Argonaut Instance Company computed a sixteen percent disability resulting from the accident and issued a check for \$1,705 to Sirhan on April 5, 1968.

Pre-Booking Treatment

The next known medical treatment received by Sirhan was his treatment at Homicide Division on June 5, 1968. A pre-booking examination by Central Jail duty physician, Dr. E. C. Lanz, diagnosed a swelling of his left ankle, probable sprain, no fracture; a contusion of left index finger; a hematoma of the forehead and minor abrasions on his face. He was advised to limit the weight bearing on his left foot.

He was transferred to the County Jail system on June 5, 1968, and no medical information from that source has been released.

Summary

From all available evidence, Sirhan was medically sound. He was never known to have reported being afflicted with a serious disease or injury. He has not been subjected to surgery or been treated for broken bones. The one injury reported (falling from a horse) did not appear to leave permanent damage.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

The following is the result of an investigation into the criminal background of Sirhan Sirhan. It includes all known contacts with law enforcement and judicial agencies. Sirhan had no criminal arrest record prior to his arrest on June 5, 1968.

The Pasadena Police Department had three prior contacts with Sirhan Sirhan. The first occurred on August 4, 1963, at 10 a.m. A Pasadena officer was called to a family dispute between Sirhan, then 19 years old, and his mother. Officer R. D. Cannow, was at the intersection of Lake and Washington Boulevards when Sirhan approached and stated he had had an argument with his mother and was afraid to return home: Cannow transported Sirhan home and was told by Mary Sirhan that Sirhan was at an age where he would not listen to the advice of his elders. Sirhan and his mother began to argue again and it was recommended by Cannow that Sirhan leave the house and return after he "cooled off." Sirhan left and Cannow took no further action regarding the incident. This occurrence was recorded under Pasadena Police Department Case #381645.

On August 10, 1965, at 10 a.m., Officer Ross, Pasadena Police Department, stopped Sirhan at the corner of Lake Avenue and Rio Grande Street for a routine traffic check. A record check was made and Ross was informed via police radio that Sirhan had an outstanding traffic warrant. Sirhan was transported to Pasadena Police Department where Ross obtained an abstract of the warrant. The warrant was for Munir B. Sirhan and not for / Sirhan B. Sirhan. Sirhan was released from custody. This

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occurrence was recorded under Pasadena Paice Department Case

A third incident occurred at Organic Pasadena, 1380 North Lake Avenue, Pasadena on March 7, 1968, at 10:50 a.m. Sirhan was employed at this location by John Weidner. On March 7th, Weidner terminated Sirhan's employment. Sirhan had been insubordinate and refused to leave the store. Weidner had called the Pasadena Police Department. Officer R. E. Reinek responded and was met by Weidner who explained what had transpired between himself and Sirhan. Sirhan was then asked to leave by Officer Reinek and he complied. No further police action was taken on this incident. This occurrence was recorded under Pasadena Police Department Case \$556 817.

Sirhan has received two traffic citations, both while driving his 1956 DeSoto. The first occurred on January 9, 1966, in Pasadena. Sirhan was cited for 22350 V.C. (Speeding) and plead guilty on March 9, 1966. The citation indicated he was employed at Santa Anita Race Track and that there were no occupants in the vehicle with him. The second citation was issued on November 8, 1966, in El Monte. The violation was for 21453(a) V.C. (Failing to Stop for a Red Signal). The citation indicated he was unemployed and was alone in the vehicle.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

An extensive investigation into Sirhan's personal background indicated that he indulged in limited social activities. The majority of these activities surrounded his school, work and family. Interviews with persons who contacted Sirhan within these social situations related the following observations and incidents.

Campus Acquaintances

Sirhan's friends from Pasadena City College campus were predominantly casual acquaintances. Investigators concluded that few knew Sirhan well and the majority who did report knowing him were only able to relate his actions and attitudes as they observed him at various local activities.

Ivan Garcia knew Sirhan for four years, having met him in classes at P.C.C. He visited Sirhan's home for dinner on two occasions and met Adel and Mary Sirhan. He described Sirhan as a sensitive and thoughtful person who was generous and unselfish toward his friends. He did not discuss political situations or candidates with Sirhan and describes the majority of his associations with him as "chance meetings."

Michael Haggerty met Sirhan in 1963, at Muir High School. Their acquaintanceship continued through 1964 and 1965, while they both attended P.C.C. Sirhan frequently told jokes or made humorous remarks about his first and last names being the same. The only time Haggerty would see Sirhan in a serious mood was while discussing the Arab-Israeli situation. Sirhan often stated that Israel would still belong to the Arabs if it wasn't for the United States and Britain. He recalled hearing Sirhan state that he didn't care for the United States Constitution because it didn't do much for the individual. This was the only statement he could recall Sirhan making about United States politics. Haggerty associated with Sirhan off campus but not regularly. The last time he saw Sirhan was May 23, 1968. He was in Denny's Restaurant in Pasadena when Sirhan entered with a group of friends. Haggerty walked over to Sirhan's table, but Sirhan ignored him and left the restaurant without speaking.

John Strathman and Sirhan studied languages together at P.C.C. and formed a close association that continued after graduation. Sirhan became a frequent house guest at the home of Strathman and his wife, Patricia. He was described as an ideal guest. Sirhan became emotional when discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict and was critical of United States policy supporting Israel. However, Sirhan did not discuss personalities involved in United State politics with Strathman. Strathman reported that Sirhan appeared to change after falling from the horse in 1966. He became impatient, nervous and more emotional.

John Strathman introduced Donald Rice and Sirhan to one another in 1966. Sirhan assisted Rice with his study of the Arabic language at Pasadena City College and Rice visited the Sirhan home on one occasion. He described Sirhan as a serious,

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intelligent, "student type" individual whom he did not associate with extensively off campus. He did not know any particulars about Sirhan's political background, interests or associates and has not seen him since August or September of 1966.

Robert Comfort, former student at P.C.C. and publisher of a small periodical, knew Sirhan on a very casual basis. He reported that Sirhan asked a few girls for dates but none accepted. He stated that the typical reaction of the girls Sirhan asked out was, "He is a nice guy, but I'd feel funny if I went out with him." Most witnesses indicated to investigators that Sirhan did not date any of the coeds from the campus.

Gwendalee Gum was a contestant for "Carnival Queen" at P.C.C. in 1964 when she first met Sirhan. She was sitting in a booth collecting donations for the carnival. Votes for the contest were counted as a penny donation equal to one vote. Sirhan approached the booth and donated a ten dollar bill. She saw Sirhan on the campus periodically after that and Sirhan asked for dates on several occasions, but she declined.

Walter S. Crowe Jr. knew Sirhan well but stated that Sirhan was not his best friend. They were acquainted from the time they were in the sixth grade until both completed two years at Pasadena City College.

Crowe attempted to organize a chapter of the Students for a

Democratic Society on the P.C.C. campus 1965. Sirhan was aware of Crowe's activities but did not support him or voice any interest in the formation of the club. Crowe recalled Sirhan as erratic in his philosophy, but essentially liberal. Crowe reported that he felt he could have been partly responsible for Sirhan's state of mind at the time of the assassination because of their talks about the Communist Party. Crowe stated that he never discussed Senator Kennedy with Sirhan.

Crowe stated that he saw Sirhan one time since 1965, on May 2, 1968. At that time they met and went "out on the town" for the evening. Crowe stated that Sirhan dated some girls, but the two had never double dated. A description of Crowe's activities with the Communist Party and his friendship with Sirhan is a separate part of this report.

Casual Acquaintances in Pasadena

Sirhan was not known to frequent a large number of local hangouts in the Pasadena area. Marilyn Hunt, a cocktail waitress at the "Hi-Life" bar recalled seeing him in the bar several times over the year preceeding the assassination. He always seemed to sit very quietly alone at the bar and never caused any trouble.

The only other bar that Sirhan was known to frequent was Shap's Bar, 2565 E. Colorado Blvd., Pasadena. Peter Selfe, a frequent customer at the bar, reported that Sirhan placed his horseracing bets with a handbook at this location.

Two witnesses reported observing Sirhan playing pool at locations

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in Pasadena. Howard Rice, an employee "Jerry's Family Billiard Center" reported seeing Sirhan on infrequent occasions. He occasionally played pool and other times would stand and talk with other patrons.

Sirhan was reported to have played pool at the Poodle Steak Tavern by William Mc Caughey, a frequent customer. John O'Hanian also known as "John the Jew" reported that he was a frequent customer at that location. O'Hanian stated that he felt that he must have been mistaken for Sirhan. He had never seen Sirhan in the bar or played pool with him. Investigators noted a distinct resemblance between Sirhan and O'Hanian.

Co-Employees

In 1966, Sirhan and Terry Welch met during the course of their employment as exercise boys at the Granja Vista Del Rio Horse Ranch in Corona. Welch considered Sirhan to be his best friend and described him as a neat, clean, intelligent gentleman who was both thrifty and generous with his friends. According to Welch, Sirhan did not drink but would accompany his co-employees to local bars and often purchase drinks for everyone present.

Sirhan was known by the name of "Sol" by his fellow employees and race track acquaintances. He spoke English with little noticeable accent and was an avid reader of law, frequently discussing cases which he had read with Welch. Sirhan habitually kept his wallet in the glove compartment of his car, a common practice among many race track employees.

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Sirhan told Welch he had been expelled from school when the administrators became aware of a romantic relationship between him and a math teacher. Welch stated that he never saw or heard of Sirhan dating and thought that he had made up the story for the benefit of co-employees who used to rib him about his lack of girlfriends.

Another employee of the ranch, Peggy Osterkamp, first entered the investigation as a name in Sirhan's diary. She stated that she met Sirhan in 1966 and had a short conversation with him about horses. They only other time she could remember meeting Sirhan was at a Corona restaurant. Sirhan picked up her check and paid it after she had lunch with a friend. Osterkamp reported that she had very little conversation with Sirhan, he did not call or write to her and they did not date. She was introduced to Sirhan as Sol.

Edward Van Antwerp and Sirhan shared the same motel room in the Norco-Corona area during the year of 1966. Sirhan at the time was working at the Corona Del Mar Race Track as an exercise boy and Van Antwerp was working for Taylor Rentals. They did not socialize since Sirhan would frequently return to his home in Pasadena on weekends, and during the week Sirhan would go to work at the stables in the early morning hours and not return until evening. While at the motel, Sirhan would remain in the room and drink large quantities of tea. Van Antwerp told investigators that Sirhan felt he was being treated unfairly since he was poor. Sirhan did not set forth any of his political

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views or make comments indicating anything extraordinary in his personality. Van Antwerp had no knowledge of Sirhan's associates, organizational affiliations, political beliefs, ethnic background, or anything of a personal nature.

Mrs. Carol Burgess met Sirhan during her employment at Organic Pasadena from November 1967 to January 1968. He was introduced to her as "Sol" but told her he had changed his first name to Sirhan so he would have two similar names. Sirhan was always by himself and no one came to the store to visit him. He told Burgess that he was close to his brother and had "nice" parents. He never spoke of a girlfriend and at one time made the statement that he had "bad luck" with girls. He did not explain the remark.

Neighbors

Observations by Sirhan's neighbors were limited. Jane Lamont described him as a quiet, shy individual who would not speak unless spoken to first. She never saw him with any person other than a member of his family. Emelia Pulito only spoke to Sirhan about gardening and added that Sirhan kept the family's yard in excellent shape.

Miss Ann Sylvan and Olive Blakeslee, both spinsters well above retirement age, report that Sirhan occasionally stopped at their home to play Chinese checkers with them. They thought it unusual that he would prefer their company to that of a younger person. He had only dropped in once in the months just before the assassination.

Family Friend

Sirhan met several persons who were friends of his brothers. None of them formed lasting friendships with Sirhan but would see him occasionally when he stopped by to visit one of his brothers at their places of employment.

A friend who met the Sirhan family at a church picnic, Linda Damakian, described Sirhan as a polite, sensitive and kind person. Damakian was a great deal older then Sirhan and did not become close friends.or engage in personal discussions with him. The last time she saw Sirhan was in March 1968 when she gave him a ride in her car. Sirhan had just returned from a job interview where he was turned down due to lack of educational background. He expressed disappointment about not getting the job.

RELIGIOUS BACKGROU

Investigation into Sirhan's religious experiences revealed that Sirhan and his family contacted several churches during the years they lived in Pasadena. Few witnesses recalled great detail about Sirhan and his religious attitudes. The investigation that follows was made through interviews with witnesses who remembered Sirhan in conjunction with various church activities.

According to intelligence sources in the Near East, the Sirhan family belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church prior to leaving Jordan. Although assisted in their immigration to the United States in 1957 by a member of the Church of the Nazarene, the family began attending the First Baptist Church of Pasadena at 75 North Marengo Avenue. Dr. Charles R. Bell, Jr., pastor of the church, stated that the Sirhan family attended church regularly, including various club functions of the church; but they never became official members. Dr. Bell placed Sharif Sirhan in an accounting job with the Southern California Baptist Convention in Los Angeles. Sharif was employed for over a year, then was dismissed after an arrest for felonious assault against his girl friend. The Sirhan family blamed Dr. Bell for Sharif's dismissal and left the church in January 1964.

Dr. Bell had little contact with Sirhan Sirhan and recalled that he was in his mid-teens during his church attendance. He considered the family unstable and attributed this instability to the father's absence from the home.

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Sirhan Profored Atheisa

James Burn was Dr. Bell's associate pastor with the First Baptist Church of Pasadena between 1960 and 1965. He had several talks with Sirhan regarding Sirhan's belief in God. He reported that Sirhan appeared to be a very intense atheist and could see no logical reason to believe in God. Burn stated that he believed that Sirhan was very close to one of his Junior High School teachers and that he was receiving a great deal of literature reinforcing his atheistic beliefs from him. Burn did not know who the teacher was, and investigators were unable to determine the identity of the teacher from other sources.

Deborah D. Mokharian met Mary Sirhan at the First Baptist Church in 1957. She recalled that the family attended church sporadically in 1957 and 1958. She believed that the Sirhans were Moslems and was of the opinion that they were probably using the First Baptist Church to secure material things in the United States. She stated that the only one of the boys that she could recall by name was Sirhan Sirhan. Her contacts with him consisted of accidental meetings at a bus stop between 1958 and 1962. She recalled that Sirhan was extremely bitter and unhappy. He constantly complained that he did not like the laws of the United States and felt there was no justice in the educational system.

Sirhan Received Seventh Day Adventist Training

On December 25, 1967, Henry F. Peters was employed by his nephew, John Weidner, at his health food store at 1380 North Lake Street, Pasadena. Peters met Sirhan who also worked for Weidner. Sirhan frequently asked him questions pertaining to religion, and Peters answered with information regarding his own religion and told him of meetings at his church, the Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1280 East Washington Boulevard, Pasadena. He invited Sirhan to attend these meetings and on one occasion Sirhan and his mother came to the church. Sirhan asked Peters if he would explain some of the Bible studies being offered by the church. Peters began visiting Sirhan's home, the first visit being March 5, 1968. The meetings took place in the dining room of the Sirhan home during the evening hours and always on a Tuesday evening.

Sirhan frequently remarked that if a person had to live his life the way God wanted, he would have to be a good Christian. On one occasion when Peters suggested changing the meeting date from Tuesday to Friday, Sirhan stated this could not be done because he had other studies on Friday nights which dealt with mysticism. Peters stated that he believed Sirhan had been motivated in his Bible studies by his mother and based this opinion on statements made by Mrs. Sirhan.

Peters stated that Sirhan appeared happy and satisfied with his life, and during his contacts with him, Sirhan never displayed any temper or irritability. Sirhan never expressed feelings or problems relating to his Arabic descent or traumatic experiences suffered during his childhood. Peters was unable to increase Sirhan's degree of acceptance of the religious concepts discussed during their meetings. Peters planned to return to his home in Milwaukee in April of 1968, and he asked his pastor, Charles Mitchell, to assign someone to continue the Bible lessons with Sirhan.

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Mitchell aske another member, Leo Heaconk, to continue studying with Sirhan. Heacock was unable to undertake the assignment due to conflict with his employment; and his wife, Margaret Heacock, made arrangements to study with Sirhan the last week of March 1968. She went to the house on two occasions, and Sirhan was absent both times. On the second visit she left a lesson inside the mailbox for him and called the following week on the phone. She met with him at his home a week later and the meeting lasted for approximately one hour. They discussed religion and Sirhan also related his feelings toward his former employer, John Weidner, indicating a dislike for him. At the end of the meeting Sirhan told Mrs. Heacock he wished to discontinue the Bible lessons. She attempted to change his mind, but he insisted on discontinuing the lessons. Investigation into Sirhan's religious history showed no other known exposure to religious organizations between March 1968 and June 1968.

THE ROSICRUCIAN ORDER

Sirhan's Application for Membership

In June 1966, Sirhan Sirhan applied for membership in the Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosy Cross (AMORC) also known as the Rosicrucian Order. Ralph Lewis, Executive Officer of the Rosicrucian Order in San Jose, furnished a copy of the membership application of Sirhan which indicated it was received June 23, 1966. In completing the form Sirhan indicated he was born March 19, 1944, in Jerusalem, Jordan, and currently resided at 696 East Howard Street, Pasadena, California. Sirhan also indicated he had been a student of Metaphysics, Psychology or Philosophy for three years. He gave as his motive for applying, "By reading your book <u>Mastery of Life</u>, I have descovered how much I do not know about myself despite all the philosophical works that I have been reading. I sincerely want to better myself, and on that basis I submit my application."

In April 1967, Sirhan was dropped as a member when he failed to pay his four dollar monthly dues. On February 5, 1968, a money order for sixteen dollars was received from Sirhan. On March 26, 1968, a second money order of twenty dollars was received from Sirhan. Receipt of these money orders reinstated Sirhan as an active member of the Order, which began mailing literature and magazines to him.

Cecil A. Poole, Vice-president and Treasurer of the Rosicrucian Order, Rosicrucian Park, San Jose, California, furnished the following information regarding the Order: "It is a world-wide

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fraternal org ization established and rating on a lodge system. It is nonsectarian and nonreligious although the ethics of the Order adhere to the principles of Christianity. The teachings of the organization do not interfere with the religious freedom of its members. Any law-abiding citizen of either sex and over 21 years of age, of good repute, and having a firm conviction in a supreme being, is eligible for membership in the Order. The organization includes in its membership a cross section of all classes of people. The Order is nonpolitcal and is not aligned or associated with any movement, system, or group having political activities."

Frances Holland is the Southern California Grand Counselor of the Rosicrucian Order. The State and International Headquarters of the Order designated her to handle inquiries concerning Sirhan's membership. She stated Sirhan was a member of the Supreme Grand Lodge in San Jose, which is a corresponding membership. To her knowledge, Sirhan did not attend meetings but received correspondence and instructions by mail and in turn submitted his lessons by mail. Mrs. Holland stated that membership in a local chapter is not required and that Sirhan was not a member of any local chapter or lodge.

Attendance at Meeting in Pasadena

On May 28, 1968, Sirhan attended a weekly meeting of the Akhnaton Chapter, 2031 East Villa Street, Pasadena. The guest register showed the signature, Sirhan Sirhan, 696 East Howard, Pasadena, Membership #3-413-477. On the date column of the form, Sirhan entered April 16, 1968. His entry was in error. He apparently

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used this entry because the previous entry was on that date. Theodore Stevens, Master of the Chapter remembered Sirhan's attendance at the meeting. Sirhan arrived at 7:30 p.m., showed his membership card to the secretary, Eilene Skipworth, and signed the guest registration. Sherman Livingston, an official of the Order, arrived at 7:45 p.m. and was introduced to Sirhan who told him that this was his first meeting. Sirhan indicated that he wished to speak with him at length, presumably regarding the Order, and Livingston told Sirhan that he would speak with him following the meeting. Sirhan left after the meeting before Livingston had an opportunity to speak to him.

A ge 14, a Colombe of the Chapter, arrived at the lodge May 28, 1968, shortly before 8 p.m. She donned her robe and went to the anteroom where refreshments are served and various books, documents and literature relating to the Order are kept. A Colombe in the Order is a teen-age girl, usually the daughter of a member, who participates in the various rituals of the lodge and assists new members at the meetings. grandmother, **Markov**, introduced her to Sirhan who was looking through the literature with great interest. Sirhan if he had a shorter name or nickname, and he said, "No, just call me Sirhan." Sirhan told her he had been a member of the Order for over one year but was unaware of the Pasadena Chapter.

She led Sirhan into the lodge room and they sat near the front on the left side. As the meeting started, he asked her questions regarding the function of the officers and other individuals

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participating in the rites. Sirhan paid close attention to the ceremony although he apparently did not know how to respond to the various phases, needing **particles** help as to the proper signs and responses.

During the meeting, another officer, the Inner Guard, collected an offering from the members and Sirhan donated one dollar. AB the meeting progressed, the Master, Ted Stevens, asked for volunteers for an experiment regarding touch sensations. Sirhan asked why she did not volunteer, and she answered by asking Sirhan why he did not volunteer. Sirhan then volunteered for the experiment and proceeded to the center of the room. He started to cross in front of the center altar which is called the Schakine and the Master stopped him and had him approach the center of the room from another side. Sirhan was then seated in a chair and blindfolded. Stevens touched his skin with different objects and Sirhan attempted to identify the number of objects. Following the experiment, Sirhan took a seat on the right side of the lodge where he remained until the meeting was over.

and Sirhan then went to the refreshment room and Sirhan again looked at the literature, then indicated he had to leave. He said goodbye to **series** and left the lodge. He appeared to be in a hurry, and she did not attempt to detain him. The time was approximately 9:15 p.m.

Interest in Cults and Mysticsms

Sirhan requested two books after his confinement in the County Jail, "The Secret Doctrine" by Madame Helena P. Blavatsky and

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"Talks on the ath of Occultism, Volume — At the Feet of the Master" by Annie Besant and C. W. Leadbeater. A memorandum received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation provided a very scholarly and thorough review of the books. The books deal with theosophy, a doctrine which give its adherents the knowledge to master nature and guide their destiny. The Theosophical Society was founded in 1875 by Madame Blavatsky. The organization prospered and by 1891, the year of Madame Blavatsky's death, had nearly 100,000 followers throughout the world. Annie Besant, a devoted pupil of Blavatsky, became president of the Society in 1907 and in 1926 collaborated with Charles Leadbeater in the book on occultism.

Without attempting to attach any particular significance to Sirhan's interest in the books, the book reviewer noted that the books contained no mystical theories concerning assassination or acts of violence. On the contrary, the theosophical concept is based on the brotherhood of man.

Sirhan's interest in the books was given widespread coverage by news media resulting in considerable speculation by individuals knowledgeable or interested in the field of theosophy. Roger Staples, Department of English Language and Literature, Eastern Michigan University, addressed a letter to Sheriff Peter Pitchess and speculated that the request for the books suggested that the assassination was a ritual murder. He added that the defense might use this theory to prove insanity of some sort or religious compulsion.

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Sam Campbell, Editor of the Anaheim Bullcein, in a newspaper article appearing June 24, 1968, described Madame Blavatsky's organization as a "Lucifer Cult."

A 61 page book titled "Robert F. Kennedy - The Man - The Mysticsm The Murder" by John Steinbacher quoted columnist Walter Winchell, "The book that dares rip aside the mask that hides the hideous face of the killer cult." Steinbacher dealt harshly with Madame Blavatsky in his book, describing her as "one of the most evil and immoral women who ever lived." Steinbacher concluded that Sirhan's actions were influenced by the doctrines and writings of Madame Blavatsky and her associates.

Two friends and a former book store employee attested to Sirhan's interest in the field of theosophy. Walter Thomas Rathke met Sirhan Sirhan in 1965 when both worked for Gordon Bowsher at the Yellow King Ranch, Chino, California. Shortly after they met, Sirhan gave him some Rosicrucian literature consisting of a half-dozen pages on meditation. Rathke compared meditation by the Rosicrucian Order to praying in the Christian religion. He saw Sirhan again in Pasadena in June 1967, and told Sirhan he was joining the Theosophical Society. Sirhan stated he no longer belonged to the Rosicrucian Order since he had been unable to pay his dues. He has not seen Sirhan since that meeting. Rathke commented that the Theosophical Society and Rosicrucian Order have nothing in common. He described the Rosicrucian Order as a mystic or occult type organization which directs its followers while the Theosophical Society's only purpose was the brotherhood of man.

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Patricia Alice Strathmann, whose husband John H. Strathmann, is a friend of Sirhan, recalled a conversation regarding mysticism. Sirhan expressed a desire to control a person's mind through extrasensory perception. He told her of one occasion when he conducted an experiment on his mother. He was home one evening studing a book on mysticism and his mother was sleeping in the next room. He related to Mrs. Strathmann that through concentration, he successfully persuaded his mother to get out of bed and walk to the bathroom.

Henry J. Ruthhardt, former employee of the Broughton Book Store, 20 North Lake, Pasadena, recalled Sirhan as a customer. Broughton saw him on five or six occasions in the store and he was always alone. Sirhan invariably looked for books on metaphysics, cultism, and Eastern religious teachings; and, on one occasion asked for books on black magic. Although Ruthhardt attempted several times to engage Sirhan in conversation by asking questions, Sirhan would answer the question briefly, then terminate the conversation. The last time Ruthhardt remembered seeing Sirhan in the store was approximately three weeks prior to the shooting.

POLITICAL BACKGROUND

Sirhan was not a known member of or affiliated with any political party. He never expressed his preference regarding political parties and as an alien was unable to vote.

Louis Shelby, owner of The Fez Restaurant, stated that Sirhan was concerned about the United States and the direction it was taking especially in the area of foreign policy. Sirhan expressed feelings that the present United States foreign policy was not stopping a world-wide Zionist plot and that the United States was responsible for the establishment of the State of Israel.

Shelby stated that he and Sirhan discussed the problems of youth in America, the hippie movement and civil disobedience. Sirhan was described by Shelby as being "definitely" unhappy with the establishment and "frustrated" in his political feelings. Shelby added that Sirhan was extremely politically oriented with his primary concern being the Israeli-Arab problem.

The mailmen who delivered mail to the Sirhan residence were interviewed in an effort to determine if Sirhan or any other member of the family received mail of a political nature. Robert J. Licher delivered mail to the Sirhans from early 1962 to April 1967. Licher worked out of Station "C" at 760 East Washington Avenue, Pasadena. The Sirhans did not receive a large amount of mail, and most of it was addressed to Sirhan B. Sirhan or Mrs. Sirhan.

Mrs. Sirhan had a post office box at Postal Station "C" in Pasadena for the five years that Licher delivered mail to the

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Sirhans. Showdemanded that mail addres d to her be placed in the post office box. Licher was of the opinion that Mr. Sirhan was sending money and did not want the sons to get the letters. He recalled that Mrs. Sirhan received a registered letter each month from a country somewhere in the Middle East. Prior to Licher leaving the route, Mrs. Sirhan ceased renting the post office box and all of her mail was delivered to her residence.

Licher recalled delivering what he considered pro-Communist mail addressed to Sirhan Sirhan. The literature was in a white paper envelope, open at one end and Licher perused the contents. The return address was the "Arab Student League." Licher thought it came from outside the United States and recalled that it concerned Nasser.

He assumed the literature came from Egypt and was therefore pro-Communist in nature. The literature contained many inflammatory cartoons which were anti-American; one cartoon depicted Nasser stepping on President Johnson's throat with these words, "these people should be eliminated." Licher could not remember whether the publication was weekly or monthly, but it came often enough that it irritated him. Sirhan received other literature, but Licher was not sure of the source. This mail was always addressed to Sirhan Sirhan or Sirhan B. Sirhan. Licher said that many Arab students from Pasadena City College received literature from the Arab Student League. He had many Arab students on his mail route. The literature was printed in English.

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Licher offered the opinion that this the of material might be highly influential upon an impressionable young man. The investigator who interviewed Licher was of the opinion that Licher's concern over the nature of the mail received by Sirhan had been accentuated by the assassination.

Anthony Gazo delivered mail to the Sirhan residence from April 1967 to the time of the investigation. He said that Licher, while delivering mail to the Sirhan residence, never complained about any anti-American hate literature. He stated that postmen did not discuss the type of mail they deliver to residences. During the time that Gazo delivered mail to the Sirhan family, he could not remember delivering any type of literature that could be construed as hate literature or anti-American. The Sirhans received very little mail, going several days at a time without mail. The only periodical that Gazo could remember delivering to the Sirhan family was a small paper, printed in a foreign language, which was delivered monthly to Mrs. Sirhan.

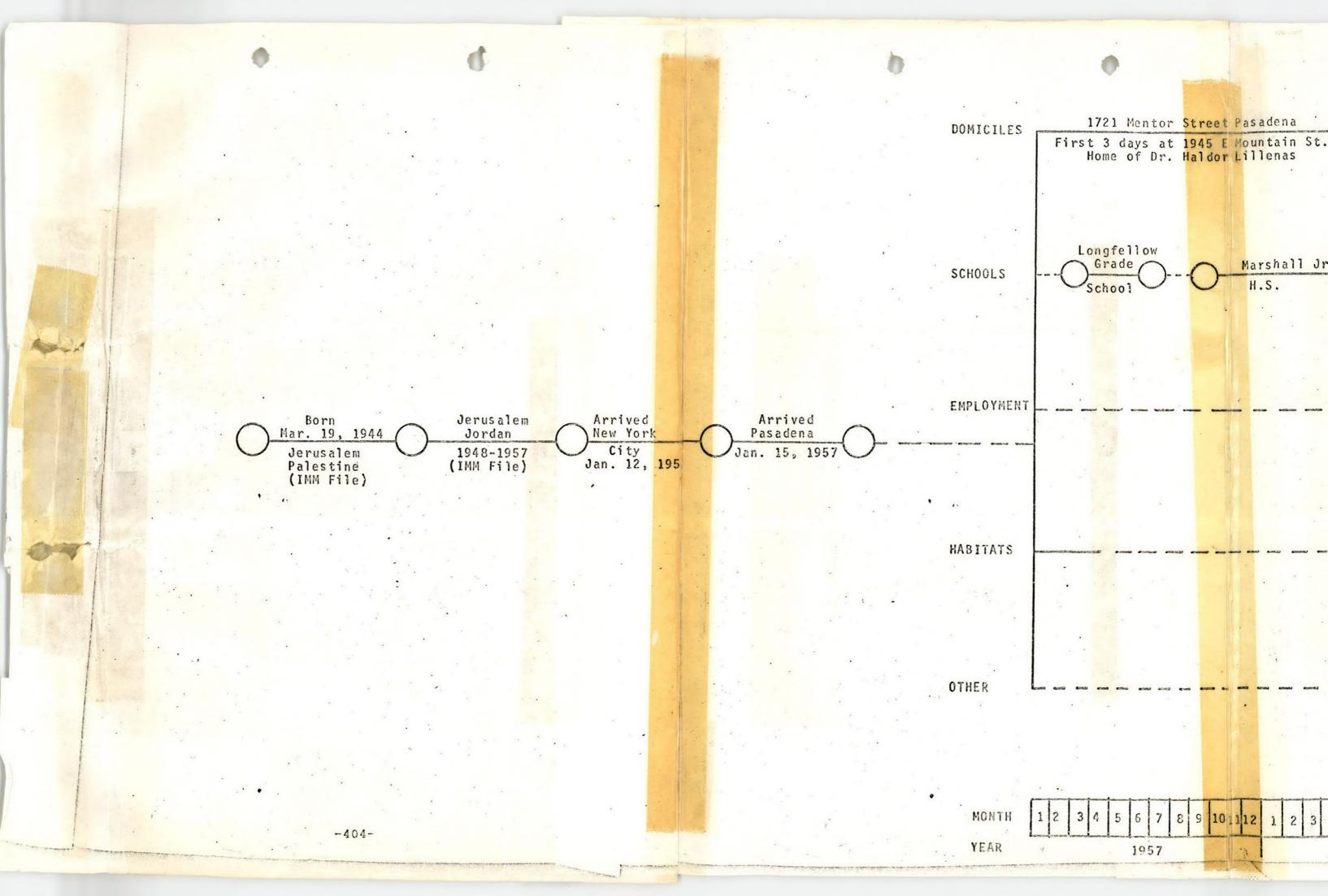
Two former students at P.C.C., Faz'l Inayat'Khan and Faizullah Khan reported meeting Sirhan at the home of another student, Omar Ramzi. They participated in discussions of current topics during the 1966 school year. The discussions included various political situations in the United States and Middle East. Inayat'Khan stated that Sirhan and others in the group supported the Baath Party, a Middle Eastern political party supporting pro-Jordanian and Syrian philosophies. During one discussion the topic of conversation centered on the Committees of the United States Senate, The House of Representatives and the key

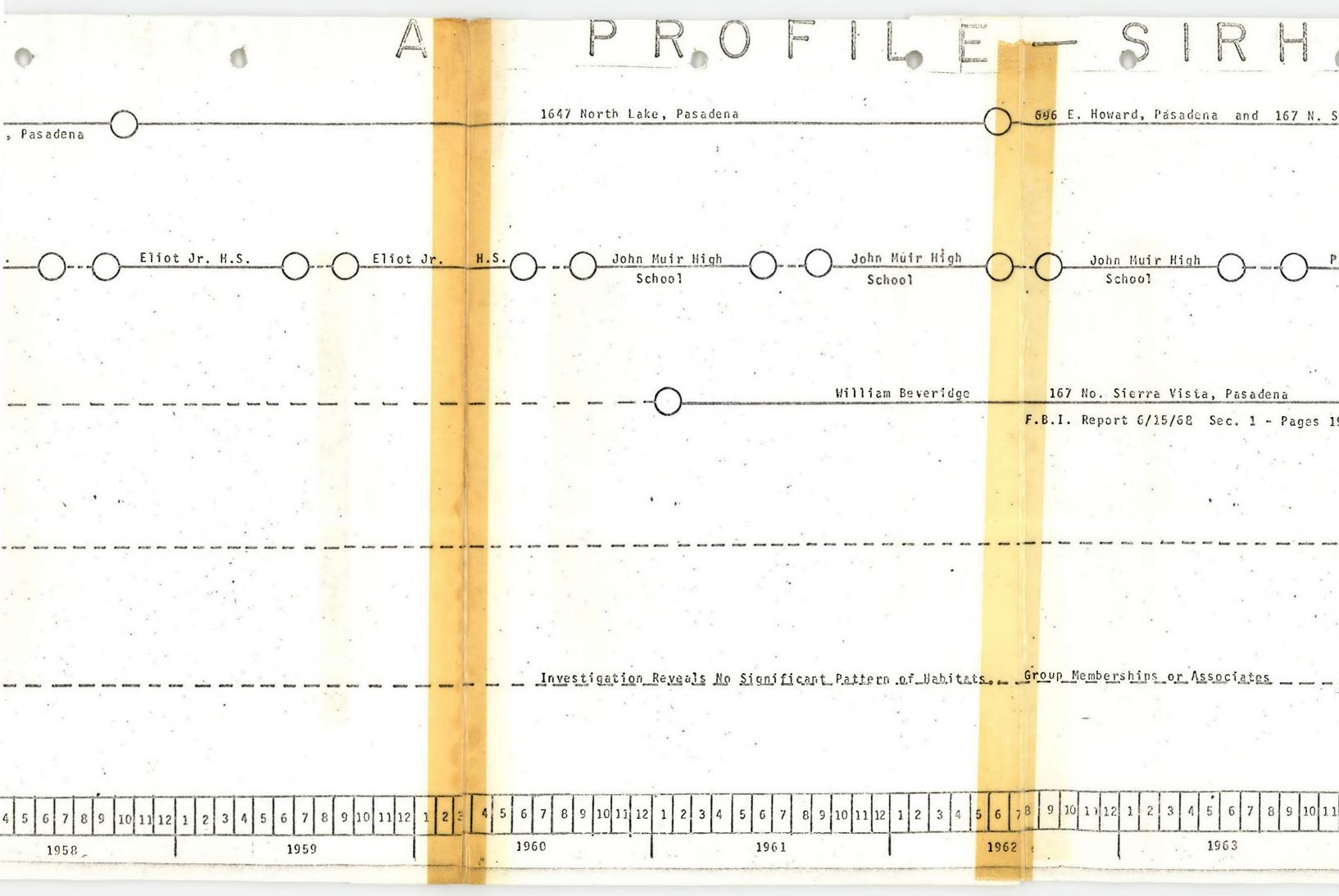
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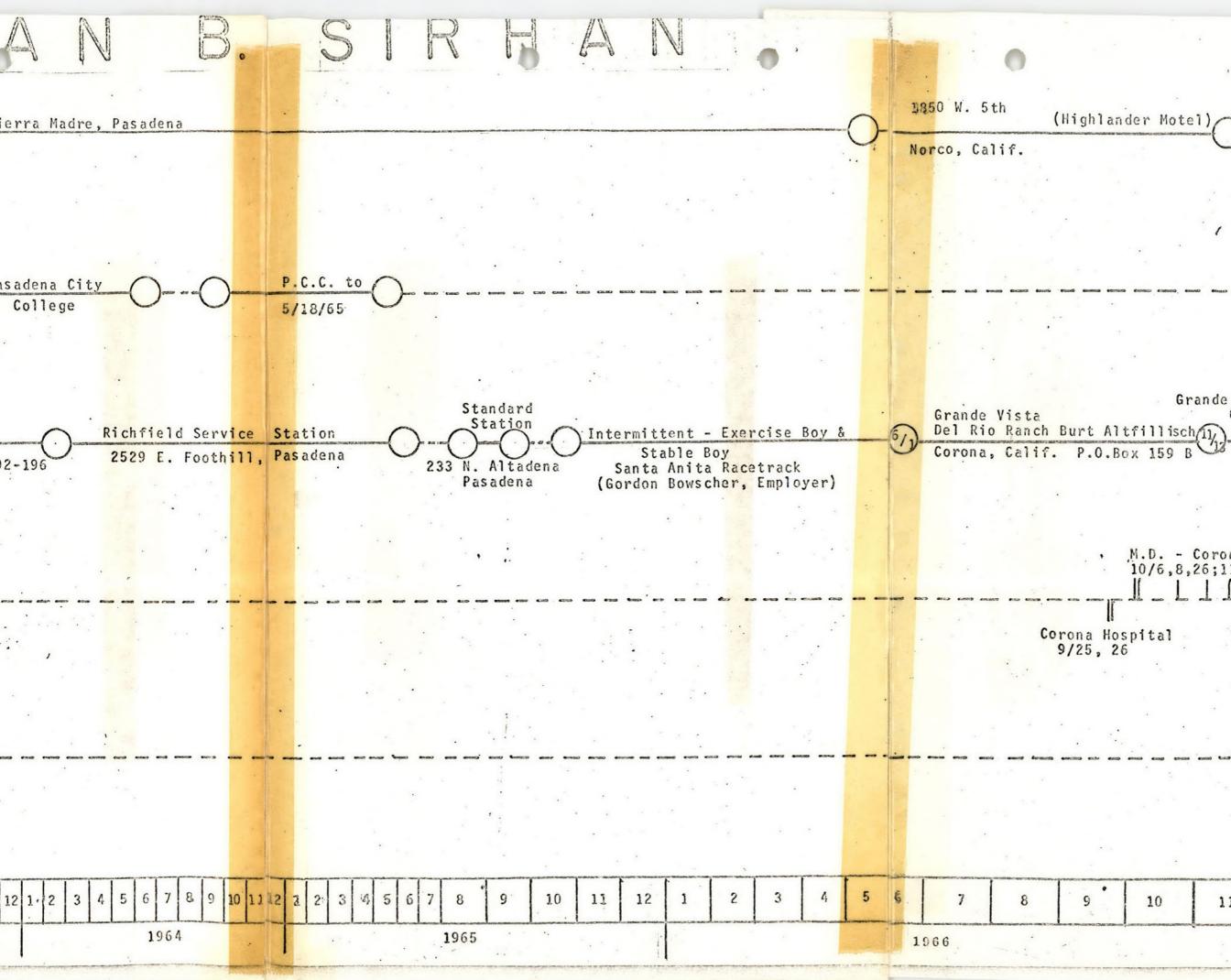
positions the certain members of the multtees had in influencing policies such as foreign aid. He stated that Sirhan became quite agitated during the discussion and expressed the feeling that the committee system was unfair and undemocratic especially when the wrong people control the committees.

Faizullah Khan added that he observed Sirhan at several political lectures at Los Angeles State College. Kahan Hamzch, a former acquaintance of Sirhan's, stated that Sirhan and his brother Saidallah were both unhappy and unable to adjust to the social and political atmosphere of the United States.

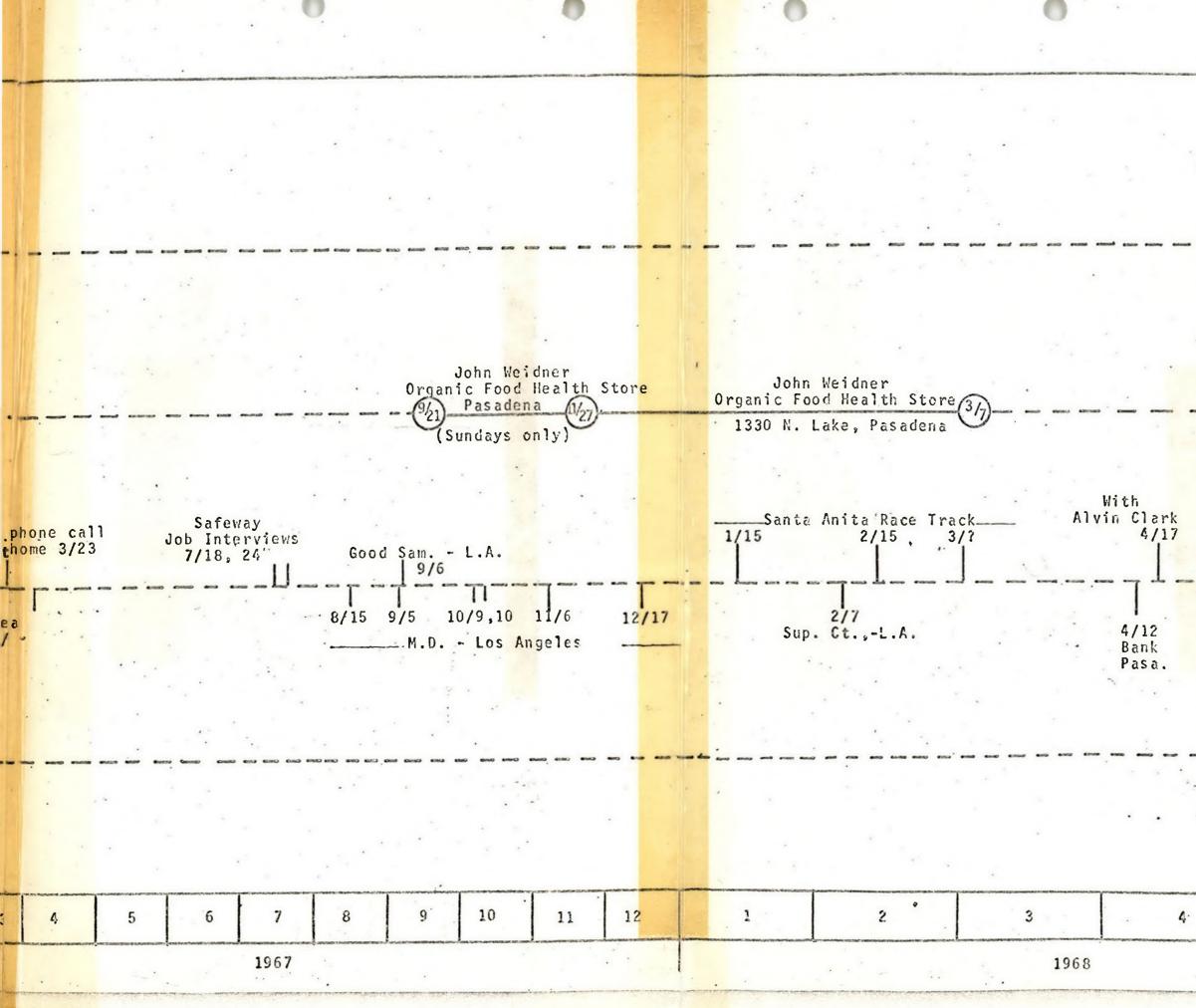
The investigation concluded that Sirhan was not formally associated with any political organizations. Sirhan was reported to have been involved in many political discussions with friends and acquaintances, and these are reported in other sections of this report.







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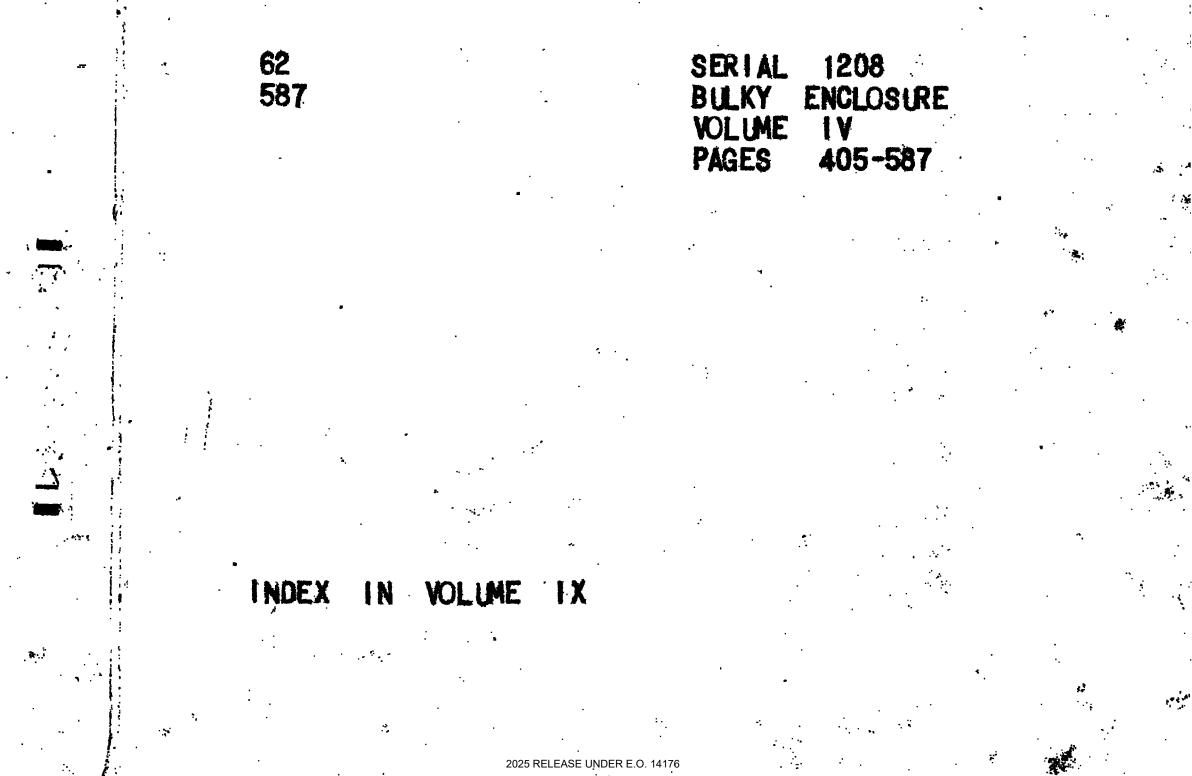
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An INVESTIGATION SUMMARY of the SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

June 5, 1968

VOLUME IV Pages 405 - 587 DETECTIVE BUREAU - LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT



An INVESTIGATION SUMMARY of the SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

The FINAL REPORT February 1969

SPECIAL UNIT SENATOR DETECTIVE BUREAU – LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT

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INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY

CHAPTER .V

VOLUME IV

EVENTS AT THE AMBASSADOR AND CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

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EMBASSY ROOM EXITS

During the investigation it was suggested that Sirhan had one or more co-conspirators who took positions near other exits in anticipation that Kennedy would walk to a location other than the pantry. The possibility that this might have occurred caused --investigators to place special emphasis on the interviews with witnesses who said they were near Embassy Room exits. Most of these witnesses were vague and could not relate what went on in the vicinity where they were standing. Those persons described as being suspicious generally turned out to be Latins employed by the hotel; however, the majority of witnesses were unable to describe any individual at a given time or place.

Kennedy Plans After the Victory Speech

The persons who managed Senator Robert F. Kennedy's campaign, and others reported to be close to the Senator, all agreed on his plans for election night, June 4, 1968. It was intended that the Senator would speak to an overflow crowd of supporters gathered in the Embassy Ballroom of the hotel; he would then attend a party. However, his itinerary between these two functions was the subject of disagreement among his staff members.

Various members of the Kennedy staff stated that the Senator had a habit of walking through the audience at the conclusion of his speeches. Other members of his staff thought he was going to the Ambassador Room to speak to the supporters crowded in that room, while still others reported that Senator-Kennedy's motorcade vehicles were waiting in front of the hotel at the time he completed the speech. Members of the press stated that he habitually held a press conference after his speeches,

In the event an interested person had made inquiries concerning the route Senator Kennedy planned to take after the speech, he would have been informed that the Senator intended to use one of three exits; this depended upon who was asked. These exits were: (1) The main ballroom exit, had Kennedy walked through the crowd. (2) The pantry, the closest way to the press room. (3) The inside stairs to the northwest of the stage, the route to the Ambassador Ballroom.

Guards at Exits

The main ballroom exit was guarded by two uniformed hotel guards, Albert Stowers and Jack Merritt. Arthur Maddox and Fred Murphy, both hotel security men, were in the hallway near the main doors. None of these security men reported any suspicious persons loitering about the exit.

The exit to the rear of the stage, leading to the pantry, was guarded by Thomas Perez. Two other guards, Stanley Kawalec and Thane Cesar waited for and accompanied Senator Kennedy through the pantry. No one considered Sirhan to be suspicious, although he was observed to be loitering in the pantry.

The inside stairway, leading to the Ambassador Room, was guarded by Willie Bell and Curtis Lloyd, uniformed hotel guards placed at that location for crowd control purposes. They were joined by William Gardner, Hotel Security Chief, during the __speech; the three of_them_awaited Senator Kennedy's arrival on the Casino Level. They did not observe any suspicious persons loitering at their location.

The Kennedy Staff Anchor Desk was located at the top of this stairway. Staff members, Lucy Salinger and Louis Warschaw, were at the Anchor Desk with John Frankenheimer, a friend of the Senator. They reported that they did not observe any suspicious persons at that location.

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THE POLKA DOT DRESS INVESTIGATION

Miss Sandra Serrano came to the attention of investigators on June 5, 1968, when she described a female running from the scene of the assassination of Robert Kennedy. She alleged that the female stated, "We shot him, we shot him." The person was alleged to have been wearing a polka dot dress. Miss Serrano's allegation was partially corroborated by statements of another witness, Vincent Di Pierro. A full-scale investigation and search for this suspect took place as a result.

Subsequent investigation revealed that Miss Serrano had concocted the entire story of the female suspect. Evidence also indicated that Miss Serrano could not have heard or seen all of the events that she alleged. The investigation of the "Girl in the Polka Dot Dress" follows:

Events at the Hotel

On June 5, 1968, at 12:30 a.m., John Ambrose, a Los Angeles Deputy District Attorney, was approached outside the main entrance of the Ambassador Hotel by Sandra Serrano a 20-year-old Kennedy worker. She was obviously excited and told Ambrose that prior to her learning of the shooting, a man and woman walked toward her in a hotel corridor. As they passed, the woman stated, "We just shot him." Serrano asked the woman, "Who shot who?" The woman replied, "We just shot Senator Kennedy." Serrano described the man and woman as follows:

Female Caucasian, 22-26, 5-5, good figure, wearing a white dress with black polka dots, with a bib collar, long sleeves and wearing heels.

Male Mexican-American, 23, wearing a gold sweater.

Ambrose, realizing the importance of her statement, directed her to detectives in the Embassy Room. While waiting for the investigators, she was interviewed by Sandor Vanocur, an NBC-TV news commentator, on a live telecast over the NBC television network. During the interview, she stated essentially the same information she had told Ambrose, but changed the location of the encounter with the couple from a corridor inside the hotel to an outside staircase. After her encounter and before meeting Ambrose, she telephoned her parents, Manuel and Amparo Serrano, at their home in Lorain, Ohio, to tell them about the shooting.

Sandra Serrano Interviews

Serrano was interviewed at Rampart Station at 2:35 a.m. on June 5, 1968, She stated that while on an outside staircase of the hotel, she observed the female and two male companions going upstairs. She thought she heard gunshots, but at the time thought they were the backfires of a car. The female and one of the males reappeared running down the stairs. The male that did not come back down the stairs was described as Mexican-American, 23-25, 5-2 to 5-5, 130-135, wearing a light shirt, possibly beige pants and needing a haircut. Serrano was certain that she could identify the female and the male companion who came back down the stairs but wasn't sure if she could identify the other male she had seen walking up the stairs.

At 4 a.m. Serrano was reinterviewed. During this interview, Serrano's statements were essentially the same as in her previous interview. She did elaborate on the description of the polka dot dress, stating the dress was an "A-frame" style with a "bib collar" and "3/4 length sleeves." The dress was "white with -black polka dots approximately 1/8" in size."

Vincent Di Pierro Corroborated Serrano's Allegations

At 4:25 a.m. at Parker Center, investigators interviewed Vincent Di Pierro. During this interview Di Pierro stated that he is employed at the Ambassador Hotel as a waiter. He stated that he was in the pantry when Senator Kennedy was shot and that he observed the shooting. He saw Sirhan on a tray stand in the pantry area at the east end of the ice machine. He observed a female wearing a polka dot dress standing next to Sirhan. Di Pierro believed the female and Sirhan were together; he observed Sirhan turn toward the female, appear to say something and she turned and smiled at him. Di Pierro described the female as Caucasian, 20-24, well built, brunette colored shoulder length hair, wearing a white dress with black polka dots.

As a result of receiving the information from Serrano and Di Pierro, the Los Angeles Police Department broadcast a teletype requesting information for the arrest of a woman in a polka dot dress. The teletype was sent at 11:50 a.m., June 5, 1968, and an identical description on a supplemental teletype was sent at 12:30 p.m. the same day. The description was as follows: Female Caucasian, 23-27, 5-6, wearing a white voile dress, 3/4 sleeves with small black polka dots, dark shoes, bouffant-type hair.

The Follow-up Investigation

On June 7, 1968, Serrano reviewed colored films taken at the

Ambassador Hotel by NBC News in an attempt to identify the suspects she had seen on the steps. She was unable to do so.

On June 7, 1968, Serrano was interviewed by F.B.I. Special Agent Richard C. Burris at her home, 2212 North Marengo Street, Altadena. Serrano told him that on June 4, 1968, at 8:30 p.m., that she left the Youth for Kennedy Pasadena Headquarters with four committee workers. At 11:30 p.m., she left the Ambassador Ballroom and went out onto an outside stairway. She sat on the fifth or sixth step of the stairs that lead up to the Embassy Two or three minutes later a woman and two men started Room. up the stairs. When the woman got near her, the woman said, "Excuse us," and Serrano moved to the side so the three could pass. For the next 20 to 25 minutes, no other person went up or down past her. After hearing some noises that sounded like an automobile backfire, one of the men and the woman ran back down The woman yelled, "We shot him, we shot him." "Who the stairs. did you shoot?" she asked. The woman replied, "Senator Kennedy."

Serrano-went inside the hallway area and asked an unidentified guard if Senator Kennedy had been shot. The guard told her she must have had too much to drink. She went to a public phone booth inside the Ambassador Hotel and called her parents in Ohio. While Serrano was in the phone booth, Barbara Fleckenstein, a Kennedy co-worker, approached and asked her if it were true that --Senator Kennedy had been shot and she answered, "Yes." Serrano stated that she had difficulty in explaining to her parents what had happened, because she was crying and near complete hysteria. After leaving the phone booth, she went back to the Ambassador Ballroom and met Greg Abbott and Dave Haines, both co-workers, but was unable to get either to understand what had happened. As she walked out of the ballroom, she met Irene Chavez, a good friend, and began walking towards the parking lot. Serrano then walked up to a man (John Ambrose) and told him what she had heard the woman say. Ambrose directed her to a policeman in the Embassy Room. While she was sitting in the Embassy Room waiting -to be interviewed by the police, a person asked if she were a witness and before she realized it she was being interviewed on television. Serrano was then taken to Rampart Station where she was interviewed by investigators from the Department.

On June 8, 1968, F.B.I. investigators interviewed Manuel Serrano and Amparo Serrano, parents of Sandra Serrano. They verified their daughter's statement regarding a phone call to them the night of the shooting. Amparo Serrano does not recall her daughter mentioning anything about a girl saying, "We just shot Senator Kennedy." She does remember her saying, "Why would they do anything like this?"

On June 10, 1968, Serrano viewed eight assorted dress styles in an effort to pick out a dress similar to the polka dot dress. These dresses were numbered one through eight for identification purposes. After viewing each dress, she picked out dress number six and stated it looked the same as the polka dot dress except for the sleeve length.

Di Pierro viewed the eight assorted dresses and selected dress

number four as most like the polka dot dress he had seen at the Ambassador Hotel. Di Pierro recalled talking to Sandra Serrano while they were waiting to be interviewed on the night of the shooting. During this conversation, the woman wearing the polka dot dress was mentioned but was not described by either except for saying it was white with black polka dots.

After viewing the dress Serrano was asked if she would consent to a polygraph examination to verify her statement. She answered affirmatively. She was also asked to reenact the incident on the stairs. She consented and a video tape was made of her sitting on the outside stairway leading down from the southwest corner of the Embassy Room.

Elements of the Investigation Conflict

On June 19, 1968, investigators interviewed Captain Cecil R. Lynch of the Los Angeles Fire Department. Lynch stated that the hight of the assassination he was assigned to enforce occupancy and fire regulations at the Ambassador Hotel. During the time Senator Kennedy made his victory speech in the Embassy Room, Lynch began checking various stairways and exits for possible violations of fire regulations. Lynch stated that he checked the stairs Serrano alleged to have been seated on moments before Senator Kennedy was shot, and at that time no one was seated on the stairs.

On June 20, 1968, 11:30 a.m., sound-level tests were conducted at the Ambassador Ballroom. A .22 caliber Cadet model revolver was used, with .22 caliber ammunition which matched the brand and lot used in the assassination. The test weapon was fired in the Embassy Room pantry at the same location that Senator Kennedy was shot. The weapon was held horizontal to the floor -with the muzzle-pointed towards the west door of the pantry. A series of one, four and eight shots were fired. During these tests, there were no functions occurring in the Embassy Room, Sunset Room or the Boulevard Room. The tests were conducted with the exit door from the Sunset Room both open and closed. The sound-level tests indicated it would have been impossible for Serrano to have heard the shots. The sound-level meter indicated a & decibel change when the test shots were fired. The minimum sound-level change discernible by a person with normal hearing is 2 decibels.

Serrano's Polygraph Examination

Investigators invited Serrano to take a polygraph examination. The polygraph examination was given by Sgt. Hernandez #7101 on June 20, 1968. The following report of the polygraph examination was submitted by Hernandez:

Sandra Serrano - Date of Examination - June 20, 1968 <u>Allegation</u>: Miss Serrano stated that on the late evening of June 4, 1968, she was sitting on a rear stairway approximately half-way up between the Handing connecting the Sunset Room and the Embassy Ballroom of Ambassador Hotel. She stated that shortly before midnight she observed two males and one female walk up the stairway and enter the Embassy Ballroom. Miss Serrano described one of the men as being Sirhan and described

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the woman as wearing a white dress with black polka dots.

Miss Serrano stated that approximately ten to fifteen minutes after she observed these people enter the Embassy Room, she heard approximately eight to ten gunshots in succession; that a couple of minutes after the shots she observed the girl in the white and black polka dot dress and one of the men running down the stairway where she was still sitting. She noted that Sirhan was not with them. The girl in the polka dot dress was yelling, "We shot him, we shot him." Miss Serrano asked, "Who did you shoot?" and the girl answered, "Kennedy, we shot Kennedy." Serrano stated she later identified photographs of Sirhan Sirhan as the man who entered the Embassy Ballroom, but who failed to return with the other man and the girl in the polka dot dress after the shooting.

<u>Conclusion:</u> Polygraph examination disclosed that Sandra Serrano has never seen Sirhan Sirhan in person; further, that Miss Serrano fabricated, for some unknown reason, the story about the girl in the polka dot dress. Responses to relevant questions indicate that no one made statements to Miss Serrano telling her that they had shot Kennedy or that she heard any gunshots during the late evening of June 4 or early morning of June 5, 1968. Miss Serrano was informed of the results of the polygraph examination.

<u>Results:</u> Miss Serrano was interrogated extensively and ultimately she admitted that the story about Sirhan Sirhan, the girl in the polka dot dress and the gunshots was not true. She stated that she had been sitting on the Stairway at the time that she had mentioned and that she did hear a car backfire a couple of times, but she knew that the sounds did in fact come from a car, and were not gunshots. She said that while she was sitting on the stairway, approximately four or five people came running down the stairway screaming that Kennedy had been shot. "She stated that no one at any time told her that "They had themselves shot Kennedy."

Miss Serrano-stated that she-had no-knowledge of any polka dot dress until after the assassination and just prior to her being interviewed. She states that she was sitting waiting to be interviewed when she heard a kid making reference to a girl in . a polka dot dress.

She talked to the young man and each of them inquired of the other about the description of the dress and the girl. According to Miss Serrano there must have been a mutual agreement between them as to the description of the girl and the polka dot dress. Miss Serrano stated that later when she was being questioned by the police, she felt that she should know more than she actually did, and eventually the statements which were attributed to her were publicized on TV and in newspapers. She said that she knew the statements were not true; but, that she could not change "them because it would make her Took like a fool.

Reinterview With Di Pierro

On July 1, 1968, Vincent Di Pierro was reinterviewed and given a polygraph examination by investigators. The polygraph operator determined that Di Pierro had been untruthful

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about what he saw at the hotel. Di Pierro was advised of the statements of Miss Serrano. He admitted that he had discussed the polka dot dress with Serrano prior to his original interview. He stated that he had been confused the night of the assassination and that he had not seen a girl talking to Sirhan in the kitchen. Di Pierro advised investigators that he had not seen the girl in the polka dot dress but that he may have seen a girl somewhere in the hotel who caused him to think he ---had seen-the-girl Serrano mentioned.

Events Occurring in Response to the News Release Regarding the Girl in a Polka Dot Dress

On June 6, 1968, 3 p.m., Mrs. Edith Goldstein discovered a paper sack containing a gray dress with white polka dots, miscellaneous feminine undergarments and cosmetics. The sack was found lying in the alley at the rear of 1835 Crescent Heights Boulevard, Los Angeles. The property was booked found evidence at Rampart Station. Investigators interviewed Mrs. Ruby Nishio at 1835 Crescent Heights Boulevard, and the occupants of the neighboring homes, but were unable to obtain any further information.

On June 7, 1968, the contents of the sack containing a polka dot dress found by Edith Goldstein were processed for fingerprints by Latent Prints Section. Numerous fingerprints were found and photographed. These fingerprints were only adequate for elimination purposes.

The contents of the sack containing the polka dot dress found