

"I further indicated, however, that the judge might consider such an opinion irrelevant to the present proceedings, but that in any event, the letter would be in the file for consideration at any clemency hearing that might occur in the future.

"I indicated that if the Senator wished to write a letter expressing his opinion, I would present it to your Honor in open court. I have here a hand-written letter, which was delivered to me on May 19, 1969, and I offer it to your Honor for whatever consideration you deem proper."

Copies of the Senator's letter were then handed to Judge Herbert V. Walker and Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, but it was not read in open court.

Later, however, Younger released the text of the Kennedy letter, which is as follows:

"Some weeks ago you inquired whether the Kennedy family wished to express any views on the possible penalties available to the court under the law in the trial involving the death of my brother.

"The issue then was the position to be taken by the prosecution on the offer of a plea of guilty and that involved the question whether there would be any trial at all. We felt that any answer to your inquiry at that time would accordingly be inappropriate.

"At the time of the hearing on the sentence a similar inquiry was made by defense counsel. The matter was then before the jury and again any response seemed inappropriate.

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"I now understand that the trial judge will be called upon to exercise his discretion concerning the penalty. Since this is now a question of clemency and the trial proceedings have been concluded, I feel I can appropriately convey to you, for whatever consideration you believe to be proper, how we feel.

"My brother was a man of love and sentiment and compassion. He would not have wanted his death to be a cause for the taking of another life.

"You may recall his pleas when he learned of the death of Martin Luther King. He said that 'what we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness, but love and wisdom and compassion towards one another.'

"Moreover he was a young man totally committed to life and living. He stood against injustice, poverty and discrimination for these evils lessened life.

"He grew to despise war for war denies the sacredness of life. And he had a special affection for children for they held the promise of life.

"We all realize that many other considerations fall within your responsibility and that of the court. But if the kind of man my brother was is pertinent we believe it should be weighed in the balance on the side of compassion, mercy and God's gift of life itself."

Sirhan was formally sentenced today to death in the San Quentin gas chamber, despite the plea by Sen. Edward Kennedy that the life of

more --

his brother's assassin be spared.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, brushing aside both the dramatic letter and an impassioned entreaty by defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, read solemnly from a previously prepared summary of the case.

"This is the time for judgment and sentence...It is the judgment and sentence of this court that for the crime of murder in the first-degree...you should suffer the penalty of death within the walls of San Quentin in the manner prescribed by law."

"He ordered the diminutive assassin taken to San Quentin's Death Row within 10 days.

"Sirhan, standing with his hands on his hips and staring without visible emotion as the judge sternly pronounced sentence, turned and smiled at defense investigator Michael McCowan, 'Well, now the real battle begins.'

"Mrs. Mary Sirhan, seated in the second row of the small courtroom, cried softly and dabbed at her eyes as she waited for court to adjourn, signalling the moment when she could visit her condemned son in his 13th floor cell.

"She also had written to Judge Walker, citing Biblical references in her plea for mercy for Sirhan. Her letter, delivered to the 69-year old jurist Wednesday morning, was not mentioned in open court."

Before the formal sentencing today, Cooper cited 13 grounds for his motion for a new trial for Sirhan, arguing at length on two points.

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Reported the newspaper:

"He devoted his major effort to a contention that the defense had been misled by the prosecution last February, when the possibility of a change of pleas was being discussed.

"At that time, Cooper said, both defense and prosecution agreed that Sirhan could plead guilty to first-degree murder with an understanding that he would be sentenced to life imprisonment.

"But Judge Walker rejected this deal, insisting that if Sirhan did change his plea, the question of penalty must still be left up to the jury.

"Cooper said the prosecution then offered, if Sirhan would plead guilty, to recommend that the jury hand down a life sentence.

"Asked what the prosecution would do if Sirhan decided against the plea change and went ahead with the trial, Cooper said, the prosecution stated it would make no recommendation, either for a death penalty or a life sentence.

"At that time, Cooper said, Younger told the defense that the prosecution was 'in a position where we can't conscientiously urge the death penalty.'

"It was on this understanding, Cooper said, that the defense finally advised Sirhan to go ahead with the trial and not risk a jury decision for death despite the prosecution's reported willingness not to press for it.

"It was here, Cooper said, that they were misled because the prosecution 'didn't keep its word' when Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard

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made his final argument to the jury in the penalty phase of the trial, after Sirhan had already been convicted of first-degree murder.

"Although Howard never specifically mentioned the death penalty, he did urge the jury to return 'the only proper penalty for political assassination in the United States of America.'

"Cooper, in addition to claiming the defense was misled, also charged Judge Walker with judicial error in not accepting the plea change.

"He further charged the jurist with error in his refusal to bar from evidence the controversial notebooks in which Sirhan wrote of his intention to kill Kennedy.

"Although Sirhan's writings later became a major bulwark of his defense of diminished mental capacity, Cooper contended that the notebooks were illegally seized to begin with.

"Cooper's final plea for a reduction of Sirhan's death penalty hinged principally on Younger's willingness to accept a life sentence because of psychiatric reports indicating that Sirhan was mentally ill.

"Cooper's motion was supported by a friend-of-the-court brief offered by attorneys A. L. Wirin and Fred Okrand of the American Civil Liberties Union."

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) offered these comments:

"'Had the jury known at the time they were considering the question of life and death the attitude of the Kennedy family,' Cooper said, 'I feel their verdict would have been entirely different.'

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"Cooper also asked the judge to reduce the sentence on the basis that Sirhan is mentally ill and that he 'has never been in difficulty with the law before and has a completely clean record.'

"The veteran attorney, who never before had a client convicted of first-degree murder or sentenced to death, also read editorials from news media, requesting a reduction of the sentence of life imprisonment.

"Mrs. Irma Martinez, one of the jurors who convicted and doomed Sirhan, and Mrs. Eleanor Landgreen, an alternate who also sat through the 16 weeks of testimony, returned as courtroom spectators to hear Judge Walker's upholding of the verdict. They appeared unmoved by Sen. Kennedy's plea for Sirhan's life.

"In issuing the sentence, Judge Walker also denied Cooper's 13-point motion for a new trial.

"'It is disappointing,' Cooper said after the judge's decision, 'but that is that.'

"Sirhan will have an automatic appeal of the death sentence before the California Supreme Court. Cooper said, however, he planned to file a separate appeal either Monday or Tuesday.

"Cooper and defense attorney Russell E. Parsons have vowed to carry Sirhan's case as far as the United States Supreme Court. Sirhan's third counsel, New York attorney Emile Zola Berman, bowed out of the case at the end of presentation of testimony and closing arguments.

* * *

THURSDAY, MAY 22 -- A Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) today reported "Secrecy surrounds the imminent transfer of Sirhan, doomed murderer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, from Los Angeles to San Quentin's Death Row.

"Judge Herbert V. Walker yesterday ordered Sirhan sent to the prison 'within 10 days' after he upheld a jury's April 23 verdict and formally sentenced Sirhan to death.

"Sheriff's Department authorities, continuing their maximum protection of Sirhan that with his trial has cost the county almost \$1 million, refused to say when or how Sirhan will be taken to the prison north of San Francisco."

Meanwhile, the same newspaper reported today that Ira Goldstein, 20, who was shot during the June 5 slaying of the senator, has filed a \$500,000 damage suit against Sirhan and the Ambassador Hotel for injuries he received.

Continued the newspaper:

"Goldstein's suit, filed scant hours after Sirhan's sentencing, is the third civil action filed since the shooting.

"Goldstein alleges he was assaulted and beaten as well as shot during the assassination fracas. He named the hotel co-defendant on grounds its management was negligent in failing to provide for the safety of patrons."

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The Associated Press today reported that "The 'Sirhan Area' is ready on San Quentin's Death Row for the killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy."

The story, carried in a Los Angeles daily newspaper (Herald-Examiner) continued:

"Sirhan if he is treated as other convicted California men for whom death in the gas chamber is decreed, will eventually come here (San Quentin) to await his fate.

"Life on Death Row is one of steel bars and mesh, clanging doors, buzzer signals, locks, guards and guns. It is a place where the clock and the calendar are the enemies.

"Sirhan will be granted no special privileges," said Associate Warden Jim Park as a massive bolt shot back and he shoved against a steel mesh door.

"The door opened on a bare 'no-man's land' in front of three locked and vacant cells, doubles of each of the cubicles farther down which caged the 25 condemned men of the southside tier.

"It was the route the Jordanian Arab would take after checking in past the main gate of the squat yellow fortress 15 miles north of San Francisco.

"Four strides over the bare pavement, and another meshed door blocked the way. Another bolt shot open, and the door was opened.

"This was the probable future home, and universe, of the slight man who raised a pistol June 5, 1968, in a kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

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"Directly past the door is the Sirhan exercise area -- a 10 by 15-foot slab of pavement which is the 'front yard' of Cell 33.

"Locked and vacant cells flank either side of 33. They will remain that way. Like other prisoners on Death Row Sirhan will have a television set to watch through the bars of his cell. Sound is through a headset, which can also be plugged into a two-station outlet for radio at the rear of the cell.

"The Sirhan cell is like all the rest -- $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide, 7 feet high and 11 feet deep. Appointments are a toilet, wash basin, two steel shelves, a tiny table, a flat-spring cot with a hard tick mattress and a pair of woolen blankets. Light is from a large, bare overhead bulb which can be operated in the cell.

"Like the other Death Row inmates, Sirhan would be let out of his cell into his exercise area for $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day, starting at 10:30 a.m.

"He'll be able to talk to the other men," said Park.

"Another thing Sirhan would be able to do outside his cell is to see a patch of blue sky through a couple of windows above the bars.

"But never, Park added, will any inmate, even the mainline prison trustees who feed Death Row, be permitted to get close to Sirhan. He will be fed by a guard.

"The idea, he said, is the same as in Los Angeles where Sirhan has been held since the shooting -- to keep the prisoner segregated from men who might want to get into the history books as the killer of

more --

an important assassin.

"'I'm sure someone would like to kill him,' said Captain Don Weber.

"Since 1938, after hanging was stopped in California, 194 persons, including four women, have been gassed in the split-second ritual prescribed by law.

"The question of the constitutionality of the death penalty is now pending before the U.S. Supreme Court."

* * *

THURSDAY, MAY 22 -- Meanwhile at a Los Angeles County Civil Service Commission hearing, it was stated that Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, county coroner-medical examiner who performed the autopsy on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, on hearing of the Senator's death blurted out 'Oh, no.'

Noguchi was fired from his post and requested a commission hearing.

Mrs. Thelma Graham Clark, a coroner's aide, said she telephoned the information to Dr. Noguchi and that his response was that "of a doctor...one of resignation."

* * *

FRIDAY, MAY 23 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, entered Cell 33 on Death Row at San Quentin early today, after a secret pre-dawn flight from Los Angeles, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

He was removed from his heavily-guarded cell in the Hall of Justice at 2 a.m. and flown by a Sheriff's Department helicopter to

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Van Nuys airport. From there he was taken by a state airplane to San Quentin in a 2½ hour journey.

The two-engine plane flew him to the Marin County Airport, six miles from San Quentin. A convoy of two state prison cars and four California Highway Patrol vehicles took the 25-year old Jordanian immigrant to San Quentin, 10 miles north of San Francisco.

According to the newspaper account, Sirhan was booked into the big prison at 5:31 a.m. and he was alert and very interested in the institution and its history, said Associate Warden James Park.

Park said Sirhan was given a normal Death Row breakfast of fruit, rolled oats, a cheese omelet, bacon, toast, coffee and milk.

Captain Don Weber, security chief, related that Sirhan "appeared alert and interested and asked a good many questions about the institution during the car trip."

Park said the other prisoners on Death Row "paid no particular attention to Sirhan.

"They like to think they've got a lot of class and don't get excited about this sort of thing," he added.

Los Angeles County Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess said the transfer was a joint one, using his deputies and state officers. "The early morning departure was at the request of state authorities," he added.

The newspaper noted:

"Less than 20 minutes after his arrival, Sirhan was locked into his cell, which is on the southside condemned unit, isolated from those of other men awaiting their dates with the gas chamber.

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"On each side of Cell 33, there are locked, empty cells. An exercise area directly outside measures 10 by 15 feet.

"Prison officials said no other prisoners can get closer to Sirhan than 15 feet."

* * *

SATURDAY, MAY 24 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today was 'fitting into routine' at his new home in Cell 33 of Death Row, according to San Quentin Warden Louis Nelson.

A report in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) reported:

"One of the young Arab's doomed neighbors told a guard yesterday 'He's one of us now. He won't be bothered.'"

"Warden Nelson, however, is cautious. 'There is some underlying concern for the fellow,' he said. 'Many here would want to be known as the assassin of the assassin.'

"We have to protect him until that time when the law says we must take his life.'"

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6/16/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 6/12/69.

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

Attached herewith are two copies of a 15 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 5/28/69 and is being furnished for information of the Bureau,

Pat

2 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
1 - Los Angeles
AOR/bje
(3)

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 1c
FILED 1c

F B I

Date: 6/13/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO (89-61) (RUC)

SUBJECT: KENSALT
OO: LOS ANGELES

Re Los Angeles airtel to Indianapolis, 4/22/69;
Indianapolis airtel to Los Angeles, 5/9/69.

Enclosed for Los Angeles are 22 copies of
FD-302 of interview of KATHY Cwik, Chicago, 6/3/69.
Enclosed for Alexandria is one copy of each reference
and one copy of FD-302 reflecting interview with CHARLES
D. WHITE, St. Meinrad, Indiana, on 4/11/69. One copy
of FD-302 reflecting interview of KATHY Cwik, Chicago,
6/3/69 is also enclosed for Alexandria.

KATHY Cwik was interviewed on 6/3/69 after a
negative attempt on 5/26/69. Interview set out in
FD-302.

On 5/26/69, Mr. DAVIS, 3939 West 82nd Street,
Chicago, advised his son, RUSS DAVIS, is presently in
the Marine Corps going to basic school at Quantico, Va.
He furnished his address as follows:

2nd Lt. RUSSEL F. DAVIS
[REDACTED] USMCR
Box 485-TBS 10-69
K. Company, 2nd Platoon
MCB, Quantico, Va. 22134

- (2) - Los Angeles (Encls. 22) *oo*
2 - Alexandria (Encls. 4)
1 - Chicago

NEB:mam
(5)

56-156-2892

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Per [Signature]

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M

Special Agent in Charge

CG 89-61

LEAD

ALEXANDRIA

AT ALEXANDRIA, VA. Interview RUSSELL DAVIS
as requested in referenced Los Angeles airtel.

- 2 -

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: Immediately

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE PUBLISHES
LAST WEEKLY SUMMARY ON SIRHAN CASE, ANNOUNCES YOUNGER

On June 4, 1969, the 52nd and final summary providing written information to press, radio and television on the case of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was issued by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The idea for the summary came from Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, whose office successfully prosecuted Sirhan. Realizing the importance of the case and the need to keep the public informed, he assigned his news secretary, Jerry Littman, a former newspaper editor and reporter, to devise the format.

The first issue, prepared in the form of a press release, was dated for release on June 12, 1968, seven days after the shooting, and a summary has been issued every Wednesday since that time.

Information for the summary was obtained from newspapers, investigators, prosecutors and other sources, and the complete set of 52 separate summaries totals nearly 500 mimeographed pages (8½ by 11 inches.)

Summary No. 1 began with the shooting of the senator and five other persons on June 5, 1968 and Summary No. 52 described comments made by Younger at a press conference on May 28, 1969.

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56-156-2893

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2074

Sirhan Summary
2-2-2

The entire series detailed in chronological order what took place -- the shooting, the death of the senator, the indictment by the County Grand Jury, the trial delays, the actual trial and the sentencing.

The summaries have been used in a variety of ways by newspapers, radio and television stations in this country and abroad, as well as by the United States Information Service and Voice of America.

During the year of publication, the summaries were mailed to over 300 newspapers, radio and TV stations throughout the country as a public service.

A survey made by the District Attorney's Office of recipients showed that the majority used it for ready reference, while others ran the summaries verbatim or used portions of them.

Younger said that the replies from the survey "certainly proved that this was an important endeavor and a unique way for a prosecutor to keep the media informed."

Some of the comments included these:

"...I think this is one of the greatest ideas I've seen come from a public office in many a year" (newspaper editor).

"We are using the summaries only as background. We find them valuable in that respect" (managing editor, TV station).

"We consider it a valuable public service, and have been using your weekly summaries of the Sirhan case in full" (newspaper managing editor).

more --

Sirhan Summary
3-3-3

"They have been most useful and we are keeping them on file as they come in" (TV newscaster).

"I think the real value of the summaries will come six months or a year or so from now when the things still fresh in memory fade" (newspaper reporter.)

"In a case of this magnitude, such information as these summaries contain are vital for accurate reporting" (radio station newsman).

"I have used the material in each of these reports to write updated reports which I voice here (Los Angeles) and send to Washington on the phone line for special correspondent's reports used several times during the day and night in English and translated into 34 languages to rebroadcast across the world" (Voice of America).

"I use the summary for development of news angles on the Sirhan story in stories filed regularly to Washington for publication in the Middle East" (U.S. Information Agency writer).

Although the summary accomplished its purpose -- keeping the press, radio and television, and thus the public, informed -- Dist. Atty. Younger was not successful in his efforts to modify a court order restricting what defense and prosecution attorneys and others connected with the case could say to the press.

He sought an annulment of the order from the State Court of Appeal, the California Supreme Court and the U.S. Supreme Court, all of whom turned down the request.

The county prosecutor said he had information he "believes

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Sirhan Summary
4-4-4

the public is entitled to know, and which does not interfere with the constitutional right of the defendant to a fair trial or disrupt the proper administration of justice."

Much of this information was revealed at the May 28 press conference.

However, Younger has said that the world was entitled to information about the case, "and to the best of our abilities this material was made available."

In the concluding summary, Younger remarked that he was "grateful to the many members of the press corps for their objectivity in reporting the events of this trial and for their uncomplaining cooperation with the restrictions imposed by the court order."

6-69

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MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV

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

SUBJECT: FINAL SUMMARY RE: SIRHAN

DATE: JUNE 2, 1969

Since shortly after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office has issued a Weekly Summary to the press, radio and TV.

This is the final Weekly Summary.

It was our aim in furnishing the summaries to keep the press; radio and TV informed of matters in connection with the case, and thus the public. We hope this has been achieved.

Thank you for your assistance.

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., June 4, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #52

Re: 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 52nd and final summary.

SUNDAY, MAY 25 -- The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, cost Los Angeles County taxpayers \$929,285, according to a story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) today.

Quoting County Auditor-Controller Mark H. Bloodgood, the newspaper related:

"To obtain reimbursement from the federal government, the (County) Board of Supervisors has forwarded a resolution by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn to President Nixon and Congress.

"The resolution points out that SB 2080, by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.), would reimburse local governments for 'expenses incurred in the prosecution of persons charged with the assassination or attempted assassination of officers of the United States.'

"Sirhan was the most heavily guarded prisoner in Los Angeles County history."

* * *

TUESDAY, MAY 27 -- "Charges that fired (Los Angeles) County

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Coroner Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi improperly handled the autopsy of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy have been dropped to prevent jeopardizing the conviction of assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan according to County Counsel John Maharg," a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) has related.

The surprise move came today during the Civil Service Commission hearing into Noguchi's March 18 dismissal by the County Board of Supervisors.

Continued the newspaper:

"Maharg told The Herald-Examiner, 'The real gist of the case is his (Noguchi's) ability to administer the coroner's office.

"'A trial (Sirhan's) of international significance took place across the street (from Maharg's office) and we don't want to jeopardize that trial.'

"Dr. Noguchi was suspended March 4, shortly after he testified to the Kennedy autopsy results during the Sirhan trial. He was fired two weeks later as the result of charges of drug use, abuse of employees, poor administration of his office and a desire for tragedy that would bring him personal fame.

"Sirhan was sentenced to death in the gas chamber for the June 5, 1968 assassination of Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel.

"On April 30, after completion of the Sirhan trial and before Sirhan's sentencing, Dr. Noguchi learned he faced an added charge of 'erratic' behavior during the Kennedy autopsy.

"The specific new charge, now dropped, read:

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"During the Kennedy autopsy your (Noguchi's) eyes were glazed, your behavior was erratic and your dictation of the events surrounding the autopsy was so disassociated that it was all but unintelligible.'

"The charges said also that if two other physicians 'had not preserved extensive notes on the autopsy, it is doubtful that any autopsy report of scientific value could have been produced.

"Dr. (J.E.) Holloway (of Noguchi's office) specifically requested you (Noguchi) to catalogue and arrange in some logical order the working papers, photographs, etc.

"Dr. Holloway even volunteered his services to help you in this regard. To date, the working papers have not been catalogued or arranged in any logical order.'

"During the testimony of defense witness Richard H. Kottke, Dep. County Counsel Martin E. Weekes asked that the April 30 charge be dropped.

"The (county connsel's) department will stipulate this was a superior autopsy,' Weekes told commissioners."

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times), reported that during the recess, Godfrey Issac, Noguchi's attorney, said Weekes told the commissioners at the bench he (Weekes) feared 'international repercussions' -- such as those which followed the autopsy of President Kennedy in 1963 -- would result from arguments over the charge.

Continued the newspaper's account:

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"Issac said this was a 'ploy' on the part of Weekes to block evidence that Noguchi had actually performed the autopsy in a 'magnificent' manner.

"The lawyer said he would fight to make public at the hearing, through testimony by witnesses present at the autopsy, what went on at the senator's postmortem.

"But (Commission President O. Richard) Capen later said from the bench, 'We don't want to get into the autopsy of Sen. Kennedy, per se.'

"Issac -- again commenting during the recess -- said Noguchi performed in an exemplary manner during the autopsy, working for six straight hours while at the same time dictating his findings."

One of the witnesses for Noguchi, Dr. Cyril Wecht, chief forensic pathologist for Alleghany County (Pittsburgh), testified today that the Kennedy postmortem was "the most complete, thorough and medically extensive autopsy I have ever seen," according to the newspaper.

Continued the newspaper:

"He said he came to Los Angeles after the autopsy and was shown a 'rough draft' of the postmortem report.

"Wecht said he found the 'massive compendium of documents ...in very good order.'"

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28 -- Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, whose office prosecuted Sirhan B. Sirhan for the death

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of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, held a press conference today and issued the following statement:

"Immediately following the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968, this office and all law enforcement agencies in the investigation concluded that public interest and national security required an exhaustive inquiry into the circumstances of the offense and the background and associates of the defendant.

"Of particular concern was the possibility that the accused was a member of a conspiracy whose objectives were not satisfied by the elimination of one political leader. It was agreed that full disclosure of the results of the investigation should be available to the public at a time when the constitutional rights of the defendant could not be jeopardized by the attendant publicity.

"Under the direction of Chief of Detectives Robert A. Houghton, the Los Angeles Police Department established a special task force constituted of specially qualified detectives selected from the various divisions of the department.

"Special Unit Senator (SUS) was under the immediate supervision of Captain Hugh Brown and attained a maximum complement of 47 investigators assigned to three areas of investigation under the command of three experienced police lieutenants.

"No possible avenue of information was considered unworthy of investigation by SUS. Well in excess of 4,000 possible witnesses and others pretending to some knowledge of events bearing upon the crime were interviewed, investigated and reinterviewed by members of the unit.

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"Agents of the F.B.I., acting independently, conducted a parallel investigation which, in addition to those persons contacted by the Los Angeles Police Department, included interviews with hundreds of individuals across the nation who were not easily accessible to local authorities.

"With the consent of the United States Attorney General, there was a mutual exchange of information between the Los Angeles Police Department and the F.B.I. investigative staffs. All results of the investigation were made available to the team of deputy district attorneys assigned to the preparation and presentation of the case.

"In many instances members of the District Attorney's Bureau of Investigation and certain deputies with specialized qualifications carried out investigative assignments under the direction of the prosecution team.

"The accumulated results of these investigative efforts were reviewed and evaluated by the attorneys assigned to the prosecution of the case. Where it appeared that information submitted might be of value to either the prosecution or defense of the accused, the prosecution team prepared individual files in anticipation of discovery motions by the defendant and for personal review by the District Attorney in regard to the witnesses who should be called to implement the case in chief for the prosecution.

"At the request of defense counsel, duplicates of more than 150 files containing interviews of potential witnesses were delivered on pretrial discovery motions. Included among these files were recorded

more --

interviews of more than 70 persons who alleged to have observed the defendant at some time during the evening of June 4th and the early morning of June 5th at the Ambassador Hotel.

"Sixty-five witnesses were called by the prosecution to testify during the course of the trial. Their names are listed in "Appendix A" which is attached hereto. At the conclusion of the case the interviews with those witnesses who had not been called to testify by either party, comprising 199 in all, were filed with the Superior Court as Exhibits 84, 85, 86, 87, 88 and 115 to become a matter of public record.

"The names of these possible witnesses are listed in "Appendix B" attached hereto. The total number of witnesses called by both parties whose testimony proved pertinent to the issues of this lawsuit probably did not exceed 2% of the combined work product of the Los Angeles Police Department and the F.B.I.

"Among the records now on file are the assertions of a number of individuals who have attracted the attention of the news media with respect to the possibility of a conspiracy to effect the death of Senator Kennedy.

"Such allegations have been investigated in depth by the responsible law enforcement agencies and will continue to receive attention as new speculations arise.

"Illustrative of the conspiracy suggestions which have been publicized, investigated and discredited are the following:

"1. The Polka Dot Dress Girl

more --

"A Miss Sandra Serrano, interviewed by Sandor Vanocur on television shortly after the assassination, reported that she had heard the gunshots in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel and that shortly thereafter a girl in a polka dot dress passed her on an outside fire escape at the southwest end of the Embassy Ballroom shouting, "We shot him."

"At the time of the assassination over a thousand people were creating a tumult in the area between the pantry and the position on the fire escape where Miss Serrano claims to have been resting. Sound tests conducted by the Los Angeles Police Department at a time when the intervening area was deserted prove that the shots could not have been audible to Miss Serrano.

"When confronted with the prospect of a polygraph examination, Miss Serrano admitted that the report of the polka dot dress girl was pure fabrication on her part.

"Prior to her television interview, Miss Serrano had recounted her fictional observations to Vincent DiPierro who was present in the pantry at the time of the shooting. Mr. DiPierro incorporated this information into his account of an attractive girl in a polka dot dress who allegedly exchanged an inaudible word with the defendant just before he stepped from the tray rack in the pantry to shoot the Senator.

"On interrogation by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, DiPierro admitted that he had embellished his statement at the suggestion of Sandra Serrano with whom he conversed at Rampart Station following her television interview.

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"At the trial, the prosecution produced a witness, Miss Valerie Schulte, whose position in the pantry at the time of the shooting was in the direct line of vision between DiPierro and Sirhan and at least 10 feet distant from either. Miss Schulte was on crutches, and although clad in a black and yellow polka dot dress, has been completely absolved from any complicity in the assassination.

"One Booker Griffin reported seeing a girl in a polka dot dress fleeing the pantry area immediately after the shooting and further asserted that the same girl had been observed by him in the company of the defendant prior to the assassination.

"When interrogated by investigators, Mr. Griffin stated that the girl fleeing the pantry wore a dress of more than one color -- not necessarily polka dots -- and admitted that she might well not have been the same girl whom he saw earlier in the evening. The lady, if she existed, cannot be connected with Sirhan Sirhan.

"2. Jose Duarte

"Mr. Duarte alleged that Sirhan attended a meeting of the Peace and Freedom Party on May 21, 1968. Duarte, an anti-Castro Cuban exile, asserted that as he addressed the pro-Castro audience, Sirhan engaged him in heated argument.

"It is estimated that between 40 and 45 persons attended the meeting. Of those in attendance, 37 have been identified and interviewed. Beside Duarte himself, only four of these individuals, who are known to be henchmen of Duarte's, identify Sirhan as the person in question.

"On Wilshire Boulevard Owen stopped at a hotel, later identified as the Ambassador, to permit Sirhan to visit a friend who was employed there. Owen allegedly dropped Sirhan off in the Hollywood area at about 6 p.m., having made an appointment to meet him at 11 p.m. the same evening to conclude the palomino purchase transaction.

"Sirhan either appeared or failed to appear, according to the state of Mr. Owen's memory.

"Mr. Owen recounted the events of his alleged contact with Sirhan Sirhan in three separate interviews with Los Angeles Police Department officers. Each version of the encounter was inconsistent in significant detail with the other versions.

"The last interview occurred on July 3, 1968, in San Francisco at the office of George T. Davis, whom Mr. Owen had retained as an attorney. Following this interview, Mr. Owen submitted to a polygraph examination conducted at the San Francisco Police Department.

"The results of the examination conclusively established, in the opinion of the examiner, that Owen was untruthful in identifying Sirhan as the hitchhiker to whom he had given a lift on June 3, 1968.

"Investigating officers contacted the proprietors and employees of several business establishments which Owen had allegedly visited just prior to, or during, the events in question. These interviews either failed to corroborate, or contradicted Owen's statements.

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"A boxer under contract to Owen stated that Owen had picked him up at the Coliseum Hotel at 6:30 p.m. on the evening of June 3, 1968 to attend a social function and returned him to the hotel at 11:30 p.m. This information did not appear in any of Mr. Owen's several accounts and contradicts the allegation of an 11:00 p.m. appointment with Sirhan.

"Mary Sirhan, the mother of the defendant, recalled that her son was at home, watching television at 4:30 p.m. on the afternoon of June 3, 1968. To the best of her knowledge, Sirhan remained at home the entire evening.

"Although Mr. Owen professes to be a preacher of the gospel, there are a number of instances of his past conduct on the police blotters of several states that indicate a less than saintly reluctance to grasp certain opportunities which have been afforded him.

"The investigators have concluded that Mr. Owen concocted a bizarre tale in the expectation of some advantage from the attendant publicity.

"4. James W. Mundell

"Inexplicably, some speculation has arisen regarding the presence of James W. Mundell, a laicized priest, at the Ambassador Hotel on the night of the primary election.

"Mr. Mundell had been a classmate of Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law and through his association had been closely acquainted with Ethel Kennedy over a period of years. He attended the Senator's party in his 5th floor suite at the Ambassador Hotel, preceded the Senator to the Embassy Ballroom, and was not present in the pantry

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at the time of the shooting.

"Mr. Mundell joined Mrs. Kennedy at the side of her husband after the shooting and followed the Senator to the Central Receiving Hospital by taxicab. For a brief period he was present in the emergency room where Senator Kennedy received initial treatment.

"When Mrs. Kennedy emerged from the emergency treatment room immediately prior to the transfer of the Senator to the Good Samaritan Hospital, she handed Mr. Mundell a bundle containing the Senator's clothing. Mr. Mundell delivered the bundle to Sgt. Swihart of the Los Angeles Police Department.

"Mr. Mundell was still a resident of Los Angeles when he was interviewed by the F.B.I. on September 30, 1968. He has since moved to the State of Washington. There is no evidence whatsoever that his presence at the scene of the assassination has sinister implications.

"5. Saidallah Sirhan

"Saidallah Sirhan, one of Sirhan B. Sirhan's older brothers, reported to the Pasadena Police Department in the early morning hours of July 3, 1968, that he had been fired upon by the occupant of a Volkswagon bus while northbound on the Pasadena Freeway within the city limits of the City of Pasadena.

"Examination of the vehicle driven by Saidallah disclosed two bullet holes in the right wind-wing. The bullets were recovered and ballistics examination revealed that they were fired from the same .38 revolver.

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"Painstaking inquiry into the circumstances of this incident by the Pasadena Police Department failed to yield any clue as to the identity of the perpetrator. There is no evidence to suggest that the offense is in any way connected with the assassination of June 4, 1968.

"At this date, no credible evidence has been presented to any law enforcement agency concerned with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy which lends credence to the supposition that any person other than Sirhan B. Sirhan bears any criminal responsibility for that tragic event.

"My purpose in causing the work product obtained in the preparation of this case to become a matter of public record is to facilitate full disclosure as to all questions which may be the subject of legitimate public concern.

"To ensure the preservation of the exhibits received in evidence or marked for identification at this trial, pending the determination of the case on appeal, the Los Angeles County Clerk will prepare duplicate copies of documentary evidence and photographic representations of exhibits which will be available for inspection by interested members of the public at the Office of the County Clerk, Criminal Division, on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice.

"Inspection of the original exhibits will be permitted by order of the Superior Court, for good cause shown.

"Duplicate copies of the exhibits on file may be obtained

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by proper application to the County clerk by order of the Court upon payment of the fees provided by statute.

"The Los Angeles Police Department has agreed without reservation that the interests of the public and law enforcement are best served by full disclosure of the results of the comprehensive investigation which they have conducted.

"Los Angeles Chief of Police Roger Murdock will arrange that the Sirhan case record will be made available to the public to the fullest extent that security precautions and administrative resources will permit.

"In many respects the problems and pressures incident to the successful prosecution of People v. Sirhan are without parallel in the history of American jurisprudence. I would be remiss in my duty if I failed to acknowledge the splendid performances of the various agencies involved. This was a team effort.

"I congratulate the Los Angeles Police Department for an investigation without equal in magnitude and thoroughness.

"We also received invaluable assistance through the unstinting cooperation of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"The Sheriff of Los Angeles County established necessary security measures which were exercised with efficiency and discretion.

"I am grateful to the many members of the press corps for their objectivity in reporting the events of this trial and for their uncomplaining cooperation with the restrictions imposed by the "Order re Publicity."

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"It was fitting that Judge Herbert V. Walker, the Dean of the Superior Court Criminal Bench, be selected to preside over this important case in order that the rights of the defendant and of the People be fully recognized and observed.

"Finally, I wish to commend the members of this community for their recognition that the tragedy which occasioned this trial should be dealt with in accordance with the highest standards of American justice."

Attached to the statement was a listing of 65 witnesses called by the prosecution to testify during the trial and the names of witnesses who did not testify.

Those who testified include the following:

Appendix A -- Dr. Stanley Abo, Larry Arnot, William Barry, V. Faustin Bazilauskas, William Burton Blume, William D. Brandt, Edward C. Buckner, Frank J. Burns, Jr., Robert L. Calkins, Henry Adrian Carreon, Everett A. Chamberlain, James E. Claborn, Alvin Clark, Humphrey Otto Cordero, Henry M. Cuneo, Miriam Davis, Angelo DiPierro, Vincent DiPierro, George C. Erhard, Elizabeth Evans, James D. Evans, Jack Gallivan, Ira Goldstein, Roosevelt Grier, Thomas T. Harris, Gordon R. Harrison, Alvin S. Hegge, Sarah Hertz, Rafer Johnson,

William C. Jordan, Richard F. Kline, Albert J. LaVallee, Dante Lodolo, Riley W. Maxwell, Adolph Melendres, Edward Minasian, David Montellano, George W. Murphy, Thomas T. Noguchi, Leonard B. Olinger, Frank Patchett, Martin Patrusky, Jesus Perez, James Pienda,

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Arthur Placencia, George Plimpton, Seymour Pollack, William Price, Juan Romero, Judy Rober, Paul Schrader.

Valerie Schulte, Larry Sloan, Mike Soccoman, Harry C. Starr, Irwin Stroll, Karl Uecker, Jesse Unruh, William Weisel, Dana T. Westlake, Travis R. White, Claudia Williams, Ronald Glen Williams, DeWayne Wolfer, Thomas R. Young.

The names of those who did not testify include the following (Appendix B):

Ambassador -- Richard Alvarez, Richard Aubry, Anthony Beilenson, Delores Beilenson (Mrs.), Lauri Margaret Berry, James (Jimmy) Breslin, Rae Bruce, Gonzalo Cetina Carrillo, Henry Carrillo, Robin Casden, Thane Cesar, Theodore R. Charach, Vicky Cuccia, Larry Dean, Andrew John Divyak, Dick Drayne, Richard Drew, Fred Dutton, Ralph Elmore, Albert Victor Ellis, Arthur W. Evans,

Gloria Farr, Mrs. Charles (Frances) Finley, Mrs. Jeffery (Margaret) Finley, Evan Phillip Freed, Richard Frick, Robert Funk, George Green, Booker Griffin, Virginia Guy, Pete Hamill, James Howard (Cap) Hardy, Robert Leo Healy, Thadis Heath, Barbara Holme, Robert Huntley, Larry Jackson, David Jayne, Gabor Kadar, Stanley Steven Kawalec, John A. Khoury, Joseph A. La Hive,

Mrs. Muriel C. Lee, Dafne Lewis, Suzanne Locke, Richard G. Lubic, Augustus Mallard, Frank Mankiewicz, Michael D. Marcus, Gary Marder, Blaise Max Minns, Barbara J. Murray, Dave Murray, Marcus McBroom,

Hugh McDonald, Mrs. Freddy Plimpton, John William Pullen,

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Jennie Ranelle, Timothy Paul Rich, Walter G. Rich, Nelson Rising, Warren Rogers, Richard Rosen, Barbara Rubin, Norbert Schlei, Sandra Serrano.

Acqueline Sullivan, Frans Stalpers, Uno Timanson, Robert A. Toigo, Alvin Tokunow, Richard Tuck, Bradley Unruh, Sandor Vanocur, Michael Wayne, Andrew West, Earl C. Willaman, James S. Wilson, Kristi Witker, Jules J. Witcober, Boris Yaro, Niwa Yoshio.

Background -- Abrahma Alex, Marof Mohammed Badrah, Jess P. Buckles, Jack Davies, Donald N. Day (Sgt.), John D. Dill, Martin R. Dismukes, Frank Donnorama, (aka H. R. Ramistella), Retta Drake, L. R. Edelman, Irene Fetherston, Sherwood Fineberg (M.D.), Kasper Fuchs (M.D.).

Ivan Garcia, John C. Garner (M.D.), John Glenn Gearhart, David S. Greenberg, Jeannie Greene (Van Antwerp), Gwendalee Gumm (Gwen), Michael F. Haggerty, Jerrold Bryon Hemingway, Jeanne S. Herrick, W. E. Hogue.

Milton Holmes, Merton W. Howe, Robert Hulsman, Abdo Jabra Malki, Gaymoard Mistri, Leslie Koltai, Bert Morse, Roderick McKay, Melvin R. Olson, Peggy Osterkamp, Marion Pearse.

Henry F. Peters, Anwar Musa Sayegh, Ron Smith, Anna Sylvan, Genevieve Taylor, Edward Van Antwerp, John H. Weidner, Terry Mickey. Welsh, Don Weston.

Medical -- Burt C. Altfillisch, Maxwell M. Andler (M.D.), Eugene H. Austin, Max Alma Behrmann, Roland Dean, (M.D.), Guadalupe De La Garza, Louis R. Estrella, Frank A. Foster, Lawrence Heinemann,

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Albert C. Holt (M.D.), Paul Ironside (M.D.), E. N. Kamidoi, Patricia Kramer, Robert W. Levingston, Robert E. Levis (M.D.), Milton Miller (M.D.), Herbert McRoy, Maurice W. Nugent (M.D.), Miss Deyce Pine, James L. Poppen (M.D.), Donald Claus Rus, John D. Rutledge (M.D.), Millard Sheets, Earle C. Skinner, (M.D.), Albert Tashma (M.D.), Richard Blaire Walker, William Walker White, Jr., Leonard J. Yamshon (M.D.).

• Miscellaneous -- John G. Christian, Walter S. Crowe, Jr., Jose A. Duarte, John Fahey, Robert Gindroz, Golden Garter (Alhambra), Khaibar Khan, Robbie's Restaurant (Pomona), Jerry Owen.

Range -- Charlie Altenbaugh, William Atalic, Jesse Cardona, Corliss Edwards, Robert E. Edwards, Thomas A. Farrell, Rent C. Foss, Maynard Goodell, Richard Grijalva, Roberta Grijalva, Lloyd Hager.

Leland B. Hanson, Parker Haraden, Harry Hicks, Mike Roy Holgate, Charles Jenkins, Charles Kendall, Harry Lee, Gilbert Leos.

Charles M. Millner, Jr., George S. Mioch, Mara Mioch, Grove McChesney, Dean Pack, M. R. Rentz, James F. Ripp, Kenneth Richard Sem, Les Smootz.

Richard Steward, Marion Henry Stipp, Joseph Tescher, Margie Thorn, James J. Thornbrugh, Ben Trower, Orie Trout, Russell Doyle Weaver, Robert White.

A Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported on the press conference as follows:

"There is no credible evidence to support a conspiracy theory in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger said Wednesday.

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"He also labeled as 'absurd' defense charges that his office reneged on an agreement not to seek the death penalty for Sirhan B. Sirhan and he described as 'over-kill' defense psychiatric testimony during the trial.

"Law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles police, FBI and his office, reached the conclusion that there was no conspiracy on the basis of more than 4,000 interviews of possible witnesses to any of the events which might have had some bearing on the slaying, Younger explained."

The district attorney told the press, radio and TV representatives that he could not comment on the case until now because of a court-imposed "gag" order, the newspaper related.

Continued the newspaper:

"Younger said the possibility that Sirhan was 'a member of a conspiracy whose objectives were not satisfied by the elimination of one political leader' became a concern immediately following the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

"No possible avenue of information, he said, was considered unworthy of investigation. Every allegation of a possible conspiracy was investigated in depth and will continue to be as they arise in the future. Younger added.

"He noted that the information presented during the trial by both the prosecution and defense did not exceed 2% of the combined work product of the police and FBI investigators.

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"So that any doubting members of the public can satisfy themselves with the finding that Sirhan acted alone, a full disclosure of the results of the investigation will be made available 'now that the constitutional rights of (Sirhan)' cannot be jeopardized by publicity, Younger said.

"Commenting on the prosecution of Sirhan, Younger said, 'It proved that our system of justice works.'

"The prosecution was willing to enter into so-called plea-bargaining negotiations early in the case, Younger explained, because at that time 'it was my opinion and that of highly competent men on my staff' that the jury would not render a death verdict.

"This, he said, was based primarily on the findings of the prosecution psychiatrist.

"They did not at the time have the complete reports of defense psychiatrists and had no way of knowing then that defense psychiatric testimony -- which he said included 'far-reaching and absurd propositions' -- would turn out to be as disastrous as it was, he said.

"Younger said the jury arrived at the proper verdict and he committed his office to doing all it could to sustain the death penalty in the case.

"It was not unusual for the prosecution to contact the Kennedy family regarding handling of the case, Younger said, because his deputies often consult with interested parties, particularly the

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families of victims, to determine how they will react to proposed dispositions.

"He said he believed it is a good policy to allow members of a victim's family to express their opinion on the outcome of any case in which they have an interest.

"Asked if he thought Sirhan would ever be executed, Younger replied, 'You know the track record on that as well as I do.'

"He said, however, he did not anticipate that the appellate courts would find any deficiency in either the trial or the conviction of Sirhan.

"In answer to a question regarding the role of former Coroner Thomas Noguchi in the case, Younger said he is satisfied that the autopsy on Sen. Kennedy was conducted in a proper manner.

"The problems and pressures incidental to the successful prosecution of Sirhan in many respects were without parallel in the history of American jurisprudence, according to Younger."

Concerning psychiatric testimony, another newspaper (Hollywood Citizen-News) reported as follows:

"The district attorney reminded newsmen, 'You've heard the jurors' comment on the nature and quality of that testimony -- I need not comment further.'

"One juror, interviewed after the jury brought in the death penalty, said he thought the psychiatric testimony 'stunk.'"

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THURSDAY, MAY 29 -- The Los Angeles Police Department went on record today at a press conference in support of Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger's declaration yesterday that no credible evidence exists that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination resulted from a conspiracy, reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Continued the newspaper's report on the department's press conference:

"We have not discovered any concrete or specific information that Sirhan B. Sirhan was 'influenced by any individual,' Dep. Chief Robert Houghton, who was in charge of the police investigation of the shooting, said."

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) related that investigation of the assassination "led Los Angeles police to new dimensions in homicide inquiry."

The new techniques were outlined by Houghton, Acting Police Chief Roger Murdock and Capt. Hugh Brown, commander of the homicide division.

According to the newspaper's account, the new techniques include:

"A time chart to provide officers a quick visual check of where a suspect was and at what time.

"Adoption of administrative charts to show progress of the investigation and indicate necessary shifts in personnel to meet court deadlines.

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"Charting the investigation in categories -- such as Sirhan's education and his home environment.

"Houghton said the investigation is the basis of a manual now being prepared for the department for setting up an emergency task force should a similar case occur.

"The deputy chief said his men traveled 'all over the United States' to carry out the investigation but did not go outside the country."

The same newspaper published an Associated Press story quoting Arthur J. Goldberg, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, as stating, "The taking of a life does not and will not accomplish a thing."

Continued AP:

"With this statement, Goldberg revealed he asked California Gov. Ronald Reagan to commute the death sentence for the convicted slayer of Sen. Kennedy."

Goldberg, a former associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said the letter to the governor was similar to one Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the dead senator's brother, sent to Dist. Atty. Younger.

* * *

SATURDAY, MAY 31 -- Sirhan B. Sirhan is reading quite a bit and seems in good spirits, according to one of his attorneys, Russell Parsons, who was quoted in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Continued the newspaper:

"Parsons said he gave Sirhan several legal documents to study in connection with the appeal of the death sentence handed

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down by a Los Angeles jury May 21 in the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"He knows we have a long fight ahead and is quite satisfied we will make eventual headway," the lawyer said."

Parsons was the first visitor to the convicted assassin, who is now in San Quentin's Death Row.

* * *

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 -- The youngest brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan was permitted to visit the convicted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a special interview cell at San Quentin's Death Row today, according to a United Press International story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

However, officials at the prison refused to allow attorney Melvin Belli to accompany Munir Sirhan, 21, during the interview.

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Times), published an Associated Press story indicating that Belli was "turned down on two grounds." According to Philip Manriquez, administrative officer, Belli hadn't received required advance approval and authorities felt it was not proper to let Belli become involved with the prisoner without knowledge of Sirhan's regular attorneys.

Reported AP:

"Belli had said he was entering the case in connection with the death penalty appeal at the request of Sirhan's mother and brothers."

Noted UPI:

"Belli said he was hired by Sirhan's mother to work on overturning her son's death penalty.

"I was asked to work on the matter because of my known opposition to the death penalty," Belli said."

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6/17/69

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AIR MAIL

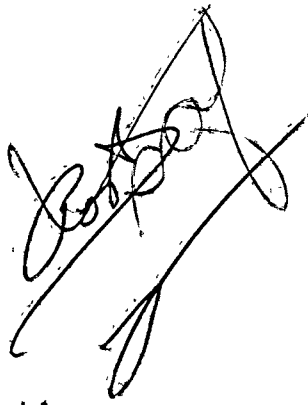
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)
RE: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 6/16/69.

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

Attached herewith are two copies of a 25 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 6/4/69 and is being furnished for information of the Bureau.

Also enclosed are two copies of a four page News Release captioned, "Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Publishes Last Weekly Summary on Sirhan Case, Announces Younger."

A large, stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading "C. J. [unclear]", is written across the middle of the page.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
1 - Los Angeles

AOR/bje
(3)

F B I

Date: 6/20/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority)

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

FROM : SAC, ALEXANDRIA (42-392)

SUBJECT: KENSALT
OO: LA

Re Chicago airtel to Los Angeles, 6/13/69.

Enclosed are eight copies of a self-explanatory
302 reflecting interview with RUSSELL F. DAVIS.DAVIS interviewed and advised he did not personally
observe subject or victim at time of assassination.

② - Los Angeles (Enc. 8) *ym*
1 - Alexandria
OJZ:dks
(3)

56-156-2895

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 23 1969	
FBI-LOS ANGELES	

Q. O. Richards

Approved: *[Signature]* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Los Angeles, California
June 20, 1969

KENSALT

On May 5, 1969, Pete Noyes, Managing Editor, KNXT-TV, a CBS affiliate, 6121 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California, and Jack Fox, also affiliated with KNXT-TV, furnished the following information:

Noyes explained he had been conducting an investigation in connection with the assassination of the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy. He mentioned the names of James M. Arnoff, Gerald Chase and Wallace White. He explained all of these men occupy a business address at 280 South Beverly Drive, Beverly Hills, California, Room 402. He stated that Arnoff was involved in the recent investigation conducted by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office pertaining to the prosecution of Tom Sheppard. Sheppard is a former Los Angeles City Councilman who was prosecuted by the District Attorney's Office in connection with fraud activities.

Noyes also mentioned the name of one Eugene Brading, also known as Gene Brading and Jim Braden. According to Noyes, Brading on September 3, 1967, advised the Department of Motor Vehicles in California that he had legally changed his name to Jim Braden. Braden, according to Noyes, is personally known to Sheriff William Decker of Dallas, Texas and was formerly run out of Dallas by Decker in 1952. Noyes claimed that the last arrest on record for Braden was in 1964 at which time he was charged with shoplifting.

Noyes explained that Braden was present in Dallas, Texas on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and was present in either the Texas Book Depository building, or a building across the street from it.

22 - Bureau (62-587)
2 - Dallas
2 - New Orleans
2 - Los Angeles (56-156)

RJL/dmh
(28)

SEARCHED —
INDEXED —
SERIALIZED 10
FILED 10

KENSALT

Noyes went on to explain that one Victor Emanuel Pereria was a friend and associate of Braden in Texas, and associated with the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and is now in Denver, Colorado. Both Braden and Pereria were referred to by Noyes as the "Lovebird Swindlers", and are known as such to Sheriff Decker of Texas.

Noyes cited a situation whereby one Mrs. Gertrude Joyce, a wealthy New Mexico widow, married Pereria. Pereria, according to Noyes, married Mrs. Joyce to get to her immense fortune. Braden and Pereria were subsequently arrested by the FBI in New York City, where they were in the process of preparing another marriage scam. Both were returned to El Paso, Texas, where they stood trial in Federal Court, were found guilty, and sentenced to serve 12 years in the penitentiary. The case was appealed during which time both Braden and Pereria were free on appeal bond, and during the investigation and or prosecution of these two men, Mrs. Joyce divorced Pereria. According to Noyes, the case was subsequently reviewed by the United States Supreme Court, and the conviction of Pereria reversed, presumably because of his marital status to Mrs. Joyce. The conviction of Braden was allowed to stand, and he subsequently served a prison sentence in several federal institutions.

In approximately 1952, Pereria married a Mrs. A.D. Little, who was the widow of the former president of the Magnolia Petroleum Company in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Braden was his best man at the wedding, following which all three went to Dallas, Texas, where they occupied a residence on Turtle Creek Road, in the University Park area of Dallas. According to Noyes, Braden is known to Forrest Keene, Chief of Police of the University Park, Texas Police Department.

With respect to Gerald Chase, mentioned above, Noyes characterized him as an accountant who was tied to the Tom Sheppard investigation and was a partner in the Big A Department Store, along with Wallace White and J.M. Arnoff. During the investigation of the Thomas Sheppard case by Los Angeles authorities, according to Noyes, it was determined

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that Big A Department Stores desired a two million dollar loan and Arnoff allegedly had to pay \$20,000 to some unknown person for the alleged cooperation of Mayor Sam Yorty, in order to get the loan. It is not known to Noyes who the \$20,000 went to, but he suggested a possibility being Mel Pierson. Pierson is currently under prosecution by Los Angeles County authorities.

In their investigation, Noyes stated he and Fox have determined that Jim Braden is alleged to be running a gambling operation in Beverly Hills, California, presumably at 280 South Beverly Drive, which is the office of Arnoff, Chase and White. They have determined that Braden renewed his California Driver's license in Oceanside, California in 1966. They have also determined that there is in existence the name of a company known as Empire Oil, which name was used by the Magnolia Petroleum Company, and the address given was 280 South Beverly Drive, Room 402, again the offices of Arnoff, Chase, and White.

Noyes stated the files of Dun and Bradstreet reflect that Jim Braden is engaged in oil property leasing, and or managing, business, is married, and is in his mid 40's.

During the course of the discussion, Noyes mentioned that Al Fatah, an Arab Intelligence Organization, has come into their inquiry. He stated he has discussed the foregoing with the Deputy Chief, Robert Houghton, of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). According to Noyes, Houghton stated that if the existence of Al Fatah could be established further investigation would then have to be conducted by the LAPD. Noyes stated that Dr. Salri Fi Farja is the head of Al Fatah in Los Angeles, has an office on Hollywood Boulevard, is the CBS "house doctor" and has such ~~has~~ an office at the CBS studio. He also has an uncle with the Lebanese Delegation the the United Nations, New York.

Noyes explained that he has learned information from an extremely confidential source who he characterized as the "ex-head" of the Black Panthers, in Los Angeles. He stated that his source was present at a Black Panther meeting

KENSALT

on Central Avenue in Los Angeles, one month prior to the assassination of Robert Kennedy. According to Noyes, his source told him that Sirhan was present at the meeting. The source specifically stated to Noyes that he recalled Sirhan because Sirhan gave his name, at that time, as "Sirhan Sirhan", which the source thought was unusual. Noyes further characterized the former Black Panther member as a college graduate, who is in hiding because of suspected reprisals he believes will befall him by his former Black Panther associates. Noyes has attempted to obtain employment for his source in the KNXT studio, but has been unsuccessful in doing so, to date.

Noyes advised he has been contacted by Robert Kaiser, a member of the Sirhan defense team, who is currently writing a book. Noyes explained that Kaiser told him he had seven reasons for feeling that a conspiracy existed in connection with the assassination of Robert Kennedy. According to Noyes, Kaiser was desirous of exchanging information with him concerning the results of their respective investigations. Noyes readily admitted Kaiser is in an enviable position concerning the obtaining of information since he has had access to all the defense files, as well as interviews with Sirhan and members of his family.

Consideration may be given as to why Michael Mc Cowan was specifically selected as the defense investigator in the Sirhan investigation.

According to Noyes, Mc Cowan is a former member of the LAPD, and when employed as such, became involved along with numerous police officers, in land purchase swindles in the San Fernando Valley area. One of the individuals behind that particular operation is one David Kassarab, an Arab, who was subsequently prosecuted by Los Angeles authorities. When the Internal Affairs Bureau of the LAPD conducted an inquiry into the alleged activities of Mc Cowan, he immediately tendered his resignation from the LAPD.