

Copies of this report will be sent to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, the Attorney General of California, Messrs. McKissack and Isaac, the Los Angeles Police Department.

A copy of the Grand Jury's letter concerning the present integrity of the exhibits will be forwarded to the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court, which now has custody of the exhibits.

PERSONAL COMMENTS

During the past four months, I took the unusual action, as District Attorney, of completely reviewing the evidence of a murder which was committed three-and-a-half years ago before the eyes of many people. This step was taken because of the special nature of this event as a stifling public tragedy. A measure of its impact is the continuing and fruitless search by many citizens to find a more rational basis for this senseless act.

On April 17, 1969, twelve citizens sat in a jury box and found Sirhan Bishara Sirhan guilty of murder. At that time, I was personally convinced of the rightness of that verdict. Now, two-and-a-half years later, after having completely reviewed the evidence which has been amassed, I still am totally

convinced beyond any doubt that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan killed Senator Robert Kennedy.

The origins of that murder are somewhere in the head of the man whose case is now on appeal. I can only quote the words of Senator Robert Kennedy's brother, our slain president: "Life is unfair."

56-156-3093

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Richardson	

STATEMENT
of

JOSEPH P. BUSCH
District Attorney, County of Los Angeles

CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF IMPROPER PROCEDURES
BY LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIMINALIST
DE WAYNE WOLFER IN THE SIRHAN CASE

October 18, 1971

On May 28, 1971 -- almost three years after Senator Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded in the kitchen pantry at the Ambassador Hotel -- attorney Barbara Warner Blehr sent a letter to the City Civil Service Commission charging that Los Angeles Police Department criminalist DeWayne Wolfer improperly conducted ballistics tests in connection with the trial that led to the conviction of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the Senator's murder.

On June 4, 1971 -- after conferring with Police Chief Edward Davis -- I initiated an investigation into Mrs. Blehr's charges. I did so because I felt it incumbent on my office to conduct an independent investigation so there would be no loss of confidence on the part of the public as to whether the facts as presented in the courtroom were correct.

When I undertook this investigation, I felt we could complete our review of the charges against Mr. Wolfer in a few weeks. As you know, my time estimate was overly optimistic and twice we had to postpone making this report to the public.

Rec. 10/19/71
from Janet Wood
LA DA's office
by R. To Jones
10/19

Basically, the additional time required to complete the investigation was necessitated by our discovery that the integrity of the trial exhibits had not been properly protected by the County Clerk's Office.

We presented evidence of the distressingly lax handling of the trial exhibits to the County Grand Jury, and on August 25, 1971, the Grand Jury sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors sharply criticizing the County Clerk's Office for allowing violations of a continuing Superior Court order which set forth the manner in which the exhibits were to be protected.

We then resumed our investigation into the allegations made in the Blehr letter, and we have reached the conclusion that the charges made against Mr. Wolfer are untrue. Our findings show he did not violate proper ballistics procedures in the Sirhan trial.

The investigation revealed only that Mr. Wolfer made a clerical error in labeling the trial exhibit envelope containing three bullets test-fired by him from the gun wrenched out of Sirhan's hand at the assassination scene.

The mislabeled envelope in no way detracts from the salient reality that the murder verdict returned was just and correct. It should be pointed out that the conviction

of Sirhan was the result of a massive six-month investigation which involved interviews of more than a thousand persons and the efforts of more than 75 investigators. The trial itself lasted 17 weeks and filled 31 volumes with 9,063 pages of testimony.

I would like to make some personal comments at this point. During the past four months, I took the unusual action of completely reviewing the evidence of a murder which was committed three-and-a-half years ago before the eyes of many people. I took this step as District Attorney because of the special nature of this event as a stifling public tragedy. A measure of its impact is the continuing and fruitless search by many persons to find a more rational basis for this senseless act.

On April 17, 1969, twelve citizens sat in a jury box and found Sirhan Bishara Sirhan guilty of murder. At that time I was personally convinced of the rightness of that verdict. Now, two-and-a-half years later, I still am totally convinced beyond any doubt that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

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F B I

Date: 10/19/71

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via A I R T E L _____
(Priority)

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

RE ALLEGATIONS REGARDING ERROR IN
BALLISTIC TESTS IN SIRHAN CASE

Re LA airtel to Bureau 7/29/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau is a statement of JOSEPH P. BUSCH, District Attorney, County Los Angeles, concerning allegations of improper procedures by Los Angeles PD (LAPD) Criminalist DEWAYNE WOLFER in the SIRHAN case, dated 10/18/71.

Also enclosed for the Bureau is a report of District Attorney BUSCH concerning allegations of improper procedures by LAPD Criminalist DEWAYNE WOLFER in the SIRHAN case, dated 10/18/71.

Above information appeared in Los Angeles press 10/18/71. This concludes this aspect of investigation by the District Attorney's Office in the SIRHAN case.

2 - Bureau — (P)
② - Los Angeles

AOR/lme
(4) *[Signature]*

[Signature]
OFFICE COPY

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

October 26, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

On October 12, 1971, information was received from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) at Los Angeles, that Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, brother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, had requested INS at Los Angeles, to issue a certificate showing that he is an alien.

Saidallah Sirhan advised INS that he needs the certificates in applying for a Jordanian passport for travel to Jordan, however, he plans to return to the United States at some future time to apply for United States citizenship.

INS did not have information as to when Saidallah Sirhan is departing from the United States, where he will reside in Jordan or when he will return to the United States.

INS indicated that they were planning to issue the above certificate.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

File Stripped *per ER*
Initials *ER*
Date *9-6-92*

7 - Bureau
(2) - Los Angeles

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