	1	2	-	7
Rampart Station	39	4	1	1	-	-	8
Preliminary Investigation	13	16	4	-	1	-	5
Emergency Control Center	31	8	7	1	1	3	9
Parker Center Security	45	8	1	1	-	-	8

The total complement of personnel for each aspect was compiled and rosters are included in the respective section. The number of personnel deployed is reflected in the chart above. There was some duplication as personnel were deployed at two or more locations during the period. A total of 612 man days were worked by 553 sworn personnel of this Department.

Activities of The Ambassador Hotel

At 12:06 a.m., on June 5, 1968, a Rampart Division radio car responded to the Ambassador Hotel on a call on an illegally parked car. Within moments these officers were engulfed in the scene surrounding the shooting.

At 12:17 a.m., an unidentified caller notified the Rampart Division Watch Commander that Kennedy had just been shot. Lieutenant R. K. Sillings immediately went to the hotel to investigate the call. At 12:19 a.m., the only unit available in Rampart, Sergeant P. Sharaga, was assigned to a routine "ambulance injury" call at the hotel.

At 12:20 a.m., the emergency message that Senator Kennedy had been shot, was broadcast to all units. At 12:22 a.m., a Rampart radio car and three Metropolitan Division officers arrived at the front of the hotel. The five officers were directed by people in the crowd through a maze of hallways to the pantry area where they observed Senator Kennedy lying on the floor.

They immediately attempted to locate the suspect and observed a struggle at the east end of the crowded pantry. Two of the officers had separated from the group and were running into the pantry from the east end.

As Officer T. R. White entered the pantry he observed numerous persons struggling with a dark complexioned male near a serving table. A male in the crowd yelled to White, "Quick, he's trying to kill him." As the five officers attempted to move toward the suspect they were forced to pull the men surrounding him away.

Jesse Unruh, Speaker of the California Assembly, was on top of the serving table yelling, "This one's going to stand trial. No one's going to kill him." The officers managed to gain control of the suspect and handcuff his hands behind his back. The officers then prepared to remove the suspect from the crowded pantry to their vehicle.

The near hysterical crowd appeared to be a potential hazard to the suspect's safety and in a loud voice White ordered the others to start moving out of the room. Unruh moved toward the officers and White, fearing for the suspect's safety, pushed him away; Unruh yielded but insisted that he escort the officers from the building.

The officers formed a tight circle around the suspect and moved through the crowd. Several persons shouted obscenities at the suspect and attempted to strike out at him. The officers absorbed the brunt of these blows.

As the officers reached their vehicles they were assisted by other officers who had arrived at the hotel. The crowd around the vehicle prevented the officers from getting into their vehicles. Unruh, without permission, climbed into the front seat of the vehicle. Eventually the officers were able to drive

through the crowd. The time was 12:28 a.m., six minutes from the time they arrived.

White and his partner, A. Placencia, drove immediately to Rampart Station arriving at 12:31 a.m. En route, Placencia, in the rear seat with the suspect, advised him of his constitutional rights. Unruh asked the suspect why he had shot Kennedy. He replied, "You think I'm crazy, so that you can use it as evidence against me?"

Upon arrival at the station the suspect was placed in an interrogation room; he was searched and his personal property was removed from his clothing. An officer was placed in the room to provide security for the suspect.

At the hotel measures were being taken to secure the crime scene and secure witnesses. Security measures were taken to obtain information on potential suspects who might be outstanding. Units arriving from throughout the Metropolitan area began deploying about the hotel. All available Metropolitan Division officers were deployed to the rear of the hotel. Traffic control measures were taken surrounding the hotel.

At 12:28 a.m., Sergeant Sharaga broadcast a description of a blond male Caucasian suspect which had been given to him by an unknown person. At 1:44 a.m., this description was cancelled and the suspect was no longer sought. At the same time two Juvenile Division officers broadcast the description of a male Latin and a female Caucasian wanted as suspects.

Lieutenant R. Tackaberry commanded a squad of officers dispatched to Central Receiving Hospital to provide security at that location. Officers at various locations were requesting ambulances for the other victims of the shooting. Private ambulances were enlisted to aid in this effort.

Lieutenant Sillings arrived at the Command Post which Sharaga had established at the rear of the hotel at 12:23 a.m. Sillings instructed that an outside security perimeter be established and sent Sergeant R. Rolon and J. Jones into the hotel with seven men to secure the crime scene. Upon arriving in the Embassy Ballroom they noted the complete disarray. Jones used the public address system in an attempt to calm the hysterical crowd and to advise witnesses to report to the podium. Names were taken by officers of persons stating that they had seen relevant events.

Several minor incidents occurred in the next few minutes involving hysterical members of the crowd, the press and the officers who were attempting to bring order to the confusion. Quarrels were broken up, suspicious individuals were stopped and questioned and assistance was provided to the shocked celebrants. The bars were ordered closed as soon as possible after order was restored.

A contingent of Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies was dispatched from assignment at the nearby IBM Building where they had been providing security for ballot counting. These deputies provided assistance to Sergeant Sharaga at the Command Post.

At 2:25 a.m., all Sheriff's personnel at the hotel were relieved by Department personnel. A final count of Sheriff's personnel and equipment assisting at various locations or in reserve at the IBM Building totaled eighty-two deputies, eleven sergeants, two lieutenants and one captain; ten radio cars and one bus.

At 1:44 a.m., Inspector J. W. Powers contacted the Command Post and clarified the situation regarding outstanding suspects. At that time information from witnesses indicated that there was only one suspect involved in the shooting and that he was in custody. Other possible leads had been checked and found erroneous. Communications Division was instructed to cancel the broadcast on the "second suspect."

At 2:20 a.m., a Satellite Command Post was established in the Embassy Ballroom. Sergeant J. Jones supervised the activities at the location. Witnesses who had been singled out as being important were transported by bus and radio car to Rampart Station. Jones was also responsible for clearing the area of the shooting scene and preserving as much as possible for investigators and scientific investigation units.

At 3:30 a.m., Sergeant R. Rolon was assigned to clear unauthorized persons from the fifth floor of the hotel, the location of the Kennedy suite. These efforts were hampered by the presence of a crowd of young adults, many of whom were intoxicated. This incident was resolved and guards were posted in the area.

The emphasis of the event had shifted to other locations by 6 a.m., and the Command Post was moved inside at 8:40 a.m. It