

REQUEST TO PARSONS FOR INTERVIEW OF SIRHAN

On July 7, 1968, Sergeant L. Sandlin had a telephone conversation with Attorney Russell Parsons and made two requests: (1) that the Sirhan brothers be viewed in a show up, and (2) investigators be allowed to interview Sirhan B. Sirhan. The show up would either eliminate or establish the possibility that Sirhan was accompanied by one of his brothers at the time some ammunition was purchased. The show up would be viewed by employees of the Lock Stock 'N Barrel Gun Shop. Larry Arnot, an employee there, recalled that he had sold some ammunition to Sirhan and tentatively identified Munir Sirhan as being in the store at the time.

Parsons indicated he would have to speak to the family before he could give an answer to this request. He was asked if an interview with Sirhan could be arranged. Parsons stated, "I don't believe it's permissible for you to interview Sirhan at this time. I don't believe a court would make an order. I'll give it some thought and notify you within two days."

On July 24, 1968, Sergeants Sandlin and T. Strong went to Parsons' office and reiterated their requests. Parsons quoted Justice Black of the United States Supreme Court as saying, "A lawyer who permits his client to talk to the police isn't worth his salt." Parsons stated he would talk to the Sirhan family regarding the show up and give an answer after the weekend. Parsons has not contacted officers, and the requests were not renewed.

CHAPTER VIII

RELATED EVENTS OCCURRING SINCE THE ASSASSINATION

EVENTS INVOLVING SIRHAN'S FAMILY SINCE THE SHOOTING

EVENTS INVOLVING SIRHAN'S FAMILY
SINCE THE SHOOTING

On June 5, 1968, after Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was identified as the suspect in the Robert Kennedy shooting, the Pasadena Police Department stationed two uniformed officers at his residence, 696 East Howard Street. Security was provided to protect the Sirhan family and prevent sightseers from gathering at that location. Pasadena kept a 24-hour security detail at the location and continued it until December 13, 1968, when they considered the location secure enough to remove the officers. An open phone line was then installed whereby the Sirhan family could call directly to the police dispatcher for immediate response to their call for assistance.

There were no incidents of violence perpetrated against the Sirhan home during the first six months following the assassination. The following incidents were reported involving the members of the Sirhan family:

- Robbery of Saidallah Sirhan
- Threats Against the Family
- Threat Against Sharif Sirhan
- Freeway Shooting Incident
- Threatening Phone Call to Saidallah Sirhan
- Threatening Letter from Vietnam
- Family Attorney Threatened
- A Letter to the Nixon Headquarters
- Disturbance at the Sirhan Home

Robbery of Saidallah Sirhan

On June 5, 1968, Saidallah Sirhan was living in an apartment at 1659 North Lake Avenue. He was contacted that night by two reporters from Life Magazine, Robert B. Kaiser and Howard Bingham. He stated that they were very polite and requested a photograph of him, which he refused to give them. The two reporters completed the interview and left the residence without an incident.

At approximately 11:30 p.m. he heard someone kick on his front door. He answered the door and just as he unlocked the screen, the door was kicked open. A man rushed through the door and struck Sirhan in the cheek with his fist and stated, "Damn it, we're gonna kill all you Arabs." The man went into the living room, Sirhan sat down on the sofa and the man told him to calm down.

The man stated, "If you don't give your photograph to Life, we're gonna take it from you." He took a photograph of Sirhan from a small table and walked out of the apartment. Another man was with the one who entered Sirhan's apartment, but he did not enter.

Sirhan stated that he could identify the man who entered his house, but did not know who he was at that time. The only description he could furnish of the man who remained outdoors was that he was wearing glasses.

The Pasadena Police Department Crime Lab examined the apartment

at 1659 North Lake Avenue and determined the door lock to have been forced open from the outside causing the bolt to be separated from the unit into which it slides. One latent print was lifted from the exterior side of the inner screen door, but has not been identified.

On July 6, 1968, Lt. G. W. Wright, Pasadena Police Department investigator, found the two reporters who had interviewed Saidallah Sirhan on the 5th. It was obvious to the Lieutenant that these two men did not fit the description of the robbery suspects. Mr. Jordan Bonfante, Bureau Chief of Time-Life in Los Angeles, denied all charges that any of his reporters were involved in the case. Sirhan was contacted in an attempt to gain further information regarding the suspects; and, at that time he stated he did not wish to press the issue any further and desired the investigation be closed. The case was closed at that time.

Threats Against the Sirhan Family

On June 20, 1968, the F.B.I. Special Agent in Charge, Wesley G. Grapp, forwarded information to the Los Angeles Police Department that they had received an anonymous letter which stated the following: "If Sirhan don't confess, we'll kill all his family. His mother is next in line. We mean business." The letters making up this threat were cut out from newsprint and placed on a page of the National Police Gazette of June, 1968.

Threat Against Sharif Sirhan

On June 21, 1968, at 6:45 p.m., Frank Thornton, the gate guard

at I.T.T. Cannon Electric Company, 3208 Humboldt Street, Los Angeles, received a telephone call from an anonymous male caller who sounded drunk. The caller stated, "Do you have a swing shift working?" When Thornton answered in the affirmative, the caller stated, "Do you have Sirhan working?" Thornton advised that he did not know the employees' names. The caller stated, "You tell him I'll be waiting outside tonight and I'll get him when he leaves." The caller then terminated the conversation. Frank Widman, Shift Superintendent, I.T.T. Cannon Electric Company, notified the Police Department, and Officer A. S. Flores was dispatched at 10:30 p.m., June 21, 1968. Flores' investigation disclosed that Sirhan was due to go off shift at 1:00 a.m., June 22, 1968.

At 1:00 a.m. Officers W. Guiterrez, T. L. Russi and Sgt. L. J. Sale escorted Sharif Sirhan from the premises. They first examined his vehicle for possible explosive devices with negative results. Sirhan drove from the premises in his vehicle, and the officers followed him to the Pasadena City limits. No unusual incidents occurred at the plant or on the freeway en route to Pasadena.

Mr. Thornton additionally advised Mr. Widman that the caller sounded like an employee of the plant by the name of Marine Aguirre. The time cards were checked, and it was found that Mr. Aguirre was not at work at the time of the call.

Aguirre was interviewed on June 26, 1968, regarding the telephone threat against the life of Sharif Sirhan at I.T.T. Aguirre

denied making the threat; however, he admitted that he did not report for work on Friday night, June 21. He stated he had been out drinking and forgot to show up for his shift which was scheduled to start at 4:30 p.m. Aguirre stated he had known Sharif Sirhan for approximately three years and had lived in the same hotel as Sharif for two and a half years. They have met socially and on one occasion Sharif invited him to his mother's home in Pasadena for dinner.

Aguirre stated he neither likes nor dislikes Sharif; however, he stated he was very upset when Senator Kennedy was assassinated. Aguirre repeated his denial of making the threatening phone call, but refused to submit to a polygraph examination, stating that he had submitted to one in the past and did not trust it.

Thornton stated that he was unable to positively identify the voice on the telephone as being Aguirre's. There being no further evidence at that time that Aguirre was the suspect, he was admonished regarding the seriousness of telephonic threats and advised of the legal consequences of indulging in this type of activity. No further incidents have been reported involving the I.T.T. Electric Company.

Freeway Shooting Incident

On July 3, 1968, at 4:45 a.m., Saidallah Sirhan appeared at the Pasadena Police Station and reported to the desk officer that someone fired a gun at him while he drove his car on the Pasadena Freeway. Sirhan gave the following account of the

incident:

He went to Los Angeles at approximately 4:00 a.m. to contact a writer associated with the Free Press, Lisa Williams, who allegedly lived on 92nd or 93rd Street. He was unable to contact the writer and began his return to Pasadena. Prior to entering the tunnels on the outbound Pasadena Freeway, he noticed a Chevrolet driving alongside of his car in the left lane and a Volkswagen bus directly behind him. After passing through the tunnels, he moved to the center lane and found himself beside the Chevrolet which was still driving in the number one lane. The Volkswagen bus pulled into the number three lane and drove beside Sirhan's car on his right side. He traveled several miles in this manner and estimated his speed at 55 miles per hour. The Volkswagen bus changed lanes several times. It positioned itself behind his car, back on the right side and continued changing back and forth in this manner. When the three vehicles reached the Pasadena City limits, the Chevrolet began crowding him from his left and the Volkswagen bus began edging in from his right. Sirhan stated this appeared to him to be a maneuver to cut him off.

He slowed down slightly to avoid colliding with one of the two vehicles and noticed the driver of the Volkswagen bus pointing a gun at him. The driver was holding the gun in his right hand in front of his chest. When he observed the gun, he immediately let go of the steering wheel and leaned over to the right and lay down on the front seat. He heard gunshots and his right

wind-wing was shattered by two bullets. At that time he let go of the steering wheel and removed his foot from the accelerator. He remained in this position for approximately ten seconds.

He sat up and regained control of his vehicle as he observed the two vehicles exit the freeway via the Glenarm Street off-ramp. He reported the two vehicles entered the intersection against a flashing red light without stopping. The Chevrolet turned left and the Volkswagen turned right. Sirhan stated that he drove directly to the Pasadena Police Station to report the incident.

A follow-up investigation was conducted by Pasadena Detective Ben Hetherington and Los Angeles Police Officers R. C. Harris and J. H. Shaw. This investigation began at approximately 10:00 a.m. on July 3, 1968. Sirhan accompanied investigators and retraced his alleged route of travel. He stated to investigators that he did not stop from the time he left his residence until the time he arrived at the Pasadena Police Station. With an officer driving, Sirhan directed them to Los Angeles via the Pasadena Freeway to a location in Hollywood near Virgil and Beverly Boulevard; after a series of turns they returned to the Pasadena Freeway from Hill Street. The investigators and Sirhan continued the route to the Pasadena Police Station. Sirhan instructed the investigators what speeds to drive, and at that time it was determined that the entire trip took 55 minutes.

While retracing the route, Sirhan was questioned about any

persons or vehicles he may have observed. He stated that he did not talk to anyone during the trip, and the only vehicles he could remember were those occupied by the alleged suspects.

Sirhan stated that he met the Free Press writer, Mrs. Williams, at a sandal shop on Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena. He had visited the shop several times and had been introduced to her by the shop owner. He intended to talk to Mrs. Williams to have her write a story about himself and his family. Sirhan stated that he went to the location at 4:00 a.m. because he doesn't like to move around during the day. He said that there were too many people on the street, and he felt safer at that hour. He stated that he did not have an appointment with Mrs. Williams and that he was not exactly sure what time it was when he left his apartment. Sirhan stated he had spent the evening and early morning hours prior to the trip at his home reading. He was asked what caused him to anticipate finding Mrs. Williams at 4:00 a.m. He stated that he had telephoned the office of the Free Press the afternoon of July 2 and had been given her address. The address he was in possession of was 3410 Thetasol, and the phone number was 254-0123. Sirhan stated that he was unable to contact the writer and was returning to his home when the shooting incident occurred. Sirhan provided investigators with a description of both vehicles and seven Caucasian suspects. The descriptions of the suspects were vague, and Sirhan was unable to furnish any further information.

Sirhan was requested to take a polygraph examination to substantiate the facts of the incident. He agreed to the examination,

and it was administered by Sgt. Frazer of the Pasadena Police Department. At the completion of the examination, Sgt. Frazer expressed the opinion that on key questions Sirhan showed negative and deceptive patterns and that he had been untruthful regarding the incident. Sirhan was reinterviewed and gave permission for investigators to search his vehicle, garage and apartment. During the search, investigators discovered a carrying case for a United States Army carbine, a bandolier containing empty carbine magazines and a cleaning rod for a .38 caliber revolver. These items were booked by Pasadena Police Department.

Examination of Sirhan's Vehicle

Sirhan's vehicle, 1955 De Soto two-door, white with black primer spots, 1968 California license QTP 455, was examined and officers found two bullet holes in the upper portion of the right front door wind-wing. One slug was found imbedded in the left door. The other ricocheted off the left door, traveled upward striking the top of the car and dropped onto a jacket lying on the floor. Both projectiles were located and booked by the Pasadena Police Department. Glass fragments found inside the vehicle, apparently from the broken window, were also collected and booked as evidence.

Pasadena Police Department records were searched, and it was found that Saidallah Sirhan reported the loss of a .38 caliber revolver on March 31, 1966. In this report he stated that the gun belonged to a friend, Abraham Alex, who had given it to him to repair. He also stated that he may have inadvertently discarded the weapon in the trash.

The traffic signals at Glenarm Avenue and the Pasadena Freeway are three-phase tri-color lights that operate on all phases twenty-four hours a day. They are not set on a flashing phase at any time. This information was stated to Sirhan, and he again stated that these lights were flashing shortly after the freeway shooting incident.

Interview with Mrs. Williams and David Shackett

On July 4, 1968, Elizabeth Gold, pen name Lisa Williams, was interviewed by investigators. She stated that she met Saidallah Sirhan in the first week of June at Dave's Sandal Shop on Fair Oaks Avenue in Pasadena. She and Sirhan were both acquainted with Dave, but she was not very familiar with Sirhan. She was introduced to Sirhan by Dave and had a short conversation with him about cooking rice. She doesn't remember mentioning to Sirhan that she was a writer for the Free Press. She added that she is not a staff member, but on occasion has written for the publication. She stated she made no appointment with Saidallah Sirhan and had no knowledge why he would attempt to contact her at such an unusual hour.

David Shackett, the owner of Dave's Sandal Shop at 68 North Fair Oaks Avenue was interviewed on July 5, 1968. He remembered meeting Saidallah Sirhan at the sandal shop and introducing him to Lisa Williams. He stated that he had talked with Sirhan about Lisa Williams. One of these occasions was approximately two weeks after the death of Senator Kennedy. During this conversation, Sirhan had informed Shackett that he wanted a book written and wanted to know if Lisa Williams would write it for

him.

On Tuesday, July 2, 1968, Shackett received a phone call from Saidallah Sirhan who stated that he would like to meet Lisa Williams and requested Shackett to accompany him and introduce them. Shackett gave Sirhan the address and phone number of Lisa Williams, but did not go with him. He did, however, check the phone number he had given Sirhan and found that the phone had been disconnected. In an effort to assist Sirhan in locating Lisa Williams, Saidallah sent a telegram to the old address asking her to contact him. He did not receive a reply and learned later that he had sent it to the wrong address.

Witnesses Who Knew Saidallah Sirhan Had a Gun

Linda Massri was interviewed on July 4, 1968. She stated that she had been a friend of the Sirhan family since they came to the United States ten years ago. In 1965 while moving Saidallah Sirhan from a Marengo Street address to a North Lake Street address, she observed a rifle in Saidallah's apartment. She was unable to further describe the weapon.

Investigators received information from Abraham Alex that he had observed Saidallah with two guns, a .38 caliber revolver and an unknown caliber chrome-plated revolver. Saidallah informed Alex that both of these guns had once been stolen by Saidallah's ex-girl friend, Linda. One revolver had been recovered by Pasadena Police Department and returned to Alex.

Robert Ritchey was interviewed on July 5, 1968. He stated he had seen Saidallah Sirhan with a .38 caliber revolver which had

a four-inch barrel, and a rifle of unknown caliber. Ritchey stated that at one time he received a threatening phone call from the ex-husband of a good friend of his named Rosalie. The ex-husband threatened to come to Pasadena and kill him. After receiving the phone call, he phoned Saidallah and informed him of the incident. Saidallah came to his apartment bringing a .38 caliber revolver and approximately 15 rounds of ammunition. Saidallah stayed at the Ritchey apartment with the pistol for two days to give Ritchey protection in case Rosalie's ex-husband arrived to cause trouble. The ex-husband did not appear at Ritchey's apartment, and no police report was made of this incident. Ritchey stated he had seen the rifle in the closet of Saidallah's apartment at 1659 North Lake Avenue.

Investigation and Polygraph Examination by This Department

On July 5, 1968, Saidallah Sirhan was reinterviewed by Lt. E. Hernandez. He stated that he had gone to sleep during the evening of July 2, 1968, and had set his alarm for 4:00 a.m. on July 3. He arose, drank a cup of tea and left his apartment between 4:15 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Note: This information conflicted with that given to investigators on July 3.

Sirhan accompanied Lt. Hernandez on a second drive over the route taken on July 3. He instructed Lt. Hernandez concerning the route and speeds to drive while en route. At the termination of the trip, Lt. Hernandez noted that it required one hour and twenty minutes to complete the course. The route was compared with that taken by investigators on the 3rd and several

discrepancies were noted, including the location of the shooting.

Sirhan was administered a second polygraph examination by Lt. Hernandez at the Scientific Investigation Division of the Los Angeles Police Department. The results of this examination concurred with that of the examination conducted by the Pasadena Police Department on July 3. The examination revealed that the shooting did not occur on the freeway, that Sirhan had possession of a .38 caliber revolver and that he fired the shots into the vehicle himself. Saidallah Sirhan refused to disclose the location of the revolver or admit fabricating the reported incident.

On July 3, 1968, Mary Valdez was interviewed by investigators. At that time she stated she first met Saidallah Sirhan on Memorial Day in 1968. She stated that she and a friend were hitchhiking on Lake Avenue, and as they walked past Saidallah Sirhan he was driving out of the driveway. He drove them to the United Artist Theater on Colorado. During the ride to the theater, Sirhan gave them his name and address.

The next time she saw Sirhan was two days after the shooting of Senator Kennedy. She saw the picture of Sirhan Sirhan in the newspapers and thought it was Saidallah Sirhan. She had met him at his apartment. He mentioned to her that he was thinking of moving to Arcadia because there were too many people around, and a police guard was at his mother's house. Valdez advised Sirhan that he was welcome to go to her apartment to rest if he

wished to get away from reporters and curiosity seekers. The following week Sirhan asked Valdez if he could have his laundry done under her name to avoid publicity.

Valdez stated that she has seen Sirhan on the average of once a week and had been to the family home three or four times since the shooting. She stated she had been inside Sirhan's apartment on Lake Avenue; however, she denied any intimate relationship with him.

Valdez recalled that a couple of days prior to the freeway shooting incident, Sirhan was at her apartment and asked her to purchase some .38 caliber bullets for him. He stated he was reluctant to purchase them himself for fear that he would be forced to leave his name in order to make the purchase. He did not want to give the name Sirhan while purchasing ammunition and felt that he would be required to show identification during the transaction. He mentioned to Valdez that the guns carried by police were powerful enough to penetrate an engine block. She did not purchase any ammunition for him, but advised him that no identification was required for the purchase of ammunition and that he could do it himself. She has not seen him in possession of any guns; and, he had never stated to her that he did own a gun, only that he wanted some .38 caliber ammunition.

Summary of Freeway Shooting Incident

All evidence collected during the investigation tended to agree on one point: that the shooting incident was a fabrication by Saidallah Sirhan, and the shots were fired by him at a location

other than the freeway.

Threatening Phone Call to Saidallah Sirhan

On July 4, 1968, Saidallah Sirhan was living at 1659 North Lake Avenue, Apartment #7. He told investigators that at 9:20 a.m. he received a phone call from an unknown person whom he described as a male with a tough voice. This person stated, "Hey listen! You were lucky yesterday. We missed you, but we are going to get you all at the trial." Sirhan stated he hung up the telephone as soon as the suspect made the threat. He could not identify the caller. At 9:40 a.m. the same day, Sirhan moved to the family home at 696 East Howard Street. The Pasadena Police Department furnished extra patrol at the Lake Street location until Sirhan was able to move his furniture out the following weekend.

Threatening Letter from Vietnam

A letter was received at the White House mailing room, August 8, 1968, addressed to the President. It was purportedly sent from "The Gang in Vietnam." The letter stated, "Mr. Johnson We, The Gang in Vietnam Feel That it is Not To Safe To even back To The United State because Everyone is getting Kill Back home; we set and Listen To The News Every day, Today we heard That The Assinate of Robert Kennedy had Plead No Guilty And Think That wrong because we have on The guy in The Gang who were Ther and he saw it, So we fell if he is Freed one of us will Kill him and anyone who get in our way, we hate To See A "INNOCENT" man die For Nothing, So it best you are Some do SomeThing it And

Fast because Three of us will Leave here on the 1 of Nov The day his Trial Start, and one of us will get him some Kind of way, Sign The Gangs."

The letter was forwarded to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and examined in the Crime Laboratory. On August 15, 1968, the laboratory reported that handwriting in the letter had been compared with handwriting received from other sources during this investigation without effecting an identification. The paper had no watermarks or other identifiable marks other than a design printed at the top which appears on correspondence paper usually available to members of the armed forces. This letter is in F.B.I. files for possible later comparison.

Attorney Russell Parsons Threatened

Proxy Phone Service, answering service for Attorney Russell E. Parsons, received a telephone message at 1:34 p.m. on September 2, 1968, from a person who identified himself as C. Sirhan. The message stated, "Step out of case. If my brother is hurt, you will be hurt, you will be hurt. I will kill you." Parsons stated he did not wish to make a complaint based on the threat.

Michael McGowan, investigator for Parsons, stated that he had received threats from both Saidallah and Sharif.

Note: None of the Sirhan brothers has a name beginning with a C.

A Letter to the Nixon Headquarters

On October 25, 1968, a letter was received at the Nixon Headquarters, Willard Hotel, Washington, D.C., with a return address

of Sharif B. Sirhan, 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California. The postmark indicated the letter had been mailed from Pasadena, California, on the afternoon of October 23, 1968. The letter consisted of a two-page typewritten document attacking the United States policy and involvement in the Mid-East crisis. The final two paragraphs are worth mentioning solely on their content:

"I have asked these questions to Senator Robert Kennedy in May 1968 but he ignored us and went on promising the Zionists with jets so that he gets more votes to get to the White House, here I find myself asking the same questions to you again. Please do not force us to believe in political assassination which is against our heritage and culture unless we are pressed from you. Let it be clearly known that I have ordered and directed my Palestinian Commandos to destroy every American Politician who supports or negotiates any kind of help to the Zionist State. We are aware of Dayan's visit to the United States in December 1968. This will be his last visit.

"I further more beg and ask again and again please do not make us believe in political assassinations. And as I mentioned above, I am willing to die for America as for Palestine. I hate to see America destroyed by Zionism and Communism. We think in America that we are above Communism and Zionism. The truth is not that, but we are lost in between.

"We thank you for giving this matter the greatest consideration hoping that you will be against the agressors (Zionists) for

the sake of justice and the world peace, thank you. Sincerely
Yours, (Sharif B. Sirhan) Sharif Sirhan"

The United States Secret Service investigated this thinly veiled threat against the life of the President-elect, Richard M. Nixon. Sharif Sirhan denied to the Secret Service that he wrote the letter or that he had any prior knowledge of it. He refused to furnish the investigators with handwriting exemplars to facilitate the comparison of the signature. During the primary stages of the investigation, evidence indicated that this letter was not written by Sharif Sirhan.

Disturbance at the Sirhan Home

Officer W. Saltsman, Pasadena Police Department, was on the security detail at the Sirhan home on November 1, 1968. At 2:10 p.m. Saidallah Sirhan approached the area on foot and confronted Officer Saltsman at the police vehicle, which was parked in the driveway. He requested the officer to go to the door and ask his mother to come outside. At this time Mrs. Mary Sirhan, Saidallah's mother, exited the house and approached the police unit. When she arrived in the area, Saidallah asked her to give him some money and he added that he knew that she had been receiving money from several Arabian church groups. Mrs. Sirhan stated that she had received no money from anyone. Saidallah replied that he had been advised by several people within these church groups that money was being given to her for the whole Sirhan family. He stated that he was entitled to his share and that he was not going to leave the location until

either she gave him some money or had him arrested. Mrs. Sirhan again denied that she was receiving any money and Saidallah stated, "I'll bust you right in the head." Mrs. Sirhan refused to arrest her son for causing a disturbance, and he was persuaded to leave the location to eliminate further disturbance.

INVOLVEMENT OF INDEPENDENT WRITERS

REX WESTERFIELD

Article Entitled "Assassination"

Rex Westerfield is the Western Regional Public Relations Director for the John Birch Society. In June 1968, he authored an article entitled "Assassination" which was printed in the June edition of "The Review of the News" a weekly publication of Correction Please, Inc., Belmont, Massachusetts. The article alleged that the assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was a pro-Communist and that the assassination itself was a Marxist conspiracy. Westerfield included a number of statements purporting to prove the existence of a conspiracy. Westerfield was interviewed on August 6, 1968, by the Los Angeles Police Department regarding certain statements contained in his article.

Allegations

Westerfield was questioned about the following statements:

1. "In the frenzy that followed the Kennedy shooting, someone mounted the rostrum in the Embassy Room and announced the shooting was a right-wing plot." Westerfield had written that the person who made the announcement was Stephen Smith, brother-in-law of Robert Kennedy.

Westerfield actually had received this information from an unnamed source and had not been present when this allegedly occurred. His source told him that Smith was hysterical, in shock, and that immediately after he made the statement he was seized by his friends and removed from the rostrum.

2. Westerfield had written that Sirhan Sirhan's vehicle had been observed parked near meetings of the W.E.B. Du Bois Club. Westerfield actually had no personal knowledge of this. He quoted Mayor Yorty's News Conferences of June 5 and June 6, 1968, when the Mayor was alleged to have made the above statements.

Westerfield was advised that the Du Bois Club in question was next door to The Fez Cafe located at 1201 North Vermont Avenue and that the vehicle observed parked in the vicinity belonged to Adel Sirhan, an older brother of Sirhan Sirhan. Adel, at that time, was employed at The Fez Cafe as an oud player. Westerfield did not question this information.

3. Westerfield had also alleged that on the night of June 5, George Putnam, then a newscaster for television station KTLA, had interviewed a postal employee who formerly delivered Sirhan B. Sirhan's mail. During the interview the postman allegedly stated he had delivered pro-Communist and anti-American mail to Sirhan B. Sirhan. This mail supposedly came from Jordan. The postman said he had advised his supervisor of this and was informed that post office authorities were aware of the situation.

Westerfield stated he did not know the names of the postman or the supervisor, but that they would undoubtedly be in the files of television station KTLA. He further stated he had based this item on his memory of what he heard on Putnam's television program, and that he had not personally

interviewed either the postman or his supervisor.

4. Westerfield had written that Sirhan Sirhan and Lee Harvey Oswald were Socialists and that both had declared themselves Marxists. Westerfield stated he actually had no evidence to confirm the allegation regarding Sirhan Sirhan. He had formed this opinion after hearing about some of the entries made in Sirhan's diary. He felt the background of each indicated that they were Marxists.
5. Westerfield alleged that a female student at Pasadena City College claimed she had been invited to a Du Bois Club meeting by Sirhan Sirhan. When interviewed, Westerfield first stated he did not know the woman's name but that he had received her name from an unnamed male acquaintance. The girl was "petrified and scared and did not want to get involved." He wanted to obtain an affidavit from her which he planned to give to the police, but her male acquaintance stated she refused to talk further about the incident. Westerfield also was told it was common knowledge on the Pasadena City College Campus that Sirhan Sirhan was "mixed up with the Students for a Democratic Society (S.D.S.)." Westerfield implied to investigators that he knew the girl's name but wanted to verify the correct spelling and would furnish her name provided the source of the information was kept absolutely confidential.

Westerfield did not reveal the girl's name although investigators attempted to contact either him or his office six

times during the following several weeks.

6. Westerfield had alleged in his article that several months prior to the assassination Saliman Sirhan, a brother of Sirhan Sirhan, had been arrested by the Iraqi government as an Israeli spy. This information was allegedly obtained by Westerfield from a Pasadena newspaper published June 8, 9, or 10, 1968. Sirhan has never had a brother named Saliman.

Westerfield admitted that he compiled the contents of the article from newspaper articles, his own observation of television programs and personal conclusions regarding Sirhan. The evidence strongly indicated that he made little, if any, effort to verify the accuracy of his information.

Summary

The investigation of other allegations regarding Sirhan's background and associations tended also to disprove the claim of Westerfield. Because his allegations were poorly supported and vague, claims did not warrant extensive investigation. It appeared that Westerfield was reaching for any allegation which would support a preconceived point of view. His unwillingness and inability to provide concrete support for his claims caused investigators to discount his allegations.

THEODORE R. CHARACH

Theodore R. Charach, a free-lance news reporter affiliated with Continental News Service, was interviewed seven times during the investigation in an effort to obtain pertinent information he claimed to possess.

Charach was first interviewed on June 12, 1968. At that time he stated that he was near the Anchor Desk in the Embassy Room at the time of the shooting; he heard the shots but didn't see the suspect. He did not indicate that he was able to assist investigators further, in any way.

A newspaper article from Winnipeg, Canada, was forwarded to the Department. The article stated that Charach was from Winnipeg, that he witnessed the shooting from "just a few feet behind the Senator," and that he saw the maitre d' grab the gun and got a good look at the man police arrested. The article went on to say that Charach had witnessed a man "with a wild look" run from the scene with a security guard chasing him. The article related that Charach heard Sirhan say; "I've got to do this; I'm doing this for the good of my country."

Charach was interviewed by F.B.I. investigators on July 9, 1968. During the interview he stated that he did not see the shooting or Sirhan. He volunteered information that bumper stickers pertaining to a conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy were being distributed in the parking lot of the Ambassador Hotel during the victory party. He stated that he obtained one of the bumper stickers, but it was taken from him by a man named Mort Goodman.

S.U.S. investigators reinterviewed Charach on July 12, 1968, regarding the information printed in the Winnipeg paper. The "wild-eyed man" he saw running from the scene was determined to have been Michael Wayne, who was running to a telephone. Charach admitted that he did not hear Sirhan make any statements; that the statement was heard by Valerie Schulte and relayed to him. He added to the bumper sticker information claiming the people distributing the stickers were "hippies," and the stickers demanded the reopening of the Warren Commission.

Charach stated that he was the representative for a photographer who took motion pictures in the Coconut Grove at the Kennedy Rally on June 2, 1968, and additional pictures at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4, 1968. He indicated the film was of evidential value but would not divulge the name of the photographer or location of the film. He agreed to meet with investigators to discuss viewing the film at a later date.

The U.C.L.A. Film Investigation

On July 19, 1968, Charach met with investigators and showed them enlarged photographs which he said were frames from the movie film. Charach expressed the opinion that one of the men in the picture looked like an Arabian and could be a co-conspirator. He said he did not have possession of the original film and again would not furnish the investigator with the photographer's name. Arrangements were made for the film to be delivered to the Department.

Alvin Tokunow, a U.C.L.A. student majoring in motion picture arts,

and Charach were interviewed at Parker Center on July 22, 1968. Tokunow released two reels of film which were to be copied by the Department and returned to him. Tokunow stated he did not get into the pantry area and ran out of film prior to the shooting. Tokunow asked investigators to return the film to Charach. The film was returned July 23, 1968. Tokunow said that the film was a copy of all the pictures he and his camera crew possessed. The films were viewed and found to be of very poor quality. Investigators were unable to identify any persons depicted in the film as those involved in the investigation.

The Bumper Sticker Investigation

The information concerning a bumper sticker dealing with the John F. Kennedy assassination, being distributed at the Ambassador Hotel on the eve of his brother's assassination, was first reported by Charach.

James Breslin, a reporter for the New York Post, observed the two people passing out the bumper stickers which he thought said, "Expose the Kennedy Death Hoax." He became offended and requested Mort Goodman, hotel public relations man, to do something about it. Goodman contacted the general manager of the Ambassador Hotel, A. H. Zugor, who notified Gardner of the problem. William Gardner, hotel security chief, reported he was unable to locate the offenders when he checked the area. Gardner stated he gave the bumper sticker to a Los Angeles Police Department officer; however, it was not booked as evidence. The witnesses did not agree on the exact wording of the bumper sticker; however, they did agree that it dealt with the

John F. Kennedy assassination and not the Robert F. Kennedy shooting. Gardner instructed his guards to prevent distribution of the material if they observed it.

Charach Alleges Garrison Interested in Case

On July 31, 1968, Charach was reinterviewed after he telephoned investigators and advised that he was in possession of "valuable new evidence." Charach stated he had been contacted by investigators for New Orleans District Attorney, James Garrison, and representatives of Ramparts Magazine. They expressed interest in the U.C.L.A. films, and Charach stated that he was offered an expense-paid trip to New Orleans to confer with Garrison. Charach stated that he had been offered \$2000 for the U.C.L.A. film. He also said that he would work as a "spy" in the Garrison organization for the Los Angeles Police Department if he could be assured of financial assistance. His offer was denied.

Re-Examination of The U.C.L.A. Film

Alvin Tokunow was contacted and he stated that Charach was attempting to sell the film, but that he had been turned down by both Time and Life magazines. On September 9, 1968, Tokunow reported that the film and negatives were stolen from his locker at U.C.L.A. Charges and countercharges were exchanged between Charach and Tokunow, but no one admitted having the film. Tokunow notified the Associated Press of the alleged theft. He told them that the film showed Sirhan at the hotel. Investigation by the U.C.L.A. Police Department showed Charach to be an agent representing Tokunow, with legal access to the film. The crime report was classified as unfounded.

The September 16, 1968, issue of Newsweek Magazine contained an article which stated, in part: "The Los Angeles Police are studying a blow-up of a movie taken by U.C.L.A. students. The U.C.L.A. crew was startled to discover a picture resembling Sirhan on the film taken at two rallies for Kennedy shortly before he was shot. One frame, taken the night of the assassination, shows what appears to be a "solemn, unsmiling Sirhan talking with another short, dark man and a tall girl with up-swept hair."

Mr. Eric Saarinen, a U.C.L.A. student, stated that he was another photographer working with Alvin Tokunow. He reported taking pictures of the crowd after the shooting, then taking pictures through the doors. He reported that Tokunow turned all their films over to the Police Department. Investigators noted that no photos taken after the shooting were given them by Tokunow.

The missing film reappeared in the form of three pictures in the January 17, 1969, issue of Life Magazine. The pictures, clear and in good detail, depicted a group of celebrants in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel. Mrs. Violet Di Domenico telephoned investigators and advised them that she is in the pictures and that they must have been taken at approximately 9:30 p.m., on June 4, 1968, because she was not at that location after that time. The pictures were not large enough to either identify or eliminate Sirhan as being in the picture.

Conclusion

Investigators could not ascertain Charach's reasons for giving

a different version of his account to Life Magazine and other publications. It is probable that Charach attempted to gain notoriety from his presence at the hotel and therefore he expanded the importance of the film. The Department has a copy of the U.C.L.A. film, has closely examined each frame, and found that it has no evidential value.

FERNANDO FAURA

Fernando Faura was a staff reporter with the Valley Times and the Citizen News, both Los Angeles newspapers. Faura was active, following the assassination, in efforts to establish the existence of a conspiracy in the death of Senator Kennedy. He was involved with John Fahey who claimed to have met a girl at the Ambassador Hotel the day of the shooting.

Faura also contacted Theodore Charach a photographer who had taken movie films of Kennedy functions at the Ambassador Hotel on June 2 and 4, 1968. According to Charach, Faura was present at a meeting held July 31, 1968 at the Hollywood Franklin Apartments in Hollywood. Also present among others was Mark Lane the author. At the meeting Faura expressed the opinion that there was a conspiracy and that the police had more than one person in custody and weren't telling the public about it.

Faura also interviewed several people in his efforts to substantiate the existence of a female conspirator. On August 14, 1968 an article, written by Faura, appeared in the Citizen News and alleged that the police were still "feverishly" looking for the "mysterious girl in the polka dot dress."

The Fahey and Charach investigation are covered elsewhere in this report. All of the allegations forwarded by Faura were disproven by the Department's investigation.

JONN G. CHRISTIAN

Jonn G. Christian, a free lance writer, actively conducted his own investigation into the Kennedy assassination which he claimed would prove the existance of a conspiracy between Jerry Owen, a self-styled minister, and Sirhan Sirhan. Christian based his allegation on what he termed discrepancies in the various statements Owen made to the Los Angeles Police Department and to Attorney George T. Davis.

On June 5, 1968, Jerry Owen contacted the Department and related that on June 3, 1968, while driving in Los Angeles, he had picked up two hitchhikers one of whom he later identified from a newspaper photograph as Sirhan. Owen subsequently "went into hiding" in the San Francisco area.

On June 30, 1968, the San Francisco Examiner published Owen's narrative of his involvement with Sirhan and related that Owen was hiding out because he had received threatening telephone calls. Owen also related his story to George T. Davis, a San Francisco attorney and personal friend. Davis and William Turner tape recorded this interview, according to Christian. William Turner, who was dismissed from the F.B.I. after ten years service, is covered in a separate section of this report.

On July 1, 1968, issues of several Central California area newspapers carried stories that a minister was hiding out in that general area because he had information which proved a conspiracy in the assassination of Senator Kennedy and had received threats against his life. Attorney George T. Davis was quoted as saying

he had known Owen for twenty-five years and believed him to be reliable. These news stories included Owen's statement of his activities on June 3, 4, and 5, in the Los Angeles area which differed from his earlier statements to the Los Angeles Police Department and to Davis and Turner.

On August 7, 1968, Christian contacted Jack Brown of the office of Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty and stated he had a taped statement of Owen that alleged a conspiracy in the death of Senator Kennedy. Brown relayed this information to the Los Angeles Police Department who interviewed Christian via telephone in San Francisco on August 7 and 9, 1968.

When interviewed Christian said that the tape recording of Owen, when compared with Owen's statements to the news media, indicated he was not telling the truth. Christian indicated that he and his associate, William Turner, desired to be "deputized" so they could work with the Police Department in connection with "this conspiracy angle." He also wanted a copy, or to hear the Department's tape recorded interview of Owen because it might be different from his tape.

Both Christian and Turner believed that Sirhan and Owen were together on June 4, and that they conspired to assassinate Senator Kennedy. Christian added that with Sirhan in police custody and the get-away plan aborted, Owen was trying to establish an alibi.

Edgar Eugene Bradley, according to Christian, who is currently under extradition proceedings to Louisiana; and Clay Shaw,

another figure in the alleged conspiracy to kill President John F. Kennedy, all belonged to the same church organization and knew each other.

Christian further added that he had "just an hour ago" received some additional "hard core" evidence. This turned out to be a statement made by Owen to the newspapers which again did not correspond with statements given in his recorded interview.

Christian made the statement that "In negotiations with NBC I played back the tape conversation with Jack Brown, (from Mayor Yorty's Office) and part of your conversation so that they can understand that we're dealing in highly confidential areas.

There is to be no public announcement, or any indication at all on what we are doing here. We intend to work on this from a journalistic and broadcast standpoint in connection with the Los Angeles Police Department." (Christian's emphasis)

On August 11, 1968, Christian contacted the Police Department and repeated his request to be deputized. He stated he had sent a "transcript of the tape" to Frank Burns, Jesse Unruh's attorney. On August 14, a tape recording of Jerry Owen was sent to the police department by Frank Burns. On it Jerry Owen describes his alleged activities in relation to the Kennedy assassination.

On August 14, Christian sent to the police department a document entitled "Discrepancy Report #1" "The Plot to Murder R.F.K." in which he enumerated thirteen, according to him, discrepancies between the statements Owen made to the San Francisco Examiner and the statements he made to Davis. Christian ends with a

"Critical Analysis" in which he alleges the existence of a conspiracy.

On November 13, 1968, Christian contacted Jack Brown and Ron Ellensohn of Mayor Yorty's Office and played for them the Owen tape recording in an attempt to further his claim of conspiracy. He also implied that Chief Deputy Attorney General Charles O'Brien had taken a direct interest in the case and had assigned all of his investigative forces to work on it. Investigation proved this claim to be unfounded and that Mr. O'Brien had made no such assignment.

On January 21, 1969, Christian was personally interviewed by the police department upon his claim of possessing new evidence. He was accompanied by Richard Lubic, a former television producer for KHJ, a Los Angeles television station. Lubic claims to have been approached by representatives of Jim Garrison who attempted to enlist his aid. However, on August 9, 1968, Lubic had told investigators that he had been contacted by William Turner who told him about Jerry Owen. Lubic said at that time that he believed their story to be a scheme to make money.

During the meeting, Christian, in an effort to substantiate his allegations of conspiracy, played a tape recording which included conversations between himself and Jonathan Perkins, an 80-year-old retired preacher and friend of Owen; a tape of a conversation between Ben Hardester, a private detective an associate of George Davis and a photographer who had film of Owen on the pulpit; and a tape of a conversation between himself and Bert Morris, the manager of the Coliseum Hotel.

These conversations contained no information of investigative value.

In that portion of the tape relating to the telephone conversation between Christian and Jonathan Perkins, Christian attempted to place the time of Owen's statement to Perkins regarding the sale of a horse to Sirhan as occurring prior to the shooting. Jonathan Perkins was interviewed by investigators on February 11, 1969, and recalled the telephone conversation with Christian. He stated that Christian identified himself as a police officer working on the investigation. Perkins did not recall exactly what he told Christian, but he was able to accurately pinpoint the date and time of his conversation with Owen. He stated that the first time he had any conversation with Owen regarding Owen's possible connection with Sirhan was June 5, 1968, between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. Perkins was already aware of the assassination having heard news broadcasts over television and radio prior to seeing Owen.

Conclusion

John Christian maintained from his first contact with the police department that Jerry Owen was involved in a conspiracy to kill Senator Kennedy. He based his contentions primarily upon what he terms "discrepancies" between the statements Owen made to the Department, the San Francisco Examiner and George Davis. He has advanced no valid proof. He has instead, by various machinations, attempted to convince various official agencies that the other was interested in the investigation. Although Owen had been proven to have made numerous false statements

regarding his involvement in the assassination, an independent investigation conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department has proven that Owen was not involved in any way.

WILLIAM TURNER

Former F. B. I. Agent William Turner, now a writer, is described by John Christian as an "associate" in Christian's investigation of Jerry Owen.

Turner and Author Mark Lane appeared on the Owen Span television show in Oakland on July 23, 1968. On the show Turner criticized the Warren Commission, discussed what he termed Federal intervention in the Garrison investigation in New Orleans and commented on various persons he claimed were involved in the Robert Kennedy assassination. Among those he referred to were Jose Duarte, Jerry Owen, Eugene Bradley and the girl in the polka dot dress. Although Turner never actually mentioned any of the above names, he implied that these parties were part of a conspiracy. The investigation conducted by this Department disproved all of the allegations made by Turner.

Turner was a special agent with the F.B.I. from 1951 until his dismissal in 1961. The charges on which his dismissal was based included that he had demonstrated through various untrue or unjustified statements that he lacked the truthfulness, accuracy and responsibility required of an F.B.I. agent and that he had shown a poor attitude toward the F.B.I. and its director. Turner's appeal of the dismissal reached the Supreme Court which in 1964 denied a Writ of Certiorari.

As a writer Turner's articles have appeared in such publications as Saga, The Nation, Playboy and Ramparts. A recent

book written by Turner, The Police Establishment, is critical of law enforcement. The F.B.I. has reported that Turner has associated himself with New Orleans District Attorney James Garrison's campaign to prove that President John F. Kennedy's assassination was the result of a highly organized plot and not the work of one man acting alone. Turner was a Democrat Party candidate for Congress in California's 6th District in 1968, but he lost in the primary.

SUMMARY OF LETTERS RECEIVED BY S.U.S.

SUMMARY OF LETTERS SENT TO S.U.S.

As of January 14, 1969, the S.U.S. Unit had received a total of 296 unsolicited letters. These were in addition to mail received in response to the Unruh letter and written inquiries sent to specific individuals or agencies. All mail received by the Los Angeles Police Department, dealing with the Kennedy assassination, was forwarded to the Unit. Seven letters received by other agencies were forwarded to the Unit.

Fifty-three letters contained information regarding the case. Twenty-six made reference to the polka dot girl investigation, most of which advised investigators to review the television films of the occurrence. Twenty-eight contained various complaints about miscellaneous items not pertaining to the investigation, and 128 merely contained general comments about the case. Fourteen were threats against Sirhan or his attorneys, and thirty-three were classified as crank letters. The crank classification included letters that rambled on about current or imagined social ills and letters that suggested painful ways to interrogate Sirhan. Sixty-two letters were sent anonymously.

Six of the letters required an answer from the Department, and thirty-nine necessitated an investigative follow-up, some of which involved single interviews while others needed several. None of the letters were instrumental in opening any significant phase of the of the investigation.