

LA 56-156

and he has been previously interviewed.

All offices are requested to handle this matter as expeditiously as is possible, inasmuch as a report is expected to be submitted within the next two weeks.

4/23/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, CINCINNATI  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)(P)  
SUBJECT: KENSALT  
OO: LOS ANGELES

Re Indianapolis letter to Los Angeles 2/5/69 and Los Angeles airtel to Indianapolis 4/22/69.

Re: LARRY DAKER  
Dayton University  
Dayton, Ohio

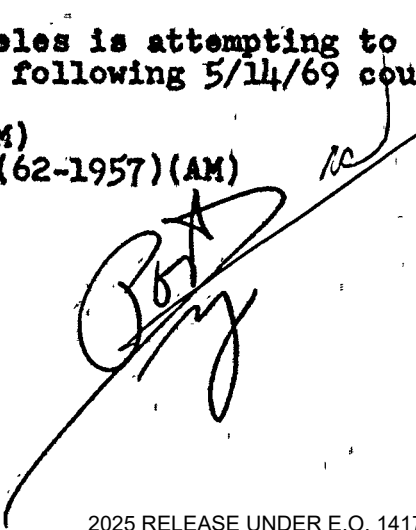
Cincinnati is requested to advise when results are to be expected. Records at Los Angeles do not reflect interview has yet been received.

Indianapolis letter of 2/5/69 reflected interview of JOHN PUETZ, who is apparently identical with the individual mentioned in the interview of JIM NICO by your office. It is requested he be recontacted, as set out in Los Angeles airtel of 4/22/69 to clarify the NICO interview.

For your information, on 4/23/69 SIRHAN B. SIRHAN received a death sentence for the murder of ROBERT F. KENNEDY and will be sentenced additionally on 5/14/69 for other shootings at the Ambassador Hotel.

Los Angeles is attempting to conclude this matter fully immediately following 5/14/69 court appearance.

2 - Cincinnati (AM)  
2 - Indianapolis (62-1957)(AM)  
① - Los Angeles  
WJN:CM  
(5)



SEARCHED  
INDEXED  
SERIALIZED  
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56-156-2814

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 4/3/69

FROM : SA WILLIAM E. WHITE

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Re memo of SA WILLIAM E. WHITE dated 11/1/68 and attached FD-302 on interview of FRANCIS DE BUDA (serial 2454 this case) and memo of SA FREDERICK E. BECKER dated 12/16/68 (serial 2621 this case), regarding comments by one DONALD CLARK concerning captioned matter and unproductive efforts to locate CLARK.

Mr. DE BUDA has advised that CLARK was recently in contact with him and indicated he had retained an apartment - number 11 at 3932 Stevely in the Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles, where he is allegedly living with a Russian born girl friend. CLARK indicated he is currently working for the Santa Glen Pharmacy on Santa Monica Boulevard opposite Doctor's Hospital.

Mr. DE BUDA indicated that CLARK is scheduled to recontact him on Saturday 4/5/69 at his office at 8300½ West 3rd Street, Los Angeles, telephone 653-4959.

The above information is furnished in the event it is considered desirable to continue efforts to interview CLARK, in captioned matter.

Mr. DE BUDA furnished considerable additional information regarding recent conversations with DONALD CLARK in which CLARK implied a knowledge of and interest in Black Militant activities. This information is being set forth in a separate memo suggesting consideration of CLARK as a possible PRI.

WEW/amc  
(2)

*See FD-302 of  
Donald Clark*

56-156-2815

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APR 3 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

4/23/69

AIRMAIL

AIRTEL

TO : SAC, SEATTLE (89-62)

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (62-2864) (RUC)

SUBJECT: KENSALT  
(OO:Los Angeles)

Re Indianapolis airtel to Los Angeles, 4/22/69,  
with lead for Portland to interview JIM C. BAILEY, 6039  
N.E. 30th Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

Mrs. R.E. MIDDLETON, wife of Rev. R.E. MIDDLETON,  
6039 N.E. 30th Avenue, Portland, Oregon, stated on 4/23/69,  
that JAMES CHARLES BAILEY resided with them for a short  
period of time about two years ago, but presently resides  
in Seattle and she does not know his address there.

By long-distance telephone call from Portland to  
SA ROBERT SUTHOFF, FBI, Seattle, it was disclosed that JAMES  
CHARLES BAILEY was located and interviewed at Seattle,  
Washington, in December, 1968, and the results of the inter-  
view were reported to Los Angeles by airtel and FD-302,  
dated 12/27/68. A review of the FD-302 by SA SUTHOFF dis-  
closed that BAILEY did not mention anything concerning the  
member of the KENNEDY party who allegedly was indifferent to  
the tragedy.

Transmitted herewith to Seattle is one copy of re  
airtel and one copy of FD-302 re interview with JAMES D. NICO,  
on 4/11/69.

2-Seattle (Encs. 2)  
2-Los Angeles (56-156)  
1-Portland

RES:abk  
(5)

56-156-2816

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APR 23 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

PD 62-2864

LEAD

SEATTLE

AT SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. Interview JAMES CHARLES  
BAILEY in accordance with lead set out in re airtel.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) DATE: 4/23/69

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (62-5481)(RUC)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 2-13-25

Classified by SP6 BJA/KR  
Declassify on: OADR  
C.N. 255,315

Re Bureau airtel to Los Angeles, dated 2/27/69, Los Angeles airtel to Bureau, dated 3/4/69, and Los Angeles tele call, 4/21/69.

## ADMINISTRATIVE:

[X] [On 3/17/69, SF 2579-S,] who has knowledge of CP activities in Northern California on a District, County, and club level, advised that he has heard no discussion of the assassination of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY which would give any indication whatsoever that the CP was in any way involved or had any knowledge of SIRHAN SIRHAN or any contact with SIRHAN. Any comment heard by this source from individual members of the CP involved only expressions of shock.

[X] [SF 2579-S] believed he may have heard the name of TOM GOOD, but he could not connect it with any CP activity and said GOOD is unknown to him. He had never heard of WALTER CROWE.

[X] [On 3/17/69, SF 2585-S advised] that the names of WALTER S. CROWE, JR. and THOMAS D. GOOD are unknown to him. The informant advised that he knows of no CP involvement in this case and only knows SIRHAN SIRHAN through press reports.

[X] [On 4/21/69, SF 2580-S advised that he knows THOMAS D. GOOD] and knows of no involvement that he has in this case. The name of WALTER S. CROWE, JR. is not familiar to him.

In accordance with information furnished by your office in referenced telephone call and since this matter appears to have been resolved with the interview of WALTER S. CROWE, JR., no further efforts will be made to interview THOMAS D. GOOD.

2 - Los Angeles  
1 - San Francisco  
HEW:mb  
(3)

100 to 100-68219  
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

56-156-2817

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**CONFIDENTIAL**

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV

FROM: JERRY LITTMAN, News Secretary for the  
Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SUMMARY RE: KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

DATE: APRIL 18, 1969

As the Sirhan trial nears its conclusion, this is to inform you that the weekly summaries will soon be discontinued.

As you know, this office has prepared the summaries since early June, and we are now interested in how the media made use of the information.

Would you be kind enough to make some comments in the blank space below, indicating what use you have made of these summaries? Please mail your comments to: Jerry Littman, News Secretary, District Attorney, Room 620, Hall of Justice, Los Angeles, California 90012.

Thank you.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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1009

NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney  
600 Hall of Justice  
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman  
News Secretary  
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., April 23, 1969  
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #46

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 46th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, APRIL 14 --- Fifteen weeks to the day after the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan began, the case went to the jury, after Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker gave one hour of instruction in the law.

The jurist told the seven-man, five woman jury they have four possible verdicts:

Guilty of first-degree murder, guilty of second-degree murder, guilty of voluntary manslaughter or acquittal.

Jurors elected a foreman, then deliberated in a Hall of Justice room for about an hour, and returned to their hotel. They will deliberate from about 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, "adhering to the shortened court day Judge Walker has been observing because of the need for heavy security whenever the courtroom is open," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Continued the newspaper:

"The trial reached its end Monday morning with Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton urging the jury to scrap all psychiatric



testimony -- 'throw 'em all out in one big bag' -- and decide Sirhan's fate with 'plain common sense and good logic.'

"Compton told the jury it was Charles Dickens who once wrote, 'The law is an ass.' Compton added, 'I think the law became an ass the day it let the psychiatrists get their hands on the law.'

"He scoffed at defense contentions that Sirhan was a paranoid schizophrenic who suffered dissociative trances. Sirhan, said Compton, was simply 'cunning and vicious.'

"Sirhan, who chewed persistently on a hangnail and listened quietly as Compton spoke, fared better in Compton's summation than did the psychiatric profession.

"Compton ridiculed point after point, doctor after doctor, and the lengthy expert testimony which painted Sirhan as too sick mentally to meaningfully premeditate the killing.

"Referring disdainfully to two batteries of psychological tests given to Sirhan, Compton said:

"'I say reject the tests, put 'em out, because it would be a frightening thing if the decision in a case of this magnitude turned on whether Sirhan saw a couple of clowns playing patty cake in an inkblot, or kicking each other in the shins.'

"If expert testimony could always be believed, Compton told the jury, then cases could be judged without juries at all.

"Compton told the jurors he regarded them all as 'average people' and urged them not to overcomplicate their decision because of the formality of the 3½ month-long trial.

"Compton said he, like the defense, wants 'the world to know that justice is possible in this country,' and added: 'The verdict you return -- which we urge should be first-degree murder -- will be just as just as any other verdict.'

"Such a verdict carries only two possible penalties -- death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment. Compton didn't specify a preference for either.

"Compton said the only issue for the jurors to decide was whether Sirhan's defense of diminished capacity to maturely and meaningfully pre-meditate and carry out his act is a valid one.

"Judge Walker opened the morning session by instructing; the jury to disregard Compton's previous statements about diminished capacity on Friday.

"Judge Walker told the jurors that it is 'a doctrine that is being developed' and applies to crimes where specific intent to murder is proven. Compton had referred to diminished capacity in connection with crimes that Judge Walker said were unrelated to this.

"Compton said Sirhan himself, in 'fencing' on the stand with his cross-examiners, provided the clearest evidence that he didn't suffer from diminished mental capacity, but rather showed unusual alertness.

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"Citing psychiatric testimony that Sirhan's mental illness was one that was causing rapid deterioration from its beginnings until now, Compton virtually snorted:

"If he was a vegetable on June 5, he should have been a gibbering idiot by the time you saw him on the witness stand."

"But he was no such thing," Compton said.

"Compton said psychiatrists and psychologists 'don't belong here in the courtroom on the issue of guilt or innocence' and added, 'They can't tell you from showing Sirhan a lot of pictures and inkblots in November, or whenever it was, the kind of mind he had on June 5.

"He likened the psychiatric defense to 'sort of a double-play combination -- Sirhan to Schorr to Diamond' and said this combination 'always throws to first base.

"He dismissed (clinical psychologist Martin M.) Schorr perfunctorily, saying 'He gets all hung up on family relationships and father images.' He reserved special contempt for the performance of (UC Berkeley psychiatrist Dr. Bernard) Diamond.

"Compton said a prosecution psychiatrist based his opinions on the testimony of witnesses, but 'the ubiquitous Dr. Diamond, the walking lie-detector, the handwriting expert, the gun expert, the psychologist and psychiatrist,' implied that all other witnesses either knew nothing or were lying 'until (he) Dr. Diamond, descended on the scene.

"He did it with mirrors,' Compton said of Diamond's testimony that Sirhan had experimented with self-hypnosis with mirrors and inadver-

tently put himself into a trance before mirrors at the Ambassador Hotel last June 4, just before he shot Kennedy.

"I think Dr. Diamond is completely and thoroughly discredited and deserving of no consideration at all," Compton said. Then he added, speaking of the entire psychiatric profession:

"Their whole reason even for being is to find something wrong with someone. And what better way to foist their theories off on the world than in the courtroom?"

"Compton said the jury should not be swayed by the fact that it was Kennedy who was shot to death, but added, 'On the other hand, you cannot divorce your thinking from the fact that it was Robert F. Kennedy who was murdered because that was why the crime occurred.' An ordinary citizen, Compton said, would not have incurred Sirhan's hatred.

"Compton concluded:

"The psychiatrists say that if you hate a man and kill him, you are mature and responsible, Ladies and gentlemen, we ask you: Don't put a premium on hate."

Juror Robert G. Evans was replaced today because of the death of his father. The replacement was George A. Stitzel, a pressroom foreman for the Times.

\* \* \*

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 -- The seven-man, five-woman Sirhan jury began the second day of their deliberations today at 8:17 a.m. and worked

more --

on the case until shortly before 4 p.m., when they were bused back to their heavily-guarded quarters in a Los Angeles hotel (Biltmore).

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner):

"The jurors have the exhibits in the case with them in their ninth-floor Hall of Justice jury room. So far they have not requested the reading of any of the more than 10,000 pages of the trial record.

"Their only request, according to Bailiff William Polhemus, was for a piece of chalk and a light bulb.

"Polhemus said the jury was surprising to him in its accord. He explained that often during the heat of deliberations jurors have fallings out which result in the formation of intra-jury cliques.

"Jury deliberations are, of course, secret. So far the only thing known of the conduct of the 12 is that they elected systems analyst Dr. Bruce Elliott foreman."

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) published details of a system "set up so the jury can communicate with the courtroom. Three sounds of the buzzer from the ninth-floor jury room to the eighth floor courtroom will signify the end of deliberations. Two buzzes would indicate that the jury wished to be brought into the courtroom to have portions of testimony read."

Continued the newspaper:

"The Sheriff's Department is maintaining the tight security procedures that have been followed throughout the 15-week trial. All persons entering the courtroom are still subjected to a thorough search, since all future open sessions involving the jury, however, brief, will also require the presence of the defendant."

The Herald-Examiner said that Sirhan is awaiting "the verdict in his isolated cell on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice. He has with him a Bible and four books on Arab politics, his attorney, Russell E. Parsons, said."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 -- At the request of the jury in the Sirhan case, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker today clarified his instructions on second-degree murder.

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), this is what the jurist told the jury assembled in the courtroom:

"If you find from the evidence that, at the time the defendant shot and killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, his mental capacity had been substantially reduced, whether caused by mental illness and imbibing of intoxicating beverages, or any other cause, and if you find that to the extent that you have a reasonable doubt whether he did or could maturely and meaningfully premeditate, deliberate and reflect upon the gravity of his contemplated act or form an intent to kill, you cannot convict him of a wilful, deliberate or premeditated murder of the first degree, but you may find him guilty of murder in the second degree if you are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt that he had the mental capacity to harbor or entertain malice aforethought."

The newspaper reported that the jury listened for about five minutes, nodded that they understood and resumed deliberations until about 4 p.m.

Continued the newspaper:

"The jury's question (regarding second-degree) and its lengthening debate underscored speculation that the panel is undecided whether the killing of Kennedy was first- or second-degree murder.

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"Speculation also arose that speculation itself was premature.

"More than 150 exhibits were entered during the 15-week trial, and jurors wishing to appear fair-minded might feel obliged to examine them all, even if they had arrived at a private decision.

"Sirhan's controversial notebook alone would require two hours for each of the 12 jurors to read.

"Verdicts of acquittal or voluntary manslaughter -- both possible under the instructions given the jury by Judge Walker Monday -- are considered highly unlikely.

"If Sirhan is convicted of first-degree murder, his trial would proceed the next day to a penalty phase, in which he could receive either a death sentence or life imprisonment.

"This phase would be short -- possibly just a few hours, almost surely not more than a day or two.

"After three weeks of psychiatric testimony, attorneys for both sides feel there is little left that could be offered by way of mitigation for Sirhan's crime, and that the jury's decision will depend chiefly on attorneys' final arguments.

"Further, the prosecution has already said it will not urge the death penalty.

"If Sirhan is convicted of second-degree murder, the court will sentence him to five years to life in prison, with the exact term

to be set later by the California Adult Authority.

"Should the jurors find themselves unable to agree on a verdict, a hung jury probably would not result in a retrial of the case. It is considered most likely that Judge Walker would take the case from the jury and, depending on agreement by the defense and prosecution, accept a guilty plea from the defense and simply sentence Sirhan to life imprisonment."

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 -- A Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) reported today, quoting Russell E. Parsons, one of Sirhan's attorneys, that the defendant "expected to be traded by this government for concessions in the Middle East if he is convicted."

Continued the article:

"Parsons said Issa Nakhleh, Palestinian Arab associate counsel in the case, had discussed such a maneuver with King Hussein of Jordan at the United Nations last week. Nakhleh is director general of the unrecognized Palestine Arab delegation to the UN.

"Parsons said:

"He met King Hussein last week at the United Nations. Nakhleh was there to discuss the exchange with him. We worked it out. He wasn't been here for fun you know. He has been here to help us. We have been working it out with Nakhleh. I was going to Jordan first, but then we decided against it."



"However, there was no confirmation from any official source that such a course was being considered.

"Reached in New York, Nakhleh had this to say:

"There can be no discussion of an exchange...until after the verdict. Talk to me after the verdict."

"It was pointed out at the Hall of Justice that the legal complications of such an exchange would be enormous. The United States has no jurisdiction over Sirhan. He is a prisoner of California -- a sovereign state. Moreover, it is expected that public reaction to such barter would be swift and extremely adverse.

"Furthermore, insofar as is known, there are no important American prisoners held by any Arab state."

THURSDAY, APRIL 17 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was convicted by a seven-man, five-woman jury today of first-degree murder in the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June 5.

The jury signalled its arrival at a verdict at 10:47 a.m., 16 hours and 42 minutes after it began deliberations on Monday.

One Los Angeles newspaper. (Herald-Examiner) reported the status of the case as it stands today as follows:

"The jury must decide the penalty for the young Arab's crime, with 'untrammelled discretion' as to a life or death sentence.

"No matter what it decides, Judge (Herbert V.) Walker has the authority to reduce, but not increase the penalty. He could not void any death sentence.

"It will be up to Judge Walker to fix penalties for Sirhan's conviction on the lesser counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. California law demands that sentences for these crimes not be added to the murder penalty; if Sirhan gets life he will serve concurrent sentences on the assault counts.

"No matter what the penalty verdict, there probably will be an appeal. Such an appeal is mandatory if death is decreed, and will take more than a year to pursue.

"The defense is convinced that Judge Walker committed 'more than one' major judicial error during the trial, which it hopes to take to a higher court.

"Appeals may see changes in the defense staff. Defense lawyer Russell E. Parsons is an appeals specialist.. But defense lawyer Grant B. Cooper, who said he has worked without fee throughout the trial, is not sure he can afford to continue in the case.

"No matter what the final decision in the Sirhan case -- no final penalty will be inflicted for more than a year, according to Cooper."

Reported another Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"The tiny Palesinian Arab defendant showed no visible reaction as the verdict was read. He sat forward in his chair, elbows on the counsel table, and stared soberly ahead as he heard the verdict.

"For wounding five other persons in the fusilade of shots that killed Kennedy last June, Sirhan was found guilty on five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. Each conviction carries a sentence of one to 14 years."

The jury entered the courtroom at 11:09 a.m. and Judge Walker asked, "Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, you have a verdict?"

Continued the newspaper:

"We have, your honor," the foreman murmured.

"Foreman Bruce D. Elliott handed the verdicts to Bailiff Willard Polhemus, who passed them to Judge Walker, "who scanned the six verdicts and passed them to Alice Nishikawa, who read them aloud."

Members of Sirhan's family were not present for the verdict, although they were in court every day of the 15-week trial. A brother, Adel, 30, told the Times: "I don't think we should show up down there now, do you?"

Added the newspaper:

"After the verdict, Adel, his mother, Mary, and brother, Munir, wept as they heard the verdict over their television set in their small Pasadena home.

"After Mrs. Nishikawa finished reading each verdict, she asked the jurors: 'Is this your verdict, ladies and gentlemen of the jury? So say you one, so say you all?'

"Murmured assent was unanimous for all six verdicts.

"Defense attorney Cooper requested that the jury be polled on the first count -- the murder conviction -- and as each juror's name was called, the answer was a firm, 'Yes.'

"Judge Walker then recessed the trial until Monday for the penalty phase...

"Cooper, who spoke with Sirhan in a small holding tank moments after adjournment, said 'his reaction was one of disappointment.' Cooper would not repeat what Sirhan said, but added that disappointment was evident 'by the expression on his face.'

"Cooper, asked his own reaction, told reporters in a news conference later, 'Naturally, one is disappointed.' But he added:

"'I'm not going to quarrel with this jury. They had the case fully and fairly presented to them and I'm not going to quarrel, even though I might disagree with their verdict.'

"Cooper disclosed that he had already made a motion to impeach a new jury for the penalty phase, but that Judge Walker in a brief conference at the bench, had denied it.

"Asked what testimony he would present in the penalty phase to show Sirhan's life should be spared, Cooper said he didn't want to telegraph his punches. But earlier he indicated he would attempt to call Dist. Atty. E. J. Younger, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Fitts to the witness stand to confirm that the prosecution once was willing to accept a plea of guilty with the understanding that Sirhan get life imprisonment.

"Cooper later asked Judge Walker, in a brief proceeding Thursday afternoon, to be allowed to call the prosecution to the stand. The judge denied the motion.

"The jury has never heard of the agreement. If Judge Walker had permitted Cooper to introduce it, some sources felt it would have been a strong factor in swaying the jury toward a life sentence.

"Howard, who will argue for the prosecution in the penalty phase, said he intends to gear his argument to Sirhan's 'lack of remorse and to the effect of political assassination on the democratic process.'

"Sirhan testified from the witness stand that he hated Kennedy because, in his campaign for the Democratic nomination for the U.S. Presidency, he had advocated sending 50 Phantom jet bombers to aid Israel in its conflict with Arab nations.

"Sirhan also testified, 'I'm not particularly proud, but I'm not sorry either,' about the death of Kennedy.

"Asked about the earlier agreement to accept Sirhan's plea of guilty, Compton acknowledged that the bargain struck last February 'imposes

on us the obligation not to assert that the death penalty is an absolute must.'

"Both defense and prosecution have said that the penalty phase will probably be brief -- possibly only a few hours, or a day or two at the most."

The newspaper also related that "irritation at the ensuing length and expense of the trial has been widespread" and that County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn says it has now cost taxpayers more than \$1 million, although that figure is disputed.

"The general public, too, has expressed anger at the slow, deliberate trying of a defendant whose slaying of Kennedy is beyond question, even admitted."

The same newspaper pointed out that Judge Walker didn't want "unresolved mysteries" similar to what occurred after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, and he, therefore, "ordered all the facts laid before the public in a long-fought trial."

Added the newspaper:

"The defense has revolved on the contention that Sirhan is both guilty and sick. This is the defense of diminished capacity -- a legal doctrine available to the defense only in California.

"It is a doctrine that is still being resolved since its first application in 1949. In brief, it holds that a person may be found guilty of first-degree murder and yet be unable because of mental illness, rage, fear, obsession or intoxication, to maturely, and meaningfully premeditate, deliberate and hold malice aforethought.

"Whether Sirhan's case fit anywhere onto this still indeterminate scale of responsibility was a subtle matter of degree for 12 jurors to calculate and agree upon unanimously."

The newspaper also claimed that "four other persons" besides the family "suffered in varying degrees...These were two psychologists and two psychiatrists who absorbed a good deal of hard cross-examination."

As for Sirhan's fate, the Times noted:

"Whatever penalty the jury decides for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan it could be months or even years before his future is really certain.

"If they (the jury) decree death, Superior Judge Walker could, on his own authority, commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

"Barring that, appeal of a death sentence is automatic anyway, under California law.

"Defense attorney Cooper estimated Thursday, after the verdict of first-degree murder in the death of Robert F. Kennedy, that it would be at least one year before Sirhan's appeal -- if there is one -- would be resolved.

"He said he planned to file a notice of appeal on the verdict, but indicated he did not know whether he would press an appeal immediately.

"'Partly,' he added, 'it depends on whether someone comes up with some money to conduct a defense.' Cooper has defended Sirhan thus far without fee."

Concerning formal sentencing by the judge, the newspaper indicated this is "expected to be held about three weeks after the jury

returns a verdict in the penalty phase."

Following the verdict, a press conference was held and Compton related, according to the Times, that "the circumstances of the murder and the conduct of Sirhan B. Sirhan were the major contributing factors in his conviction."

Flanked by his two fellow prosecutors, Compton termed the jury's decision "appropriate" and said it "expressed the will of the community."

Continued the newspaper's account:

"Asked the penalty the prosecution will seek at that phase of the trial, Compton said:

"'I don't think it appropriate for me to express what we think would be the appropriate penalty.'"

"He explained that 'this is a unique case without precedent' and that it should be left to a jury to decide what should be the 'appropriate penalty.'"

"...he made it plain that Howard, who will deliver the prosecution's argument to the jury, will emphasize those facts which point to one punishment -- presumably the death penalty."

"Howard, who has been assigned to the case since moments after the shooting, and who has lost 35 pounds since the trial began in January, said the thrust of his summation will be that the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was a 'political assassination' and that the jury must decide what should be the proper punishment for such an act."

more --



"He hinted that he will hammer home to the jury what he described as Sirhan's lack of remorse.

"He intends to remind the panel that while the electorate went to the polls last June 5, Sirhan went to a pistol range. To be fair, Howard said, he will say all he can in Sirhan's favor, but, he added, 'that will be very little.'

"Fitts, who carried the brunt of the prosecution's presentation in court, remained silent during the press conference, but he said later that he was 'relieved' when he heard the verdict.

"Compton who had asked the jury to disregard the trial testimony of psychiatrists, said he did not think the verdict necessarily was a repudiation of such testimony in general.

"Rather, he said, in this case the jury 'did not accept the diagnosis of the psychiatrists.'

"Compton commended both Fitts and Howard saying 'this whole community owes a debt of gratitude to them for the work they performed on this case.'

"He also complimented the three defense attorneys, for their behavior during the trial.

"Compton, Howard and Fitts have all been through death penalty trials before, Compton having obtained seven death verdicts, Fitts four and Howard, who has spent much of his career as a prosecutor handling major fraud cases, one.

"However, with all their experience, there has never been a Sirhan case -- a political assassination which in itself, as Howard said, affects 'our democratic processes.'"

Meanwhile, Cooper expressed disappointment at the verdict, and Parsons said, "I feel very bad about it. We have a sick man and the psychiatric evidence was overwhelming."

The third defense attorney, Emile Zola Berman, said in New York: "I just regret that the sciences of psychology and psychiatry are held in such low esteem."

Reported the Times:

"Asked if Sirhan fully realized the import of the outcome, Cooper answered: 'Of course.'"

"When asked if there had been judicial errors during the lengthy proceedings, he (Cooper) replied that he felt so."

"Cooper mentioned a matter that will come before the Court of Appeals on Friday, that of Lincoln High School teacher Sal Castro and 12 other defendants, accused of felony conspiracy for their roles in student walkouts last year."

"If the court upholds the defense position that the Grand Jury was improperly constituted -- favoring certain segments of the population -- then the Sirhan case would have to be retried, Cooper said."

(Sirhan was indicted by the 23-member Los Angeles County Grand Jury several days after the shooting).

"In response to a question, the attorney said Sirhan has not indicated that he wants any change of lawyers."

"Cooper said he had no regrets about the course pursued by the defense.

"I don't know of any other way we could have tried it," he stated. "We did the best we could and we lost. That's all."

Meanwhile, a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) published United Press International story from Jerusalem quoting Sirhan's father that he (the father) "was even more adamant than ever that his son had committed an act of political courage and even of necessity" in the shooting.

Continued the UPI story:

"Something had to be done 'to bring to the attention of the United States people the wrongness of America's support of Israel,' Sirhan told newsmen.

"Many of the Arab residents of Taibeh and through the occupied West Bank area agreed with Sirhan. The Arabs view the young Jordanian as a hero and a martyr for the Arabs and Palestinian cause.

"Veteran political observers in Beirut said the conviction of Sirhan was expected to provoke a wave of popular protest in the Arab world.

"Although the long trial got little more than routine attention in the Arab press, interest in his case has been sparked recently by the appearance in Arab capitals of posters hailing Sirhan as a hero of Palestine.

"The well-printed posters in black and red are issued by the Palestine Liberation Organization and show a drawing of Sirhan with the words, 'I did it for my country.'"

4/25/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)  
RE: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 4/14/69.

RE: WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE FROM  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Attached herewith are two copies of a nineteen page weekly summary of information prepared for the benefit of the news media by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. This release is dated 4/23/69 and is being furnished for the information of the Bureau.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
1 - Los Angeles

AOR/bje  
(3)

SEARCHED

INDEXED

SERIALIZED

FILED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

DATE: 3/10/69

FROM : PHILIP J. REILLY

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel 3/4/69, with USDJ letter attachment which relates to statement given to the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) by WALTER S. CROWE, JR., which names the following persons: CHARLES KRILL, LOU BENNETT, WALTER HAHN and GORDON WEAR, as friends of SIRHAN and CROWE.

On 3/6/69, investigation was conducted at Pasadena, California, on the assumption that the above named contemporaries of SIRHAN SIRHAN and WALTER S. CROWE were fellow students from the Pasadena area. Investigation did not bear this out.

There is no record of any of the four individuals in the records of the Pasadena Police Department or the Pasadena City Directory (which lists minors and students.) There is no record of any of these four having attended Pasadena City College (Mrs. ALICE ALLEN, Secretary to Registrar) or John Muir High School (check made by Detective BEN HETHERINGTON, Pasadena Police Department and ED VARNEY, Detective, LAPD, at John Muir).

VARNEY above made a telephonic check of his indices at LAPD on 3/6/69, and could not find any record of any of the four.

VARNEY indicated the LAPD had conducted a separate investigation of CROWE which is still going on.

VARNEY indicated that CROWE is not amenable to further interrogation in this matter, since he "took the 5th and got himself a Commie Attorney." He advised he would check further into the identity of the above four, but there is no reason to believe we will immediately obtain the results of his efforts.

PJR/dag  
(1)



5010-108

56-156-2820

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1 MAR 10 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

*[Signature]*

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

LA 56-156  
MM 44-1880

1

On March 4, 1969, a source, who is knowledgeable of high-level Communist Party, U. S. A. (CP-USA) activity in New York City and also phases of leadership activity in the Southern and Northern California Districts, advised that no information was ever received indicating a possible conspiracy involving the CP-USA and/or its members in the assassination of the late Senator KENNEDY. Source does not know SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WALTER CROWE or THOMAS GOOD.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 9-8-86 BY SP 6 BJA/KR  
C.N. 255,315

56-156-2821

SEARCHED .....	INDEXED .....
SERIALIZED .....	FILED .....
MAR 13 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

3/11/69

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AIRTEL

To: Director, FBI (62-587)  
From: SAC, Miami (44-1880) (RUC)  
Subject: KENSALT

Classified by SP6 BTM/ur  
Declassify on: OADR 9-8-86  
C.N. 256,315

ReBuairtel 2/27/69 and Los Angeles airtel 3/4/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Los Angeles are two copies each and for San Francisco and New York one copy each of an insert in captioned matter.

This insert contains results of interview with  
MM 1070-S\*. [C]

Informant was interviewed prior to receipt of the photographs enclosed with reference Los Angeles airtel. These photographs will be exhibited during the next informant contact and any positive information received will be promptly furnished.

Informant furnished the following which was not included in the insert due to its compromising nature:

During the 1/4-6/69 and 2/22-23/69 National Committee meetings in New York City, informant had several conversations with BEN DOBBS of the Southern California District and AL RICHMOND and ARCHIE BROWN of the Northern California District. These conversations were conducted in an atmosphere where all phases of Party activity were discussed and at no time were any statements made by any participants about SIRHAN B. SIRHAN. [E]

- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 2) (AM)
  - ② - Los Angeles (56-156) (Encs. 2) (AM)
  - 1 - San Francisco (62-5481) (Enc. 1) (AM)
  - 1 - New York (Enc. 1) (AM)
  - 1 - Miami
- RLO:jhk  
(8)

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56-156-2822

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 13 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

**File—Serial Charge Out**

FD-5 (Rev. 6-17-70)

★ GPO : 1970 OF-400-586

File \_\_\_\_\_ Class. \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Serial \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Pending ☐ Closed  
Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_ Description of Serial \_\_\_\_\_ Date Charged \_\_\_\_\_

*Serials 282.3 thru  
2832 skipped  
in serializing.*

Employee \_\_\_\_\_

**RECHARGE**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

To \_\_\_\_\_ From \_\_\_\_\_

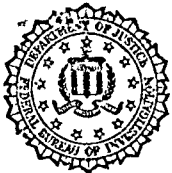
Initials of Clerk { \_\_\_\_\_  
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Date Charged \_\_\_\_\_

Employee \_\_\_\_\_





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

April 24, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Reference is made to memorandum of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst dated February 25, 1969, regarding the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, on June 5, 1968.

On March 3, 1969, Deputy Chief Robert Houghton, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) advised that the LAPD, on the basis of the polygraph examination and from a review of reports of the FBI in the captioned matter, concluded that Thomas Good had no connection with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Chief Houghton stated that Walter Crowe had fully cooperated in interviews conducted by the LAPD in the captioned matter.

In order to clarify the inconsistencies arising out of interviews with Walter Crowe and his mother, Mrs. Margaret Crowe, and to identify the two unknown individuals who were with Walter Crowe and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan during the evening of May 2, 1968, Walter Crowe was interviewed. The results of this interview follow.

DECLASSIFIED BY *sp6 BJA/40*  
ON *9-8-86*

*C.N. 255, 3/5*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

*1cc to SA by SA La Junesse 5-8-69*

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

12 - Bureau  
(2) - Los Angeles (56-156)  
TJA/gja  
(14)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

Date 4/18/69

WALTER S. CROWE was interviewed regarding his meeting with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN on May 2, 1968. CROWE stated that his mother, Mrs. MARGARET CROWE, worked at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Lake Avenue, Pasadena, California, and that SIRHAN's mother also worked at this church. SIRHAN would often bring his mother to work and Mrs. CROWE would see SIRHAN. Prior to May 2, 1968, Mrs. CROWE mentioned to WALTER CROWE that she had talked with either SIRHAN or Mrs. MARY SIRHAN, who stated that SIRHAN would like to see him.

WALTER CROWE continued that at his mother's suggestion, he phoned SIRHAN and made a date to see him. During the evening of May 2, 1968, SIRHAN, driving his brother's Volkswagen, came to the CROWE residence, picked up CROWE, and the two proceeded to Bob's Restaurant on Colorado Boulevard, in Pasadena, California.

CROWE and SIRHAN were sitting at the counter at the restaurant and were later joined by two of SIRHAN's friends. CROWE stated he did not know the identity of these two people at the time he was interviewed by the Los Angeles Police Department; however, he was informed later that one of the two was IVAN GARCIA, a former fellow student with CROWE at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, with whom he had classes. CROWE stated GARCIA was not a close associate of his and during the interim three year period since he left Pasadena City College and attended the University of California at Los Angeles, he had not seen GARCIA and had completely forgotten him.

WALTER CROWE stated that THOMAS GOOD was not with the afore-mentioned group of four during the evening of May 2, 1968.

CROWE was asked to identify the individuals mentioned by him to the Los Angeles Police Department, namely

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 4/17/69 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA THEODORE J. A'HEARN/TJA/rj Date dictated 4/18/69

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2  
LA 56-156

LOU BENNETT, WALTER HAHN, and GORDON WEAR. CROWE stated that he does not know these individuals and cannot recall why he mentioned these names during interview with the police officers. (It is to be noted that GORDON WEIR is a well known Los Angeles television weather forecaster. It is to be noted that KENNETH HAHN is a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors).

During interview, CROWE volunteered that he no longer is a member of the Communist Party, having dropped all political activities upon graduating from the University of California at Los Angeles. He said he is no longer a political personage.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~1Date 4/28/69

IVAN GARCIA, 452 North Hill Street, telephone 795-4771, advised he is presently employed as a computer operator at Can, Inc., 4949 Earle Street, Rosemead, California.

GARCIA stated that he has been a personal friend of SIRHAN SIRHAN for a number of years, having met SIRHAN while they were both students at Pasadena City College (PCC). GARCIA related that during the early part of May 1968, he was at Bob's Restaurant located on Colorado Avenue, across the street from PCC, with JOE MARCOVECCHIO having a cup of coffee, at which time they met SIRHAN, who was with an individual introduced by SIRHAN to be WALTER CROWE a student at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

This meeting took place during the early evening hours and the four of them sat at Bob's for a relatively short period of time. They left and went to the Highlife Bar, which is located on Colorado Avenue near Allen Street in Pasadena, where they each had several beers. While at the Highlife, which is a topless bar, the conversation generally concerned girls and race horses.

GARCIA stated that during the meeting at Bob's and at the Highlife, politics were not discussed and the name of the late Senator ROBERT KENNEDY was not mentioned. GARCIA stated that he does not know WALTER CROWE and is not acquainted with CROWE's political philosophy. GARCIA stated he has absolutely no information that would indicate that SIRHAN was interested in the Communist Party.

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On 4/18/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA RICHARD K. SCHWAB and  
SA ALBERT A. HUSTEDT/AAH/rj Date dictated 4/23/69

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date 4/18/69

JOSEPH MARCOVECCHIO presently resides at 110 North San Marino Avenue, San Gabriel, California. He is a student at California State College, Los Angeles, and is employed part-time as a technician in the Foreign Language Department, Pasadena City College. This will record a reinterview with him for his recollection of a specific meeting with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN on May 2, 1968.

MARCOVECCHIO recalled the meeting principally because of the fact that it ended in a trip to the "Hi Life", a local bar which features topless dancers. MARCOVECCHIO made it quite explicit that he has a strong and abiding interest in "broad", which he feels is very much in keeping with his Latin background (Argentina).

MARCOVECCHIO recalled the incident of his meeting with SIRHAN on May 2, 1968, as follows:

It was early in the evening, when MARCOVECCHIO and a close personal friend, IVAN GARCIA, were leaving Pasadena City College following a late afternoon class. They decided to stop at Bob's Restaurant, which adjoins the campus at Pasadena City College, for a cup of coffee. In the restaurant, they met SIRHAN with another individual who was introduced to them as WALTER CROWE. MARCOVECCHIO has no clear recollection of CROWE except that he was from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and did not talk very much. What conversation there was, MARCOVECCHIO said, was "broad". "We never talked politics". The conversation lead to a trip to the "Hi Life", a beer parlor a block away. Here, they sat and had a couple of pitchers of beer. MARCOVECCHIO does not recall that the beer caused CROWE to say anything more nor did it change the level or focus of the conversation.

After an hour or so of this, MARCOVECCHIO and IVAN GARCIA left together in MARCOVECCHIO's car. MARCOVECCHIO said he has never seen CROWE again and saw SIRHAN once again later at Pasadena City College on the date of the assassination of Senator KENNEDY, however, he did not see him to speak to.

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On 4/18/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156  
by SA J. ROBERT SULLIVAN and  
SA PHILIP J. REILLY/PJR/lmt Date dictated 4/18/69

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<sup>2</sup>  
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MARCOVECCHIO said that he is almost positive that there was no other person present in the group other than those he met described above.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Regarding the mutual friends of Crowe and Sirhan, namely Charles Krill, Lou Bennett, Walter Hahn, and Gordon Wear, there follows the results of interview with Chester Krill, who describes himself as having known both Sirhan and Crowe.

Crowe during interview advised that he does not know Bennett, Hahn, or Wear and did not know why he had mentioned these names during interview with the LAPD.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

Date 3/12/69

CHESTER CRILL, age 22, a recording musician who resides at 397 East Villa, Pasadena, California, furnished the following information concerning his association with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WALTER S. CROWE, Jr., and THOMAS GOOD.

CRILL said he has known CROWE and SIRHAN since they were seniors at Elliott Junior High School in Pasadena and later during high school years and at Pasadena City College.

During the early years of their association, CRILL lived at 1637 North Holliston, WALTER CROWE lived in the immediate neighborhood and SIRHAN lived about one-half mile away. CROWE was the first to pick up an association with SIRHAN because he was interested in Arabic. CRILL's mother wanted him to make friends with SIRHAN because he was a foreigner and she thought he might be interested in attending their church (The Bressee Church of the Nazarene) in Pasadena.

CRILL attended Pasadena High School whereas SIRHAN attended Muir High School so he did not see him too often during high school years but did see him again at Pasadena City College in 1965.

CRILL visited in the SIRHAN home occasionally but SIRHAN did not like having people such as CROWE and another boy named TOM GOOD at his home because they were radical leftist types. Mrs. MARY SIRHAN did not seem to like CRILL too well and as CRILL said, "SIRHAN was never enthusiastic about me."

Through CRILL's efforts SIRHAN would occasionally come to the Bressee Nazarene Church during his high school years.

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On 3/12/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA PHILIP J. REILLY/rse Date dictated 3/12/69

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LA 56-156

CROWE took some pleasure in teasing SIRHAN and once told SIRHAN that CRILL was Jewish. This infuriated SIRHAN and he stopped speaking to CRILL for a period of time until someone told him he had been put on.

As they grew older, CROWE and GOOD became more radical and began to drink. CROWE tried to get CRILL to attend some Du Bois Club parties in Highland Park area and CRILL did attend two but does not recall SIRHAN going to these.

During the high school period, SIRHAN began to work, at first part time and then full time. He also took to drinking with CROWE and others during this period. CRILL broke off relations with CROWE completely when CROWE became intoxicated on one occasion and began making homosexual advances at CRILL.

CRILL said he did not see much of SIRHAN through high school but saw him again in 1965 at Pasadena City College. He said that SIRHAN "was always hanging around the lounge".

CRILL said he was amazed when he heard the news of SIRHAN having mortally wounded Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He feels certain that he was drunk at the time. He mentioned that SIRHAN did not show the effects of alcohol as other persons did. He became quieter when he had been drinking, CRILL said.

CRILL said it is his feeling that all three persons, SIRHAN, WALTER CROWE and TOM GOOD, were and possibly still are, seriously emotionally disturbed.

CRILL said the names of LOU BENNETT, WALTER HAHN and GORDON WEAR or WEIR, are not familiar to him as friends of SIRHAN or of WALTER CROWE. CRILL indicated that he had known CROWE for ten years and parted friendship with him in 1965.

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LA 56-156

CRILL said he had no doubt that CROWE may have tried to influence SIRHAN along Communist Party lines but doubts that he was successful. According to CRILL, CROWE used SIRHAN primarily to learn Arabic and made him the butt of many jibes in some wild political discussions. According to CRILL, CROWE was stealing whiskey from his father during high school and the father, being a heavy drinker, never noticed the loss. GOOD, CRILL said, was another strange type. He read, "all the time", and used to read and drink till he became completely intoxicated. SIRHAN would drink quite a bit with them, CRILL said, but it did not have a noticeable effect on him.

None of this group, CRILL said, with the exception of himself, were at all interested in girls during this period. This, plus their drinking and CROWE's latent homosexual tendencies made him pull away from this group entirely.

CRILL said he did not believe that WALTER CROWE exercised any real influence over SIRHAN insofar as his political thinking was concerned. According to CRILL, SIRHAN was inflexible in his political philosophy and it consisted principally in an unreasonable hatred for Jewish people.

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Source one, who is a friend of Walter Crowe, and who was an associate of his at Pasadena City College (PCC) and at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) advised on April 14, 1969, that Crowe's "friend Bill, the guy that lives at the co-op" is Bill Divale. According to this source, Divale attended PCC with Crowe, is a current member of the Communist Party (CP) and was a member of the CP with Crowe when both were attending UCLA. Source one advised that Crowe terminated CP membership in approximately early fall of 1968.

Source one who is generally knowledgeable of the membership of youth in the Southern California District Communist Party (SCDCP), advised on April 14, 1968, that he has never known Ivan Garcia, Joseph Marcovecchio or Chester Krill to be members of the CP.

The files of the Los Angeles FBI Division contain no information regarding Garcia and Marcovecchio other than that pertaining to captioned matter.

Source one advised on June 24, 1968, that the following individuals were members of the Student Club, SCDCP:

Judy Arraj,  
James Berland,  
Walter Crowe, -  
William Divale, -  
Clifford Fried, -  
Lucille Fried,  
Susan Romo,  
Judith Schub,  
Jo Wilkinson

There is no information in the files of the Los Angeles FBI Division indicating that other than Walter Crowe, none of the members of the Student Club, SCDCP, were

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

acquainted with or had any information regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan prior to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968.

Source one furnished the following autobiographical sketch of Walter Crowe.

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Walter Crowe: A Sketch

I am writing this sketch with my application for Graduate School at UCLA for the coming fall of 1969 in mind. What follows is therefore especially oriented towards explaining the academic side of my personality.

I am a history major. My main interests lie in the direction of modern European history. I am particularly interested in intellectual history, with a focus on the development of socialist movements and ideas. This little autobiography will try to underline those parts of my background which have helped to mature these interests. I hope that any reader of these words would be able to recommend, with reasonable certainty, that I should be given my chance in graduate history.

I was born in Pasadena, California on [REDACTED] at the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War. My family was native Californian and provincial. I was never even out of the state, or even out of the south-land more than a dozen times until after my twenty-first birthday. Not that travel is really necessary for those living in God's own country, Southern California.

Neither of my parents went to college. Actually, this is no longer true, my mother just graduated last month from a small private college at the age of 54. To understand my parents, you must remember that they were young and poor during the depression. That fact is what makes them tick. Their

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universe is defined in terms of economic security, upper-middle respectability and affluence. I have a thirty year old sister and a twelve year old brother. My parents raised children and devoted their lives to these values.

My father was born in Porterville, California--a real country town whose economy depended on the surrounding orange groves and which was advertised in a 1909 brochure as: "the only city in California where the Japanese have not been allowed to gain a foothold. The result is that wages have always been at the top price."

My father grew up to admire the then dying economically independent middle class. It was natural for him to see economic independence and hard work as the keys to success and happiness. He wanted to be his own boss, and swallowed the illusion, along with many other post-war Americans (viewing as they did, the boom and the growing war economy), that it is still possible to make it as an "independent" entrepreneur. He borrowed to the hilt and launched his own "fine pitch" instrument gear company--the family headache, which survived twenty years. Our entire family life orbited around the business, its survival and ups and downs.

My home situation provided me with some basis for a good education. It gave me prerequisites for the crystallization, later, of my perception of college, rather than, say, the armed forces, an early job, marriage out of high school and "raising a family", as the most meaningful of the many possibilities and alternatives at my disposal.

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What were these things that so influenced me? First of all were the expectations--I was expected to go to college and become some sort of an engineer or scientist. A second factor were the books in our house and the fact that regular reading did go on there, so that the television didn't have a complete monopoly on our mental life. Our library contained such books as: The Encyclopaedia Britanica, The World Book Encyclopedia, a set of Historical Tales, a set of the works of Washington Irving, etc.

I am sure that I identified with the past from an early age. Every culture idealizes its history as something sacred--when "men were really men" etc. Our family was never really religious. Religion was just not discussed or otherwise a real matter of concern. Both my parents had a knowledge of western history. I remember my father reading Irving's Life of George Washington and The Voyages of Christopher Columbus. He used this kind of history the way some people fall back on the Bible. What Washington had done in such and such a situation provided a moral, which might somehow be applied to the running of the business.

On one side of the family were my grandparents' stories about growing up in California in the last century. On the other side were my grandmother's wild, senile tales of her life as a nurse during the building of the Panama Canal. I believe that the past represented security to me, as something more agreeable than the present, because it seemed ideal rather than mundane.

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When I was in grade school, I remember some of my friends being paid by their parents to read so many books and for getting high grades. I considered most of my friends to be intelligent and looked up to them for getting better grades than me. Yet in almost every case, once they outgrew the age when parental pressure could still be effective, their grades fell down and they went straight to work after high school. I realize now that I did have other motivations besides parental pressure. My ego was bound up, from an early age, with what went on in the classroom. I was the smallest boy in my classes right up through high school. I had a bad right eye and wore glasses from the first grade on. As a result, I felt somewhat physically inadequate and soon gave up trying to compete with my peers in sports. As a compensation, I became pedantic in the classroom, and enjoyed showing off my brains.

I was mainly interested in two things up to high school: science and history. A few of the books I remember going through in elementary school illustrate this. I did a lot of reading from the Landmark historical series for children. I also particularly remember a couple of other children's pictorial histories--one of France and one of England. On the scientific side, I was accumulating a chemistry laboratory, which did not stop growing until I was in high school. After Sputnik, I was swept up in the amateur rocketry fad, and also dug making small backyard hot air balloons. In junior high school, I and my friends were typical "boy inventors", as the names of some of my books indicate. There was a four volume 1915 edition of

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The Boy Mechanic, which contained plans for building your own hang-glider, which I always dreamed of constructing. There was also The Boy Electrician and The Boy Engineer, both written in the thirties, but still in print. My friends and I built two illegal Marconi type spark-gap transmitters, using model-A ignition coils. We built a good kiln and a screw type printing press, which would not, however, print clearly.

What I have described here is growth--my growth. These books and experiments and inventions attest to my motivation to inquire. They represent archeological evidence, debris below the surface; upon which my adult personality is being constructed. Somewhere in high school I lost interest in science. My mood, however, was still one of inquiry. But my feelings were beginning to change--there was a greater sense of disappointment and hostility to my surroundings, which is perhaps why I gave up science, supposedly man's great hope, for politics; political enquiry and criticism.

Adolescence is supposed to be a time of troubles for everyone, and mine was certainly that for me. I wish I could attribute all this "growth" to some positive aspect of my personality, such as "character." But I believe that it was really the result of a lot of insecurity about not being able to really fit the teenage image. High school and junior high school appeared to me like a giant "in-group" composed of people who were hustling or were trying to hustle campus social circles for two things: women and prestige. The people who I associated with generally didn't give a hell about the

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class "prom", resented the whole football team and class President and were trying to tune-out "high school U.S.A." as fast as possible.

Among the new friends that I made in my first year of high school were several politically aware liberals, who influenced me strongly. That was the year of the 1960 Presidential election, which was my first real political experience. I became acquainted with all the liberal magazines--New Republic, Nation, Frontier, Commentary, etc. The main source of this new political literature, previously unknown to me, was the American Friends Service Committee Office in Pasadena, who maintained a lending library. I attended meetings of the Young Democrats in the local Friends Meeting House, but decided not to join that organization.

At this time I can remember becoming aware of a sense of frustration due to the fact that a lot of my school work, such as the necessity to take algebra and geometry, interfered with my own education. My teachers noted that I read a lot, and my parents were pleased because "It keeps him off the streets." They did not mind seeing me read The Thirty Years War, by C.V. Wedgwood or Hellas, A Short History of Greece, C. Robinson. They became hostile and began to worry about me when I brought political literature home, however. As examples, I remember a pamphlet on socialism by Erich From, and books by H. Stuart Hughes and William O. Douglas--all very harmless. For a while I was a member of a U.N. Club on campus and wrote an article, in the eleventh grade, on why people shouldn't say the Pledge

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