

and was taken to International Airport for a flight to San Francisco. He spoke briefly at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco and returned to Long Beach Airport at 4:00 p.m.

#### Motorcade to Long Beach and Venice

Kennedy then went to Lincoln Park in Long Beach and made a twenty minute speech. The crowd included a few hecklers, but there were no major incidents. The Senator and his caravan left the Long Beach area and drove to the Watts area where he stopped numerous times and gave short campaign speeches from his vehicle. The street campaign was orderly except for one incident when an apparently intoxicated man jumped on the hood of the Senator's vehicle. At approximately 5:30 p.m. the caravan left the Watts area and proceeded to the Venice area. The Senator campaigned from the vehicle while the motorcade drove through the various areas in Venice.

#### San Diego and Return

At 8:00 p.m. the Senator was taken to International Airport for a flight to San Diego. His driver, Don Weston, remained at the airport for his return. The Senator was to be away only a short time. The Senator returned to International Airport at approximately 12:30 a.m., June 4, 1968. Upon his arrival, the Senator appeared very tired, and according to Weston, did not feel well.

#### Guest of Hollywood Producer John Frankenheimer

The Senator and Mrs. Kennedy were taken to John Frankenheimer's beach home in Malibu. There was no convoy accompanying the Senator and only the vehicle bearing the Senator and his wife

made the trip. Weston arrived at the Frankenheimer residence between 1:00 and 2 a.m. Weston unloaded the baggage and left the Senator and his wife. Senator Kennedy remained at the Frankenheimer residence the entire day of June 4, 1968. He slept late and went to the beach during the day's activity accompanied by four of his children. The Senator suffered a minor abrasion on his forehead while swimming in the surf. Concerned with his appearance, he later used makeup to cover the discolored area. Mrs. Kennedy remained in the home and had her hair done by a hair dresser from MGM Studio.

Weston returned to the Frankenheimer home Tuesday, June 4, at 7:15 p.m. He took Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Frankenheimer in his vehicle, and Mr. Frankenheimer drove the Senator and Fred Dutton. Weston proceeded to the Ambassador Hotel via the Santa Monica Freeway while Mr. Frankenheimer went north via Malibu Canyon to the Ventura Freeway and to the hotel.

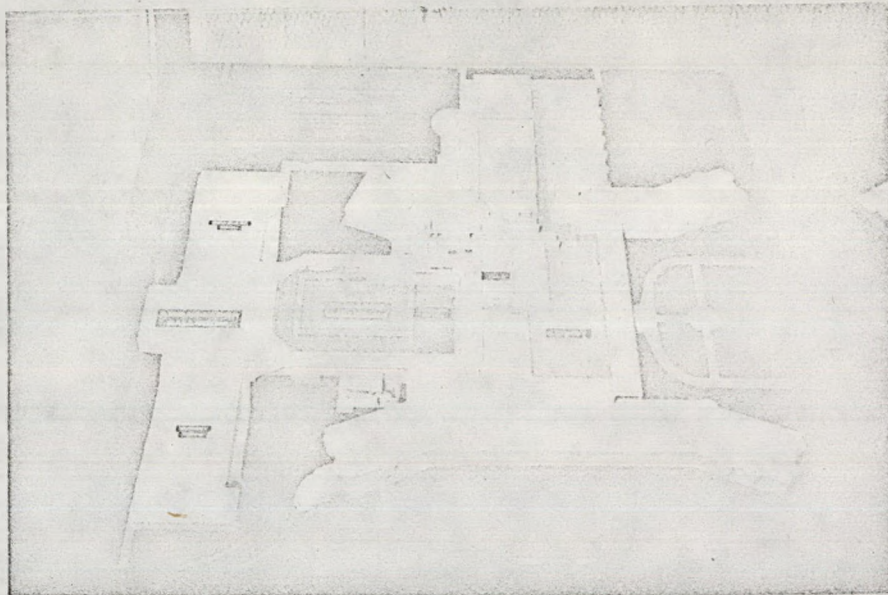
Returned to The Ambassador Hotel Tuesday Evening June 4

The Senator arrived at the Ambassador Hotel at 8:10 p.m. He went to his suite accompanied by his staff and Mr. Frankenheimer. During the period of time from his arrival at the hotel and his victory speech, the Senator spoke to numerous newsmen, greeted friends in his room, and discussed various campaign issues with members of his staff.

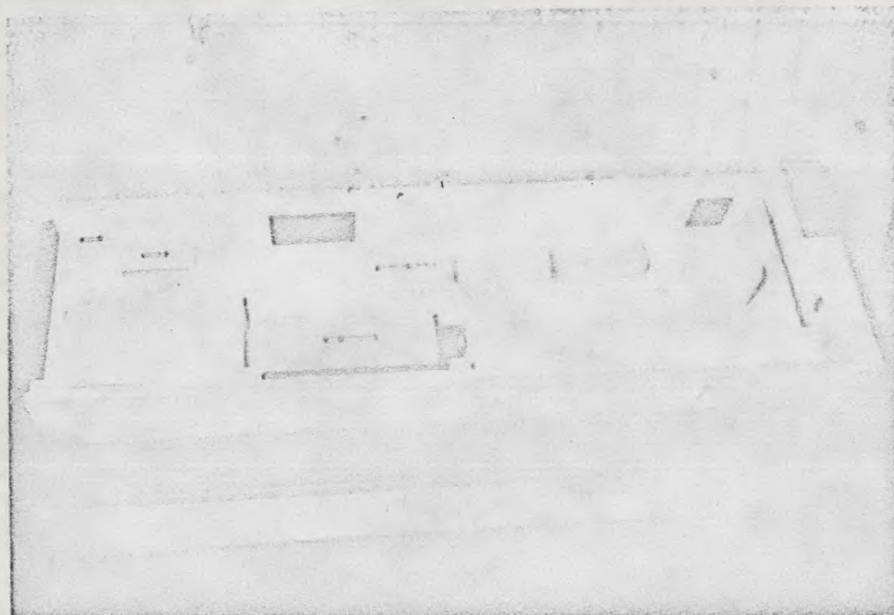
## THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL

The Ambassador Hotel is a 512-room, eight-story hotel located on twenty-five acres at 3400 Wilshire Boulevard. The ground floor, or Casino Level, houses the Ambassador Ballroom, Boulevard Room, Sunset Room, numerous shops, a cocktail lounge, a coffee shop, a large kitchen and service area with related offices. The main (Wilshire) entrance is on this level. The next floor, called the Lobby Level, contains the Embassy Ballroom, Gold Room, Palm Court Room, Dolphin Court, Regency Room, Venetian Room, Cocoanut Grove Nightclub, Grove Lounge, Rose Room, main lobby, hotel desk, accounting and administrative offices, and a large kitchen and service area adjacent to the banquet rooms. This level is at ground level on the east and south sides of the hotel. The next five floors are in the shape of a giant "H", with rooms on the outside, halls and stairways on the inside. The sixth floor is smaller with correspondingly fewer rooms.

The Kennedy entourage was registered in the Royal Suite, Rooms 512, 513, and 514, in the southeast wing. Kennedy campaign workers registered in eighty-five additional rooms. Over four hundred employees normally staff the hotel on a day-to-day basis including three working shifts. "Cash extra" employees are used to supplement the permanent staff as needed. There were 244 employees on duty the night of June 4.



Mock-up of Ambassador Hotel  
Embassy Room Level



Mock-up of Ambassador Hotel  
Pantry

SECURITY

## SECURITY PROVIDED BY LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

Security arrangements provided by the Los Angeles Police Department for the visit of Senator Kennedy involved two primary considerations. The first involved the standard precautionary measures taken by the Department for all dignitaries and included prescribed rules for the utilization of Department personnel in preferential, non-police or extra-enforcement capacities. Senator Kennedy's staff had been advised by Inspector Sidney Mills, Traffic Bureau, that the Kennedy party would receive whatever security was warranted and that all regulations, ordinances and vehicle code sections would be enforced. The description of the incident involving the Kennedy motorcade on May 29, 1968, is illustrative of the relationship that the Department had with the Kennedy staff.

The second consideration involved the desire of Senator Kennedy and his staff to avoid having local police present during the activities of Senator Kennedy. William Barry, Kennedy's body-guard, was responsible for liaison with local police agencies. No request was ever made by Barry to the Los Angeles Police Department for security at the Ambassador Hotel.

Captain Colwell, Commander of Intelligence Division, reported that a "town hall" group from the Biltmore Hotel requested security in early May for Senator Kennedy. When it was learned that this security was to be used to keep the press from Kennedy's bedroom while he slept, the request was denied. This group protested that Senator McCarthy had received security,

and they wanted to know why Senator Kennedy would not. They were advised that reliable information had been received regarding a threat on Senator McCarthy's life. Such a threat came within the policy of the Department to provide security for V.I.P.'s, dignitaries and political officials. Captain Colwell further reported that no other request was made to Intelligence Division for security for Senator Kennedy.

Evaluation of the need for security by the Department also took into consideration a trait particular to some political candidates and one specifically applicable to the campaign of Senator Kennedy. Information had been publicized in various press accounts of Senator Kennedy's rallies that crowds and energetic supporters of the Senator's had been boisterous and unmanageable. It was reported that Kennedy staff personnel made no effort to curtail the unruly nature of the crowds, and in most cases encouraged the zealously of his supporters. It was further reported that Kennedy aides arranged for facilities which induced such zealously and that they made no effort to restrict the number of persons who attended such rallies. Such restriction would lessen the appearance that there was avid and eager support for Kennedy.

Preparation for Senator Kennedy's victory party necessarily took into consideration the potential problem of manufactured, synthetic hysteria which might be encouraged by Kennedy aides. The absence of uniformed or plainclothes security personnel would also increase the possibility that participants at the

party would become boisterous and unmanageable.

Though no request for security was made, Rampart Division deployed four two-man radio cars for assignment around the hotel on election night. These units were deployed to allow for the anticipated crowds which would be attending various political parties at the Ambassador Hotel. At the time of the shooting, all Rampart radio units were on assigned calls and unavailable for response. A Rampart patrol supervisor was the initial unit assigned an "ambulance injury" call to the hotel. Many other units responded when it was learned that the Senator had been shot.

Department investigators' evaluation of the behavior of the crowd, based on witnesses' statements and film coverage of the party prior to and during the Senator's final speech, concluded that there was no induced hysteria other than the normal zealously of Kennedy supporters. There was evidence that efforts were made to allow as many supporters in the ballroom as possible; however, there was no evidence that this was done to create a boisterous, unmanageable crowd. Some incidents during the evening caused excitement in the crowd, but there was no indication that they were preplanned for effect.

Los Angeles Police Department personnel did not participate in the security for Senator Kennedy at the hotel. No request was made for such security and previous indications were that Senator Kennedy and his staff preferred that no police personnel be present where Senator Kennedy was appearing.



## EXAMPLE OF KENNEDY PARTY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

A record of experiences regarding police security and maintenance of police control at functions involving Senator Robert Kennedy is well illustrated by the following account of a Kennedy motorcade held on May 29, 1968.

On May 28, 1968, a telegram was received by this Department from William H. Murray, Assistant to the Campaign Manager for the "Kennedy for President" campaign. The telegram advised the Department of a planned Kennedy motorcade in downtown Los Angeles scheduled for May 29, 1968. The motorcade was to begin at about noon and the intended route was to begin on 9th Street near the Harbor Freeway, travel eastbound to Santee Street and was to conclude on North Broadway at the Hollywood Freeway. The telegram stated that there would be six vehicles in the motorcade and that no stops were intended. The telegram also stated that any assistance provided would be appreciated; however, a request for security was not made.

Inspector Sidney Mills, Traffic Bureau, notified the Commanders of Traffic Enforcement, Accident Investigation, Parking and Intersection Control, Rampart and Central Divisions of the event. He told the commanders that, "This man is on his own. No service will be given other than that which would be given any citizen." Officers were assigned to accompany the motorcade only; they were not to act as escorts and no traffic violations were to be allowed.

Sergeant P. C. Duncan and four motor officers from Traffic Enforcement Division were assigned to observe the motorcade. Sergeant Duncan informed the civilian escort officers to obey all traffic laws. Crowds were estimated from 500 to 4,000 persons at various locations along the route of the motorcade. At 9th Street near the Harbor Freeway Duncan observed one of the civilian escort officers enter an intersection while the light was red. He raised his arms to signal north and south bound traffic to come to a halt. Duncan informed the escort officer to allow the north and south bound traffic to move through the intersection.

The four motor officers assigned along the route observed similar violations by one or more of the motorcade vehicles. They occurred at 9th and Figueroa, Hill, Flower, and Broadway Streets. Verbal warnings were given and license numbers were recorded.

At 9th and Santee Streets large crowds were flowing into the street and traffic was very congested. Senator Kennedy was standing in an open convertible. He was shaking hands with the crowd around his vehicle and he was pulled from the vehicle onto the street. The car continued and the Senator raised his arms over his head and appeared to be protecting himself.

Sergeant Duncan entered the crowd and attempted to assist Kennedy back to his vehicle. The Senator jerked away from Duncan and stated, "I didn't ask you. I don't want you and take your hands off me." Duncan released him but remained nearby. Frederick Dutton, an aide to Kennedy, approached

Duncan, grabbed him by the arm and stated, "I'm the chief security officer here. We didn't ask for you, and we don't want you here. So leave." Kennedy and Dutton then returned to the vehicle where Kennedy attempted to give a speech.

As the motorcade attempted to move away from the crowd it was necessary for Duncan and the motor officers to assist with crowd control. As they did so, Dutton approached and stated, "Stay away from the motorcade. We have made arrangements with other police departments, and we have made the same arrangement with your police department; that there will be no policemen around. I know what you guys on motorcycles will do. You have a reputation; you will gun your motorcycles into the crowd and run over the people to keep them back so that our man cannot talk to them. We have been in Los Angeles twice, and it happened the same way last time. You did the same thing to us last time with your motorcycles and I'm going to report you."

Duncan left Dutton and the motorcade continued. More violations were observed between 8th Street and Temple Street on Broadway. While northbound on Broadway Dutton approached Motor Officers Hill and Hinrichs and stated, "Why don't you bastard cops get out of the way. That's the way with you dirty bastards. All you bastards want to do is push people around and fuck over them. They're going right back into the street to shake hands with them anyway you stupid ass."

At 5th and Broadway Streets Dutton approached Officer J. C. Watts, Central Division, shouting, "Stop him from using that

god damn P.A. system." Watt's was using his vehicle's public address system to keep the crowd out of the street.

Sergeant Duncan advised Dutton that if he had complaints to bring them to him. At Temple and Broadway Streets the identification of the drivers of the motorcade vehicles were secured, with the intention of filing applications for complaints.

Dutton's identification was also requested from him for the purpose of obtaining a complaint for the vulgar language he had used in the earlier encounter with the officers.

Applications for complaints were made on each driver and submitted to the City Attorney's Office for a hearing. After the assassination of Senator Kennedy, the Department requested the hearings be cancelled. The City Attorney concurred and each defendant was notified of the dismissal of his case.

## PERSONAL SECURITY

William F. Barry was in charge of security arrangements for Senator Kennedy as well as carrying out the functions of personal bodyguard. Barry, a former F.B.I. agent, had been assigned with Senator Kennedy between 1961 and 1964 when Kennedy was the Attorney General of the United States. He left the F.B.I. and accompanied Senator Kennedy on his 1964 Senatorial Campaign in New York and again during the 1968 Presidential Primary Campaign.

Barry described his job primarily as that of a bodyguard. His main duties were handling crowds and keeping drunks away from the Senator. He worked these assignments alone. He was not armed the night of the shooting. He stated that he did not have a gun because his work was primarily in crowds where a gun would be impractical.

Barry was responsible for the liaison between the Kennedy Staff and law enforcement agencies. A contact in the Department of Justice kept him apprised of any threats against the Senator and the identification of possible suspects in cities on their schedule during the campaign. When additional protection was considered necessary, Barry would contact the Kennedy advance man in that city who would make arrangements with the local police. He stated that motorcade guards were hired for convenience of movement, not for protection. He had not contacted the Los Angeles Police Department with a request for security for the evening of June 4/5, 1968.

Barry stated that Kennedy was extremely difficult to protect.

Barry frequently anticipated problems and discussed them with the Senator. The Senator then did as he pleased without regard to Barry's advice. Barry had intended to discuss this problem with Senator Kennedy upon their return to New York.

Richard Tuck, a Kennedy aide, assisted Barry by screening people as they entered the Kennedy suite and reviewing the routes of movement on election night. Rafer Johnson had joined the Kennedy Staff two weeks prior to the shooting and was assigned to assist Senator Kennedy in crowd control. He was not considered a body-guard. Fred Dutton, Senator Kennedy's campaign manager, was charged with planning the party's movements. He walked the route between the stage and the Colonial Room with Barry less than five minutes prior to the shooting. Dutton additionally stated that policemen were not used for Senator Kennedy's personal security except when they anticipated an unruly crowd.

SECURITY PROVIDED BY THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL

The security staff of the hotel consisted of twelve uniformed guards headed by William F. Gardner, a retired Los Angeles Police Department lieutenant. On June 3, 1968, Gardner met with the Public Assemblage Unit of the Los Angeles Fire Department. As a result of this meeting, he scheduled eleven of his men to work during the evening and early morning hours of the election night. The Fire Department assigned six fire inspectors to the hotel for the evening. Gardner arranged with Ace Guard Service, 8720 Woodley Avenue, for six additional men to supplement his hotel force.

Gardner stationed his men in anticipation of the expected attendance at the hotel, assigning the largest number of men in areas where he expected the heaviest crowds. Five of the guards were placed on the Casino Level, four guards on the Lobby Level, and five were used to man normal posts throughout the hotel. One guard was stationed on the fifth floor with orders to restrict traffic into the Kennedy suite. Gardner and his assistant, Fred A. Murphy, were on duty and patrolled the hotel in plainclothes.

Gardner stated there had been no communication between his office and the Kennedy Staff. Uno Timinson, hotel vice-president in charge of banquets and sales, had been responsible for the liaison between the Kennedy Staff and the hotel services. Gardner stated he did not receive an itinerary for the Senator, nor did he receive any requests for security arrangements from either Timinson or the Kennedy Staff. Gardner moved his guards during the evening as conditions changed, or upon the request of the

fire inspectors or Kennedy aides. Jack J. Merritt, Ace Guard supervisor, contacted Timinon and Hugh McDonald, a Kennedy press secretary, and was advised no additional assistance was required for the personal security of Senator Kennedy.

McDonald directed the admittance of Kennedy campaign workers into the Embassy Room until 7:15 p.m. At that time the guards were advised to restrict those entering to members of the press and Kennedy Staff who could be recognized by their badges. Witnesses reported later that they were able to circumvent the guards and enter the Embassy Room by walking through the Colonial Room and serving pantry. Albert Soifer, a Kennedy supporter, noticed numerous persons entering the Embassy Room via the pantry and advised a guard of the situation. The guard informed him that they were unable to do anything about it as they did not have enough men.

Guards on the inside stairs between the Ambassador Room foyer and the Embassy Room were screening everyone. In some instances members of the Kennedy Staff were required to identify persons before they could enter. Other members of the Kennedy Staff positioned themselves near the main doors of the Embassy Room and assisted campaign workers without badges into the room.

The fire inspectors closed the Embassy Room to all entry at 9:30 p.m., Additional people, however, continued to enter the ballroom through the pantry. A guard was placed in the pantry area at 10:30 p.m. and was partially effective in stopping entry from that source. An additional guard was placed at the Colonial Room door at 11:00 p.m. A busboy in the Cafe Lautrec was over-



heard advising people to enter the Embassy Room by way of the Dolphin Court at 11:45 p.m.

Gardner assigned four guards to the area between the stage and Colonial Room during the speech. There were two uniformed guards in the serving pantry at the time of the shooting. None of Gardner's guards remembered observing Sirhan B. Sirhan prior to the shooting, and none of the guards took part in his apprehension after the shooting. Gardner stated that during previous visits by Kennedy to the hotel, it was made clear to him by Kennedy Staff members that Senator Kennedy did not want uniformed guards in his presence. He gave this as one of the reasons that guards were not assigned to escort the Senator through the hotel during this visit.

ELECTION NIGHT AT THE HOTEL

## ELECTION NIGHT AT THE HOTEL

In addition to Kennedy's group, Democrat Alan Cranston and Republican Max Rafferty, eventual winners in the primary election for U. S. Senator, also had headquarters in the hotel. By 6 p.m. there were many people present in the hotel including permanent residents, members of the press, out-of-state guests, representatives from a Bulova Watch Company sales meeting and General Electric product introduction meeting. Delegates were arriving for the Pacific Telephone Seminar to be held on June 6th, and others were registering for a two-day seminar for hospital administrators. There was a total of 514 registered guests at the hotel.

The majority of the people arriving at the hotel, however, were there to attend the anticipated election victory celebrations. Jose Cervantes, a hotel employee, checked credentials of visitors at the Embassy Room, which was reserved for the Kennedy party, beginning at 4:15 p.m. At 6 p.m., the hotel security guards arrived and were assigned by William Gardner, hotel security chief. Guards Albert Stowers and Jack Merritt were assigned to the main door of the Embassy Room to relieve Cervantes. The crews manning the three television mobile units in the parking lot began working and the Kennedy Anchor Desk in the Embassy Room was opened. The victory party for Alan Cranston began in the Palm Room, and a small band started playing at that location. Stowers reported there were a large number of people in the Embassy Room by 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., the Max Rafferty victory celebration began in the West Venetian Room and another band began playing. Warren Weaver, reporter for the New York Times, arrived and found several members of the press present in the Colonial Room which had been converted into a press room for the evening. At 7:15 p.m. McDonald decided to close the Embassy Room to volunteer campaign workers and restrict entry to those possessing press passes or Kennedy Staff badges. At 7:30 p.m., Captain Leonard Rohm, Public Assemblage Unit, Los Angeles Fire Department, noted that the only activity in the area of the Kennedy suite on the fifth floor appeared to be the television camera and engineering crews moving equipment through the halls.

The polls closed in Los Angeles County at 8 p.m. and the public bars in the hotel opened. A free Champagne bar at the Rafferty party in the West Venetian Room also opened. Arthur Maddox, hotel guard, was stationed in the area with orders to keep the peace. A Kennedy girl, directed pedestrian traffic at the entrance of the Embassy Room. Barbara Schlei, a volunteer campaign worker, was assisting Kennedy workers and VIP's not having passes into the Embassy Room.

John Frankenheimer, Hollywood producer and friend of Senator Kennedy, drove the Senator to the hotel from his home in Malibu. They arrived at 8:15 p.m. and went directly to the Kennedy suite on the fifth floor.

By 8:30 p.m., admittance to the Embassy Room was becoming difficult due to more effective control of admissions at the entrances.

The crowd had approached the occupancy limit. Many witnesses, however, reported circumventing the security guards and entering the Embassy Room by other routes after being turned away at the main doors. At 9 p.m., a singing group named "Sounds of Our Times" entered the Embassy Room and began singing while walking around the floor of the ballroom. Cecil R. Lynch, fire inspector of the Los Angeles Fire Department, determined the Embassy Room to be at its safe and legal capacity at 9:30 p.m. He ordered the main doors to be closed to all entry except on a one-in one-out basis.

Dave Kennerly, photographer for United Press International, went to the fifth floor of the hotel at 10 p.m. and found a press party in progress involving thirty to forty key members of the traveling press. Back at the press headquarters in the Colonial Room, Samuel Reis, a volunteer Kennedy worker, was assigned to bar unauthorized persons from entering the area. Senator Kennedy went to a room on the fourth floor and filmed a television interview for NBC. He returned to the fifth floor and filmed a joint interview with ABC and CBS Television. The lobby became crowded, and the guards at the Embassy Room door began advising the people to go downstairs to the Ambassador Room. Fire Inspector Lynch determined the Ambassador Room to be reaching its occupancy limit at 11 p.m.

Midge Jay, a member of the Kennedy Staff, was leading the singing and cheering from the stage of the Ambassador Room most of the evening. A mariachi band arrived and began playing, in conflict with the scheduled entertainment already in progress.

The mariachi band had not been invited, and their actions came close to triggering an incident with racial overtones involving the Mexican-American factions present in the room. The Sunset Room was opened, and Inspector Lynch used the mariachi band to lead part of the crowd into the newly opened area. This room was spontaneously renamed the "Viva Kennedy Room" by those who moved their celebration there.

One hundred forty-four representatives of the news media were present at the hotel. The majority were from out of the area, registering in 116 rooms of the hotel. The group included well-known reporters from the largest newspapers, representatives from all the local papers, national magazines, wire services and the radio and television media.

## PRESS COVERAGE AT THE AMBASSADOR

June 4, 1968, was the date California scheduled its Primary election. The several national presidential candidates, the voters and the press were aware that the winners of this election could become the candidate of his party in the General Election. The political climate, the Kennedy name and the results of polls, which indicated a Kennedy win, precipitated an abundance of newsmen in Los Angeles with a large proportion of these at the Ambassador Hotel. The world press poised and awaited the voice of the voters.

The media from throughout the Free World was present in the crowd. The writing press, national periodicals and local papers were joined by representatives of major Eastern papers, national wire services, foreign periodicals and foreign newspapers. The television media was represented by the three major networks, local independent stations, foreign agencies and numerous independent producers, hopeful of selling their product to an unrepresented news agency. The radio station and independent newsmen, with their portable tape recorders, completed the large group from the news gathering agencies. Literally dozens of independent photographers, some hobbyists, some commercial and some involved in educational projects also joined the throng of professionals. More than 150 interviewees identified themselves as newsmen.

The physical layout of the election headquarters was planned with the press in mind. The Colonial Room, adjacent to the

Embassy Ballroom, was set up to accommodate the press. Tables, telephones, typewriters and teletype machines were available exclusively for them. The raised platform on the south wall of the Embassy Room was reserved for cameras and their crews. Locations were set aside for crews to set up and film interviews in the Gold Room, serving pantry and in two rooms on the fourth and fifth floors. The Kennedy Campaign Anchor Desk, established behind the Embassy Room stage, served as a liaison among members of the news media and the Kennedy staff. The news and vote count was received via a portable teletype machine located nearby.

Television monitors were scattered throughout the hotel to allow press and supporters to keep informed of the election's progress. The importance of proper news coverage and accessibility of the candidate to the media appeared to be a consideration to the Kennedy staff. Many witnesses later stated that their assignments involved assisting or directing the press. One member of Kennedy's national staff was responsible for arranging transportation so newsmen could accompany the candidate throughout the campaign with a minimum of inconvenience. A number of witnesses indicated that complimentary beverages were served by the Kennedy staff, at appropriate times, to members of the press.

The vote tabulation in Los Angeles County was extremely slow on June 4 and newsmen, particularly those engaged in live coverage, found their sequences lagging. Interviews, reports from various election night headquarters, vote tabulations and analyses of California politics by network personalities were utilized to give the programs some activity.



News men assigned to a specific headquarters wandered into other candidates' headquarters, searching for something to report. A press party had begun on the fifth floor of the hotel by 10 p.m., with thirty to forty participants.

Senator Kennedy's every move during the evening appeared to have been photographed or noted by the press. He was photographed relaxing in his room during interviews, walking to the elevator en route to the ballroom, speaking to the kitchen help, signing autographs and making his victory speech in the Embassy Room. Photographs taken of the Embassy Room during the speech depict a virtual sea of camera and sound equipment surrounding and focused on the Senator.

At approximately 12:15 a.m., when Senator Kennedy finished his speech, he was to go to a scheduled press conference in the Colonial Room. News men would be awaiting his arrival, others would be following him. A few were not aware of the conference. It was not determined the reason for a news conference at 12:15 a.m. Witnesses stated that the deadlines for Eastern and Middle Western newspapers were past at the time of the speech; however, other witnesses reported a rumor that members of the "writing" press were dissatisfied with the cavalier treatment they had received from the Kennedy staff and that they had demanded the late hour press conference. It was subsequently determined that those reporting the rumors were among the few not informed of the conference. None of the news men interviewed reported being poorly treated during the campaign by the Kennedy staff.

## VICTORY SPEECH

By 11:30 p.m., the crowd in the Embassy Room was restlessly anticipating an appearance by Senator Kennedy. Jesse Unruh, Speaker of the California Assembly, spoke to the crowd in the Embassy Room and sent his legislative assistant, Jack C. Crose, to the fifth floor to get Senator Kennedy. John W. Gallivan, Jr., advance man for Kennedy, made arrangements to hold an elevator for the Senator and his Staff. The Kennedy group, assembled in Room 512, was led to the elevator by Uno Timinson, hotel vice-president in charge of banquets and sales. En route to the elevator, Senator Kennedy advised Sylvia Wright, Life Magazine correspondent, to avoid the crowd by staying on the fifth floor until after the speech. She was to then meet him in the Colonial Room prior to going to a private party for the Kennedy group at The Factory, a discotheque bar in Hollywood.

The group boarded the elevator and Senator Kennedy asked where they would exit. When he learned it would be the lobby, he stated he would prefer going the back way. Timinson directed the group to the service elevators which took the group to the kitchen area. The following were on the elevator en route to the kitchen: Senator Kennedy, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, Crose, Gallivan, Timinson, Frank Mankiewicz, National Press Secretary; Richard Tuck, Public Relations aide; Fred Dutton, campaign Corrdinator; William Barry, Kennedy's bodyguard; Edward Minasian, hotel maitre d'; Hays Gorey, Time Magazine reporter; Delores Huerta, a union organizer from Delano; Roosevelt Grier, ex-Ram football player; and Rafer Johnson, former UCLA athlete.

The group left the elevator on the lobby level and was led by Timinon through the kitchen and employees' lunch area. Kennedy stopped to shake hands with numerous people and several newsmen and one television cameraman photographed the activity. Minasian remembered the kitchen area being almost empty with everything in order. Volunteers assisted the hotel personnel by clearing a path through the growing crowd of people. Senator Kennedy stopped and autographed a poster for Michael Wayne, a bookstore employee and collector of campaign autographs and souvenirs; then proceeded past an honor guard of Kennedy girls through the swinging doors and onto the stage. The time was 12:02.10 a.m. This time was established by KNXT video tape #456-90.

Many people were on the stage and the Embassy Room was packed with an over flow crowd as Kennedy approached the podium. He was greeted by applause that lasted thirty seconds, making it impossible for him to be heard over the public address system. News cameras filmed the speech from the south side of the room, and the television lights increased the heat in the already hot room. Prior to the end of the speech, a group of campaign workers formed a human chain to assist the Senator off the west end of the stage. This was apparently done in the event the Senator went to the Anchor Desk which was the information center regarding election results. Senator Kennedy spoke until 12:14.47 a.m. Time established by KNXT tape #456-90. One of his aides said, "This way, Senator," and he turned and exited via the rear of the stage.



An overflow crowd heard Senator Kennedy's  
victory speech in the Embassy Room



## FROM THE STAGE TO THE KITCHEN

senator Kennedy walked hurriedly across the twelve feet to the back door of the stage, turned right, walked down the incline and through the anteroom between the Embassy Room and the serving pantry. He was en route to the Colonial Room at the far end of the pantry. The Colonial Room was being used by the "writing press."

According to Fred Dutton, this decision to meet with the writing press in the Colonial Room and the route to be taken had been planned by him and William Barry. The decision was made five minutes before the conclusion of the Senator's speech. Ordinarily these two men were at the Senator's side, but after returning to the stage, they were unable to get close to him. Dutton recalled that they were positioned to the left and six to eight feet in front of the Senator on the stage. The Senator was to have exited the stage to his left and Dutton and Barry were to have proceeded him. When Kennedy left the rear of the stage, Dutton and Barry exited the stage on the left, entered the anteroom and hurriedly forced their way through the crowd in an attempt to catch up with Kennedy.

A portion of the Kennedy party left the stage via the swinging doors and a crowd followed. As the Senator entered the pantry, there were newsmen, hotel employees, Kennedy Staff members and well wishers ahead of him. The area within the first sixteen feet had been used by ABC Television as an interview area. Drapes were hung over the cupboards and wooden lattice-work

partitions covered with green plastic flowers lined the walls. television cables were lying on the floor and a television monitor stood at the northwest corner. Several individuals were sitting on tables and chairs, while others stood in the pantry. Some waved to the Senator, others reached out hoping to shake his hand. The crowd from the ballroom followed behind the Senator. As the Senator stopped to shake hands with the kitchen help, there were twenty-three known persons crowded into an area ten feet by ten feet.

Kennedy's bodyguard, William Barry, was on the incline eight feet behind him and Mrs. Kennedy told him, "Stay with the Senator." He then began pushing his way through the dense crowd toward Kennedy. Fred Dutton exited the rear of the stage and found himself trapped by the crowd and unable to reach the Senator. Thomas Perez, security guard assigned to the pantry entrance, was pushed aside by the crowd and trapped behind a swinging door.

Several people noted that something unusual was occurring, since it was not Senator Kennedy's habit to walk ahead of his entourage. Attorney Frank Burns, a campaign advisor, followed Senator Kennedy from the stage. Turning toward the kitchen, he noted that Senator Kennedy was walking "quite fast." Burns called out to the Senator to slow down since he was getting ahead of everyone. He rushed after the Senator, overtaking him as he stopped to shake hands with kitchen help.

Richard Lubic stood in the kitchen as Senator Kennedy entered. Lubic had been acquainted with the Kennedys and was familiar

with their campaign techniques. He was most impressed with the fact that the Senator was "out in front of the group alone."

Valerie Schulte followed the Senator into the kitchen. Walking on a crutch, she found it difficult to keep up as Senator Kennedy was "walking very fast."

Boris Yaro, photographer for the Los Angeles Times, stood in the kitchen and raised his camera as the Senator approached, but before he could take a picture, the Senator had rushed past him.

Vincent Di Pierro, a college student and son of the hotel maitre d', was walking to the Senator's right and was approximately five feet from the Senator. Prior to the Senator's stopping to shake hands and converse with hotel employees, Di Pierro was in the vicinity of the wall, next to the ice machine, that extends from the south wall of the pantry. It was at this location that Di Pierro observed a man standing on a tray rack at the east end of the ice machine. He recalled the man as he had an unusual smile on his face and appeared to be bending over, holding his right hand against his stomach. Di Pierro turned his attention from this man and looked in the direction of the Senator who was speaking with hotel employees.

Karl Uecker and Edward Minasian, hotel waiter captains, accompanied the Senator from the stage, to the kitchen. They had stopped and were standing by the Senator as he shook hands and spoke with the kitchen help. After a few moments, Uecker reached out and took hold of the Senator's right arm to assist him toward the Colonial Room.

THE SHOOTING



## THE SHOOTING

senator Kennedy stopped and shook hands with Martin Patrusky, a hotel waiter; he then shook hands with two other employees, Vincent Di Pierro and Jesus Perez. Karl Uecker, with his left hand holding the Senator's right arm, was standing at the west edge of the first serving table across from the ice machine.

Lisa Urso, college student and campaign worker, had driven from San Diego for the election night activities. She was standing in the pantry across from the second serving table. She saw Sirhan B. Sirhan cross her field of vision, going from left to right, and move toward the Senator. Uecker was two feet from the table looking toward the Senator when he felt Sirhan come between him and the table. Urso saw Sirhan reach to his waist area with his right hand. He removed a gun and lunged toward the Senator with his right arm fully extended. The following statements are recollections of persons present in the pantry during the shooting:

Karl Uecker stated the suspect was in front of him when the first shot was fired. Uecker thought the first shot was a firecracker, but when the Senator started to fall, he became aware that someone was shooting. Di Pierro observed Sirhan in front of him and thought he was going to shake hands with the Senator. Then he saw that Sirhan had a gun in his right hand. Then Sirhan was "up on his toes" and firing. Edward Minasian saw Sirhan moving to his right and instantly saw two flashes from the gun. He saw Paul Schrade fall to the floor and then the Senator fell. Dolores Beilenson saw Sirhan raise a pistol,

fire three shots, and observed three flashes from the gun. She had a distinct recollection of an "angry and determined" look on Sirhan's face. Her view of the suspect was brief because people were moving in front of her. After the third shot, she lost sight of Sirhan. Richard Lubic observed an arm and a gun pointed at the Senator's head. He heard the shots but did not see any flashes. His next recollection was being on the floor and the Senator's head next to his feet. Valerie Schulte saw Sirhan pushing a small gun toward the Senator. She recalled the gun was parallel to the side or back of the Senator's head when Sirhan began firing. She witnessed the shooting but did not see Sirhan sufficiently to identify him. A thirteen year old Kennedy worker, Ronald Panda, saw Sirhan holding a gun. He heard two shots, saw flame from the gun, and recalled a pause prior to the next six shots.

Constance Lawn, free-lance reporter, heard the first shot, turned, and saw Sirhan fire the gun. After the second or third shot, someone grabbed Sirhan. She observed the Senator raise his hands and stagger backwards. Evan Freed, free-lance photographer, was going to take a picture of the Senator. He heard the sound of firecrackers, saw Sirhan with the gun in his hand, and saw someone fall. Peter Hamill, a writer, was twelve feet in front of the Senator. He heard shots, saw Sirhan with his arm extended shooting at the falling Senator. He recalled a look of tremendous concentration on Sirhan's face. Frank Burns, attorney, heard the sounds of the shooting and saw an arm extended, holding a gun. He watched the Senator falling back, and he appeared to

to spinning. The Senator's arms were up. Sirhan had stepped forward and was firing the gun at the falling body of the Senator. Boris Yaro, Los Angeles Times photographer, was about to take a picture of the Senator when he heard two shots. He saw the Senator take several steps backwards with his arms to his head. Sirhan was lunging at the Senator and firing. Martin Patrusky, hotel waiter, heard the shots and saw the Senator falling backwards. Robert Toigo, an aide to State Senator Anthony Beilenson, heard "popping" sounds, looked in the direction of the sounds, and saw a mass of figures. He then crawled under a table. Richard Drew, Pasadena Star News photographer, heard the sounds of firecrackers as he was going to take a picture of the Senator. He looked up, saw smoke, and observed the Senator falling. Ralph Elmore, ABC television engineer, heard four shots and saw a flash from the gun. He thought Sirhan was resting the gun on the table while firing. Larry Dean, ABC television technician, remembered the sounds of firecrackers and people screaming. He looked up and saw bits of paper falling from the ceiling. Joseph Jones, hotel waiter, heard the shots and took cover behind the steam tables.

Juan Romero, hotel busboy, thought the gun was three feet from Senator Kennedy's head as the shooting began. Urso described the gun as being fired from point-blank range. William Barry recalled seeing the gun twelve inches from the Senator's head when it was fired. Due to the excitement of the moment and position of witnesses each gave different versions of the distance of the first shot, ranging from point-blank to several feet.

the distance, later established in laboratory examinations by the Coroner's Office and Scientific Investigation Division, was approximately one inch.

Sirhan fired a total of eight shots. The first shot struck the Senator in the right mastoid. Two shots struck the Senator in the right armpit, and one shot went through the right shoulder pad of the Senator's coat, without hitting him. It was the opinion of DeWayne Wolfer, Scientific Investigation Division, that the bullet that went through the Senator's coat padding struck Paul Schrade, who was standing behind the Senator. Sirhan fired the last four shots while witnesses were trying to apprehend him. In addition to the Senator, five other persons were wounded.



A few seconds after the shooting.

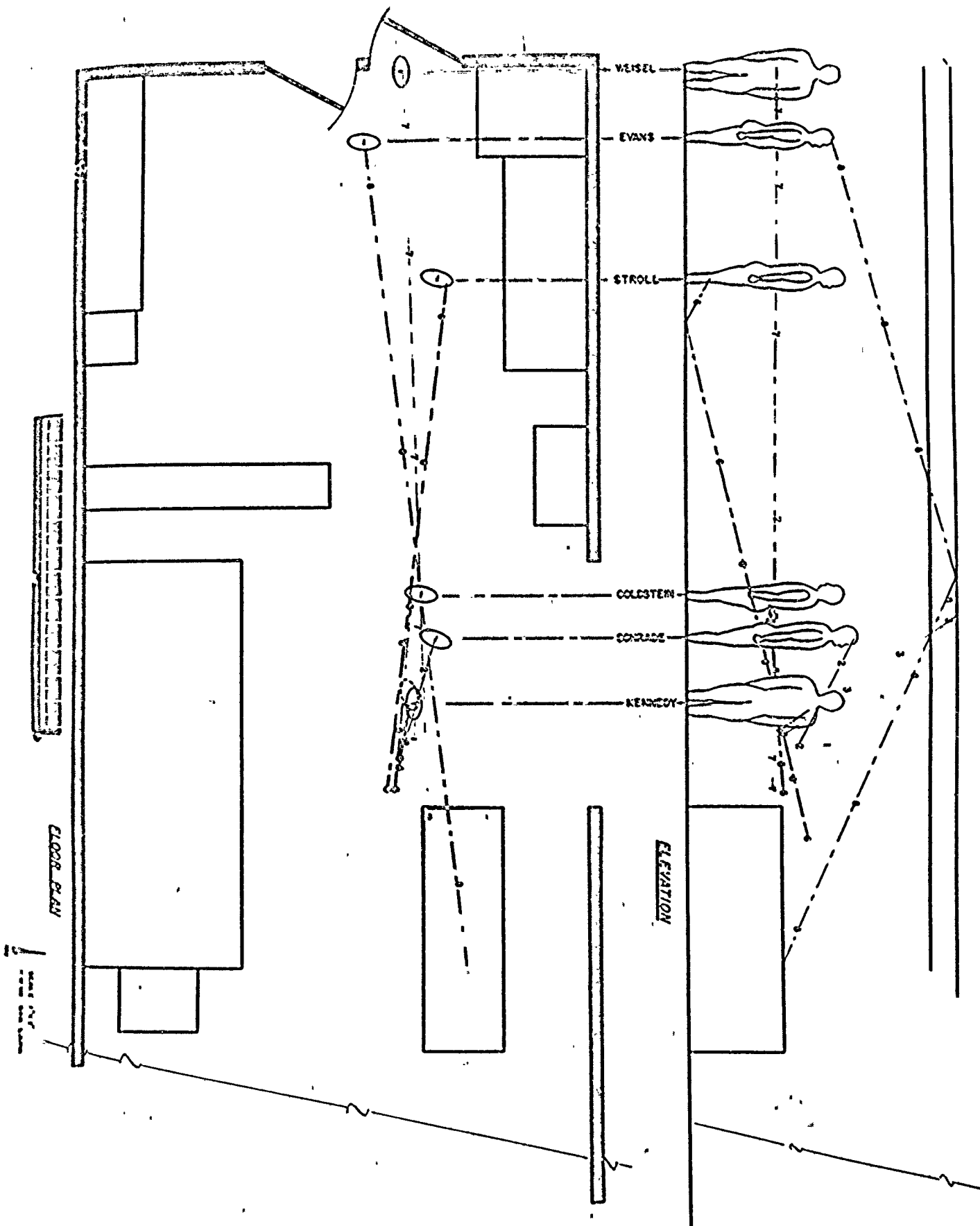


Diagram depicting the path of the eight shots fired by Sirhan.

## SIRHAN', CAPTURE

The following is the account of witnesses in the kitchen area who participated in the capture and holding of Sirhan prior to the arrival of the police.

Karl Uecker stated that he was holding Kennedy's arm and assisting him through the kitchen when the first shot was fired. Uecker swung around and seized Sirhan by the neck. Kennedy fell as Uecker grappled with Sirhan who continued shooting. Uecker then struck Sirhan's hand and tried to push the gun away from the crowd.

Edward Minasian, a waiter captain, stated that he seized Sirhan by the left side. Attorney Frank Burns stated that he also held Sirhan by the side and described the scene as chaotic as the group holding Sirhan struggled back and forth in front of the serving tables. Burns recalled that William Barry approached the struggling group and called out for a rope to tie Sirhan. Burns removed his belt and handed it to Barry. Burns then grabbed Sirhan's legs, and the group lifted Sirhan onto a serving table and restrained him.

Roosevelt Grier stated that he was in the anteroom when he heard the shots. He ran into the kitchen and saw the struggle with Sirhan. Grier attempted to grab the gun from Sirhan, but Sirhan was at first able to retain it. Grier then wrenched the gun from Sirhan's hand, and he gave it to Rafer Johnson. Joseph La Hive also attempted to grab the gun. When he saw that Grier had the gun, he let go of it. He told Grier, "Rosey, give it to

rafer. Rafer is here. Give it to Rafer." Johnson and La Hive were also in the anteroom when they heard the shots. After Grier got the gun from Sirhan, he handed it to Johnson who kept it until he turned it over to Sergeant Mc Gann at Rampart Station.

William Barry, Kennedy's bodyguard, gave the following account of the capture of Sirhan. He stated that he was walking behind the Senator when he heard shooting and saw Sirhan with a gun in his right hand. Barry stated that he approached Sirhan and there was no one holding him. Barry then knocked the gun from Sirhan's right hand and struck Sirhan twice in the face with his fist. Sirhan retrieved the gun, and Barry wrestled with Sirhan until he felt that Sirhan was under the control of others. He then left to give aid to Senator Kennedy.

Jack Gallivan, a Kennedy aide, stated that he observed Barry and others wrestling with Sirhan. He ran to the group and told Barry that he could handle Sirhan and that he should assist the Senator.

Gabor Kadar, a businessman, observed Sirhan with the gun and people holding his arm on a table. He stated that he jumped on the table and hit Sirhan on the chest and knee. George Plimpton and Glen Midby stated that they also attempted to assist in the struggle with Sirhan.

Harold Burba, a Los Angeles Fire Department photographer, took five photographs of the capture of Sirhan approximately 20 seconds after the first shot was fired. The persons identified in the photograph were Uecker, Plimpton, Gallivan and Burns. Grier was seen approaching the struggle and Henry Carillo, Uno



Timanson and Richard Aubry were in the background.

Jesse Unruh was in the pantry but stated that he did not observe the shooting. He stated that he could do nothing for the Senator, and he concerned himself with the problem of restoring order by controlling the crowd. When it appeared that the crowd was controlled, he checked on Sirhan's safety. He remained in control of Sirhan until the police arrived and accompanied Sirhan with the police to Rampart Station.

Recollections of witnesses reconstructing the capture of Sirhan place Karl Uecker as the first person who grabbed him after the first shot. Several others then immediately attempted to subdue Sirhan. Roosevelt Grier successfully secured the gun from Sirhan, and the persons holding Sirhan pinned Sirhan to a serving table until police officers arrived.



Plimpton and Gallivan struggle with Sirhan



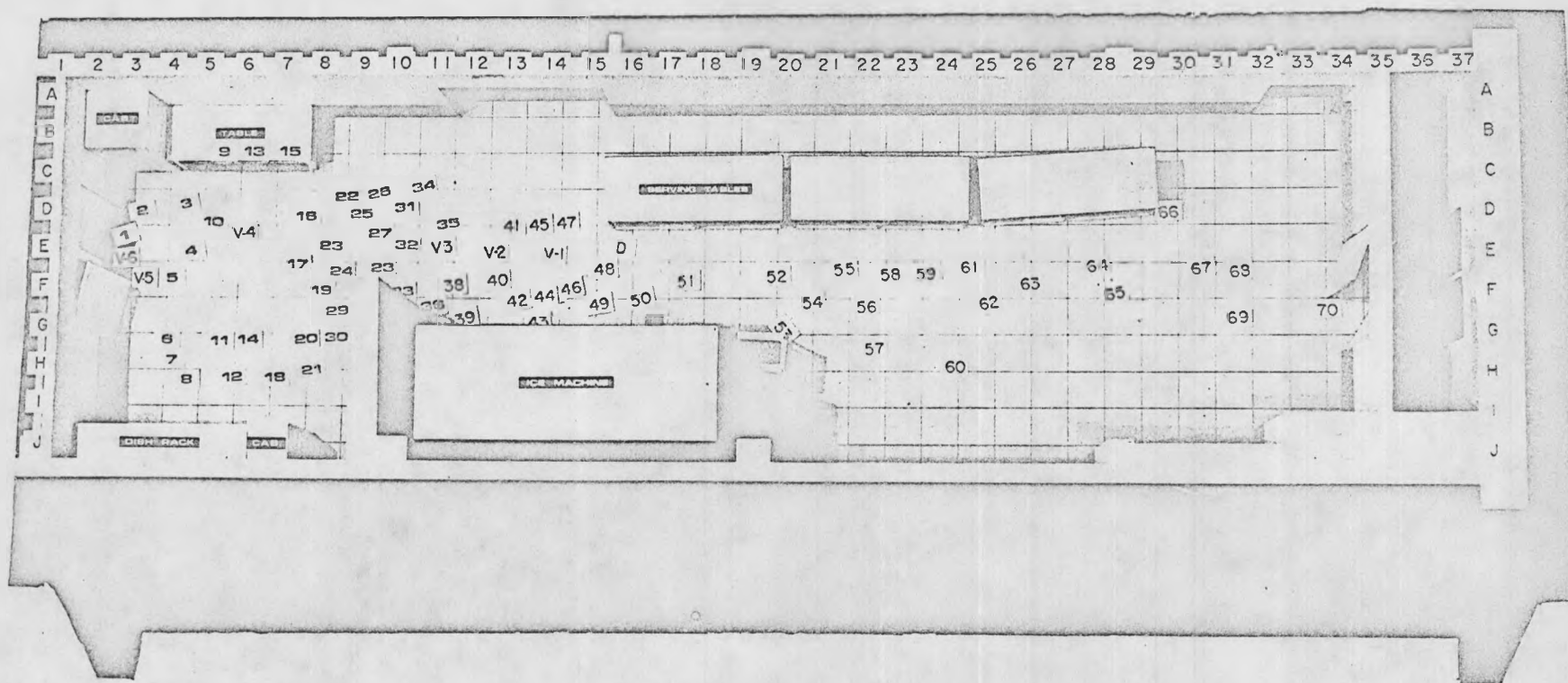
The Capture of Sirhan





The Arrest of Sirhan





# VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN KITCHEN

1. ROTHSTEIN, ALLEN	27. ELMORE, RALPH	53. HAMILL, PETE
2. KADAR, GABOR	28. RUBIN, BARBARA	54. LAWN, CONSTANCE
3. BRUCE, RAE	29. DEAN, LARRY	55. GUY, VIRGINA
4. PANDA, RONALD	30. CETINA, GONZALO	56. KAWEELEC, STANLEY
5. JAYNE, DAVID	31. CASDEN, ROBIN	57. URSO, LISA
6. WILLAMAN, EARL	32. DUTTON, FRED	58. PLIMPTON, GEORGE
7. MAMBY, NORMAN	33. DI PIERRO, VINCENT	59. ROYER, JUDY
8. CLARK, SONIA	34. BEILENSEN, ANTHONY	60. WAYNE, MICHAEL
9. LA GUERRE, MICHELLE	35. UNRUH, JESSE	61. GALLIVAN, JACK
10. MANKIEWICZ, FRANK	36. BENNETT, RONALD	62. ROSEN, RICK
11. CUMMINGS, JAMES	37. DREW, RICHARD	63. KLASE, ROBERT
12. MOONEY, GEONINE	38. WITKER, KRISTI	64. TIMANSON, UNO
13. LOCKE, SUZANNE	39. BARRY, WILLIAM	65. GRIFFIN, BOOKER
14. MURRAY, BARBARA	40. YARO, BORIS	66. JONES, JOSEPH
15. SULLIVAN, ACQUILINE	41. PATRUSKY, MARTIN	67. LEE, MURIEL
16. TOIGO, ROBERT	42. SCHULTE, VALERIE	68. WITCOBER, JULES
17. RICH, WALTER	43. CESAR, THANE	69. MURRAY, DAVE
18. WEST, ANDY	44. LUBIC, RICHARD	70. HEALY, ROBERT
19. JACKSON, LARRY	45. ROMERO, JUAN	V-1 KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
20. UNRUH, BRADLEY	46. BURNS, FRANK	V-2 SCHRADER, PAUL
21. MULLIGAN, GLORIA	47. PEREZ, JESUS	V-3 GOLDSTEIN, IRA
22. HOLME, BARBARA	48. UECKER, KARL	V-4 STROLL, IRWIN
23. HEATH, THADIS	49. FREED, EVAN	V-5 EVANS, ELIZABETH
24. RICH, TIMOTHY	50. MINASIAN, EDWARD	V-6 WEISEL, WILLIAM
25. HARDY, CAPT.	51. AUBRY, RICHARD	D SIRHAN, SIRHAN B.
26. BEILENSEN, DELORES	52. PLIMPTON, FREDDY	

MEDICAL TREATMENT AND AUTOPSY (SENATOR KENNEDY)



## MEDICAL TREATMENT

### Emergency Treatment in the Kitchen

Dr. Stanley Abo was in the Embassy Ballroom and heard the call for doctors. He identified himself, and an unknown male pushed him through the crowd and toward the kitchen area. His jacket was ripped off by the time he reached the kitchen. He was joined by Doctors Marvin Esher, Roland Dean and Ross Matthew Miller. Dr. Abo checked Kennedy's hearbeat and found it very strong with a pulse rate between 50 and 60, breath shallow. His left eye was closed. From his cursory examination, he believed Kennedy had full command or control of his left eye and thought Kennedy was quite lucid. Dr. Abo thought Kennedy's brother-in-law Stephen Smith had been shot, and he told Kennedy, "Mr. Smith is in perfect shape, just a superficial wound." Kennedy muttered, "Good." Continuing his examination, he found a small entry wound back of the right ear and a mass of clotted blood around the wound. A little blood was oozing down the back of his neck. He checked Kennedy's pulse again and found it to be slow, indicating possible intracranial pressure. Ethel Kennedy, kneeling alongside, passed Dr. Abo a bag of ice. The pulse rate was constant, breathing normal, twenty per minute. Dr. Abo tried to open Kennedy's left eyelid, but he resisted and looked around the room. He recognized his wife and called her name several times. He was able to move his hands and feet.

Daniel Curtain, a student, handed a crucifix to Juan Romero the kitchen employee. Romero placed it in Kennedy's left



hand. Kennedy then took his wife's hand and clasped it between his hands. Kennedy grimaced in pain but very quietly lay on the floor in obvious discomfort. Several times he moaned, "Oh, Ethel." Occasionally he moved his hips and legs to a more comfortable position. There appeared to be no impairment in this respect. According to Dr. Abo, the only neurological evidence of damage was to the right eye. During the fifteen minutes that Dr. Abo attended the Senator, the only medical function performed was to keep the wound bleeding; the theory being to prevent the formation of a clot which would cause intracranial pressure and internal hemorrhaging. Dr. Abo prevented other individuals from attempting external heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Dr. Marvin Esher arrived after Dr. Abo and at first believed that Kennedy had sustained a cardiac arrest. He observed his left eyelid closed, right eyelid open with the eyeball slightly deviated to the right. Kennedy was not alert, semicomatose and in critical condition. There was no visible movement in Kennedy's chest. Dr. Esher checked for a heartbeat and found his pulse good, strong but very rapid. There was no excessive flow of blood from his head wound.

Dr. Ross Matthew Miller rushed upstairs to the kitchen in response to the appeal for doctors; however, the pantry doors were blocked by hotel security guards. He managed to pass and saw Senator Kennedy lying on the floor with blood about the head. He checked Kennedy's pulse and found it strong but more rapid than normal. There were other doctors in attendance at

A plastic angiocath was inserted into Kennedy's left cephalic vein, and a solution of serum albumen and six percent Dextran was started. Kennedy was now out of shock, still comatose, and had hyper-reactive reflexes. There were no eyelid reflex or corneal reflexes. Dr. Bazilauskas had ordered adrenalin injected directly into the heart while the heart-lung machine was being installed. Upon listening to the Senator's chest and hearing good heart sounds, he later instructed the adrenalin to be given subcutaneously. This was done by Nurse Reba Nelson who made the injection in the left shoulder. Assisting in the supportive therapy of the Senator and the other five victims, who arrived after Kennedy, were Nurses Nora Plehn, Alice Mejia, and Barbara Bowes.

Mrs. Kennedy was standing nearby and was asked by Nurse Eby if she would like a priest called. Mrs. Kennedy replied in the affirmative, and a request was relayed to the hospital switchboard. Meanwhile, Mrs. Kennedy walked into the hallway and returned with Reverend James W. Mundell, a laicized priest. He administered absolution to Senator Kennedy. As Reverend Mundell was leaving the emergency room, Reverend Thomas Peacha arrived and administered last rites and annointed Senator Kennedy with holy oil.

Nurse Eby applied a pressure dressing to the patient's head wound and to a clean bullet wound in the right shoulder area. Polysporin ophthalmic ointment was applied in both eyes, and eye patches placed on the eyelids to protect the cornea. At this time, both Dr. Holt and Dr. Bazilauskas found the patient