

## ELECTION NIGHT AT THE HOTEL

In addition to Kennedy's group, Democrat Alan Cranston and Republican Max Rafferty, eventual winners in the primary election for U. S. Senator, also had headquarters in the hotel. By 6 p.m. there were many people present in the hotel including permanent residents, members of the press, out-of-state guests, representatives from a Bulova Watch Company sales meeting and General Electric product introduction meeting. Delegates were arriving for the Pacific Telephone Seminar to be held on June 6th, and others were registering for a two-day seminar for hospital administrators. There was a total of 514 registered guests at the hotel.

The majority of the people arriving at the hotel, however, were there to attend the anticipated election victory celebrations. Jose Cervantes, a hotel employee, checked credentials of visitors at the Embassy Room, which was reserved for the Kennedy party, beginning at 4:15 p.m. At 6 p.m., the hotel security guards arrived and were assigned by William Gardner, hotel security chief. Guards Albert Stowers and Jack Merritt were assigned to the main door of the Embassy Room to relieve Cervantes. The crews manning the three television mobile units in the parking lot began working and the Kennedy Anchor Desk in the Embassy Room was opened. The victory party for Alan Cranston began in the Palm Room, and a small band started playing at that location. Stowers reported there were a large number of people in the Embassy Room by 6:30 p.m.

At 7 p.m., the Max Rafferty victory celebration began in the West Venetian Room and another band began playing. Warren Weaver, reporter for the New York Times, arrived and found several members of the press present in the Colonial Room which had been converted into a press room for the evening. At 7:15 p.m. McDonald decided to close the Embassy Room to volunteer campaign workers and restrict entry to those possessing press passes or Kennedy Staff badges. At 7:30 p.m., Captain Leonard Rohm, Public Assemblage Unit, Los Angeles Fire Department, noted that the only activity in the area of the Kennedy suite on the fifth floor appeared to be the television camera and engineering crews moving equipment through the halls.

The polls closed in Los Angeles County at 8 p.m. and the public bars in the hotel opened. A free Champagne bar at the Rafferty party in the West Venetian Room also opened. Arthur Maddox, hotel guard, was stationed in the area with orders to keep the peace. A Kennedy girl, directed pedestrian traffic at the entrance of the Embassy Room. Barbara Schlei, a volunteer campaign worker, was assisting Kennedy workers and VIP's not having passes into the Embassy Room.

John Frankenheimer, Hollywood producer and friend of Senator Kennedy, drove the Senator to the hotel from his home in Malibu. They arrived at 8:15 p.m. and went directly to the Kennedy suite on the fifth floor.

By 8:30 p.m., admittance to the Embassy Room was becoming difficult due to more effective control of admissions at the entrances.

the crowd had approached the occupancy limit. Many witnesses, however, reported circumventing the security guards and entering the Embassy Room by other routes after being turned away at the main doors. At 9 p.m., a singing group named "Sounds of Our Times" entered the Embassy Room and began singing while walking around the floor of the ballroom. Cecil R. Lynch, fire inspector of the Los Angeles Fire Department, determined the Embassy Room to be at its safe and legal capacity at 9:30 p.m. He ordered the main doors to be closed to all entry except on a one-in one-out basis.

Dave Kennerly, photographer for United Press International, went to the fifth floor of the hotel at 10 p.m. and found a press party in progress involving thirty to forty key members of the traveling press. Back at the press headquarters in the Colonial Room, Samuel Reis, a volunteer Kennedy worker, was assigned to bar unauthorized persons from entering the area. Senator Kennedy went to a room on the fourth floor and filmed a television interview for NBC. He returned to the fifth floor and filmed a joint interview with ABC and CBS Television. The lobby became crowded, and the guards at the Embassy Room door began advising the people to go downstairs to the Ambassador Room. Fire Inspector Lynch determined the Ambassador Room to be reaching its occupancy limit at 11 p.m.

Midge Jay, a member of the Kennedy Staff, was leading the singing and cheering from the stage of the Ambassador Room most of the evening. A mariachi band arrived and began playing, in conflict with the scheduled entertainment already in progress.

The mariachi band had not been invited, and their actions came close to triggering an incident with racial overtones involving the Mexican-American factions present in the room. The Sunset Room was opened, and Inspector Lynch used the mariachi band to lead part of the crowd into the newly opened area. This room was spontaneously renamed the "Viva Kennedy Room" by those who moved their celebration there.

One hundred forty-four representatives of the news media were present at the hotel. The majority were from out of the area, registering in 116 rooms of the hotel. The group included well-known reporters from the largest newspapers, representatives from all the local papers, national magazines, wire services and the radio and television media.

## PRESS COVERAGE AT THE AMBASSADOR

June 4, 1968, was the date California scheduled its Primary election. The several national presidential candidates, the voters and the press were aware that the winners of this election could become the candidate of his party in the General Election. The political climate, the Kennedy name and the results of polls, which indicated a Kennedy win, precipitated an abundance of newsmen in Los Angeles with a large proportion of these at the Ambassador Hotel. The world press poised and awaited the voice of the voters.

The media from throughout the Free World was present in the crowd. The writing press, national periodicals and local papers were joined by representatives of major Eastern papers, national wire services, foreign periodicals and foreign newspapers. The television media was represented by the three major networks, local independent stations, foreign agencies and numerous independent producers, hopeful of selling their product to an unrepresented news agency. The radio station and independent newsmen, with their portable tape recorders, completed the large group from the news gathering agencies. Literally dozens of independent photographers, some hobbyists, some commercial and some involved in educational projects also joined the throng of professionals. More than 150 interviewees identified themselves as newsmen.

The physical layout of the election headquarters was planned with the press in mind. The Colonial Room, adjacent to the

Embassy Ballroom, was set up to accommodate the press. Tables, telephones, typewriters and teletype machines were available exclusively for them. The raised platform on the south wall of the Embassy Room was reserved for cameras and their crews. Locations were set aside for crews to set up and film interviews in the Gold Room, serving pantry and in two rooms on the fourth and fifth floors. The Kennedy Campaign Anchor Desk, established behind the Embassy Room stage, served as a liaison among members of the news media and the Kennedy staff. The news and vote count was received via a portable teletype machine located nearby.

Television monitors were scattered throughout the hotel to allow press and supporters to keep informed of the election's progress. The importance of proper news coverage and accessibility of the candidate to the media appeared to be a consideration to the Kennedy staff. Many witnesses later stated that their assignments involved assisting or directing the press. One member of Kennedy's national staff was responsible for arranging transportation so newsmen could accompany the candidate throughout the campaign with a minimum of inconvenience. A number of witnesses indicated that complimentary beverages were served by the Kennedy staff, at appropriate times, to members of the press.

The vote tabulation in Los Angeles County was extremely slow on June 4 and newsmen, particularly those engaged in live coverage, found their sequences lagging. Interviews, reports from various election night headquarters, vote tabulations and analyses of California politics by network personalities were utilized to give the programs some activity.

News men assigned to a specific headquarters wandered into other candidates' headquarters, searching for something to report. A press party had begun on the fifth floor of the hotel by 10 p.m., with thirty to forty participants.

Senator Kennedy's every move during the evening appeared to have been photographed or noted by the press. He was photographed relaxing in his room during interviews, walking to the elevator on route to the ballroom, speaking to the kitchen help, signing autographs and making his victory speech in the Embassy Room. Photographs taken of the Embassy Room during the speech depict a virtual sea of camera and sound equipment surrounding and focused on the Senator.

At approximately 12:15 a.m., when Senator Kennedy finished his speech, he was to go to a scheduled press conference in the Colonial Room. News men would be awaiting his arrival, others would be following him. A few were not aware of the conference. It was not determined the reason for a news conference at 12:15 a.m. Witnesses stated that the deadlines for Eastern and Middle Western newspapers were past at the time of the speech; however, other witnesses reported a rumor that members of the "writing" press were dissatisfied with the cavalier treatment they had received from the Kennedy staff and that they had demanded the late hour press conference. It was subsequently determined that those reporting the rumors were among the few not informed of the conference. None of the news men interviewed reported being poorly treated during the campaign by the Kennedy staff.

## VICTORY SPEECH

By 11:30 p.m., the crowd in the Embassy Room was restlessly anticipating an appearance by Senator Kennedy. Jesse Unruh, speaker of the California Assembly, spoke to the crowd in the Embassy Room and sent his legislative assistant, Jack C. Crose, to the fifth floor to get Senator Kennedy. John W. Gallivan, Jr., advance man for Kennedy, made arrangements to hold an elevator for the Senator and his Staff. The Kennedy group, assembled in Room 512, was led to the elevator by Uno Timinson, hotel vice-president in charge of banquets and sales. En route to the elevator, Senator Kennedy advised Sylvia Wright, Life Magazine correspondent, to avoid the crowd by staying on the fifth floor until after the speech. She was to then meet him in the Colonial Room prior to going to a private party for the Kennedy group at The Factory, a discotheque bar in Hollywood.

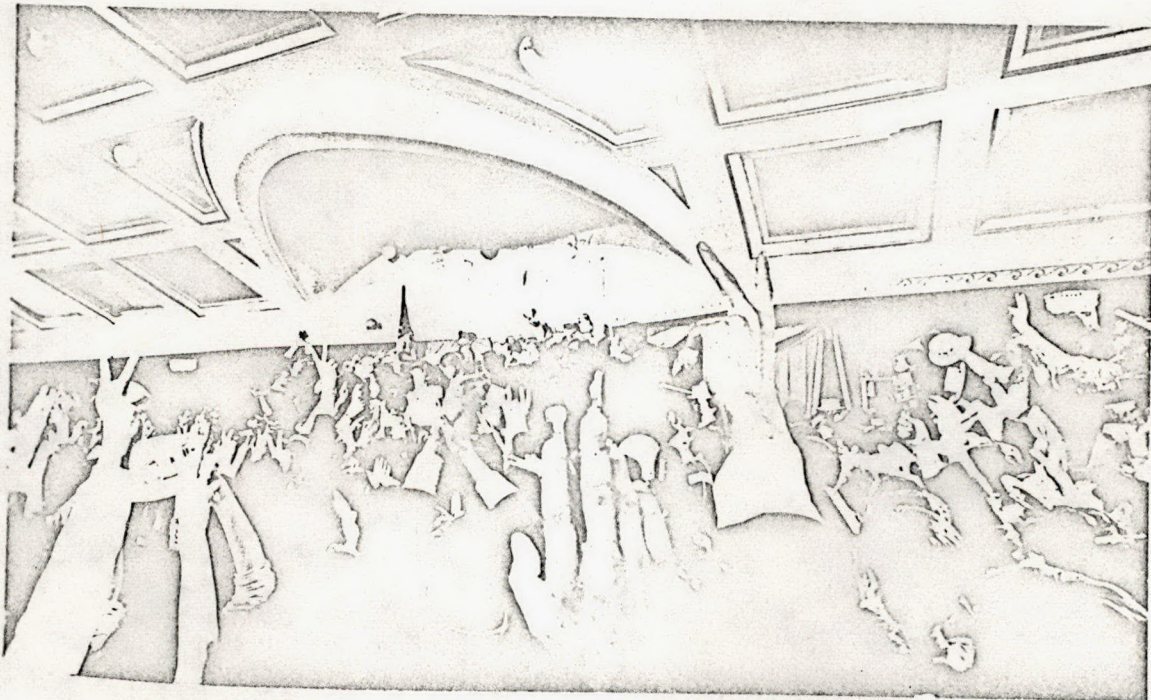
The group boarded the elevator and Senator Kennedy asked where they would exit. When he learned it would be the lobby, he stated he would prefer going the back way. Timinson directed the group to the service elevators which took the group to the kitchen area. The following were on the elevator en route to the kitchen: Senator Kennedy, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, Crose, Gallivan, Timinson, Frank Mankiewicz, National Press Secretary; Richard Tuck, Public Relations aide; Fred Dutton, campaign Corrdinator; William Barry, Kennedy's bodyguard; Edward Minasian, hotel maitre d'; Hays Gorey, Time Magazine reporter; Delores Huerta, a union organizer from Delano; Roosevelt Grier, ex-Ram football player; and Rafer Johnson, former UCLA athlete.

The group left the elevator on the lobby level and was led by Timinson through the kitchen and employees' lunch area. Kennedy stopped to shake hands with numerous people and several newsmen and one television cameraman photographed the activity. Minasian remembered the kitchen area being almost empty with everything in order. Volunteers assisted the hotel personnel by clearing a path through the growing crowd of people. Senator Kennedy stopped and autographed a poster for Michael Wayne, a bookstore employee and collector of campaign autographs and souvenirs; then proceeded past an honor guard of Kennedy girls through the swinging doors and onto the stage. The time was 12:02.10 a.m. This time was established by KNXT video tape #456-90.

Many people were on the stage and the Embassy Room was packed with an over flow crowd as Kennedy approached the podium. He was greeted by applause that lasted thirty seconds, making it impossible for him to be heard over the public address system. News cameras filmed the speech from the south side of the room, and the television lights increased the heat in the already hot room. Prior to the end of the speech, a group of campaign workers formed a human chain to assist the Senator off the west end of the stage. This was apparently done in the event the Senator went to the Anchor Desk which was the information center regarding election results. Senator Kennedy spoke until 12:14.47 a.m. Time established by KNXT tape #456-90. One of his aides said, "This way, Senator," and he turned and exited via the rear of the stage.



An overflow crowd heard Senator Kennedy's  
victory speech in the Embassy Room



## FROM THE STAGE TO THE KITCHEN

senator Kennedy walked hurriedly across the twelve feet to the back door of the stage, turned right, walked down the incline and through the anteroom between the Embassy Room and the serving pantry. He was en route to the Colonial Room at the far end of the pantry. The Colonial Room was being used by the "writing press."

According to Fred Dutton, this decision to meet with the writing press in the Colonial Room and the route to be taken had been planned by him and William Barry. The decision was made five minutes before the conclusion of the Senator's speech. Ordinarily these two men were at the Senator's side, but after returning to the stage, they were unable to get close to him. Dutton recalled that they were positioned to the left and six to eight feet in front of the Senator on the stage. The Senator was to have exited the stage to his left and Dutton and Barry were to have proceeded him. When Kennedy left the rear of the stage, Dutton and Barry exited the stage on the left, entered the anteroom and hurriedly forced their way through the crowd in an attempt to catch up with Kennedy.

A portion of the Kennedy party left the stage via the swinging doors and a crowd followed. As the Senator entered the pantry, there were newsmen, hotel employees, Kennedy Staff members and well wishers ahead of him. The area within the first sixteen feet had been used by ABC Television as an interview area. Drapes were hung over the cupboards and wooden lattice-work

partitions covered with green plastic flowers lined the walls. Television cables were lying on the floor and a television monitor stood at the northwest corner. Several individuals were sitting on tables and chairs, while others stood in the pantry. Some waved to the Senator, others reached out hoping to shake his hand. The crowd from the ballroom followed behind the Senator. As the Senator stopped to shake hands with the kitchen help, there were twenty-three known persons crowded into an area ten feet by ten feet.

Kennedy's bodyguard, William Barry, was on the incline eight feet behind him and Mrs. Kennedy told him, "Stay with the Senator." He then began pushing his way through the dense crowd toward Kennedy. Fred Dutton exited the rear of the stage and found himself trapped by the crowd and unable to reach the Senator. Thomas Perez, security guard assigned to the pantry entrance, was pushed aside by the crowd and trapped behind a swinging door.

Several people noted that something unusual was occurring, since it was not Senator Kennedy's habit to walk ahead of his entourage. Attorney Frank Burns, a campaign advisor, followed Senator Kennedy from the stage. Turning toward the kitchen, he noted that Senator Kennedy was walking "quite fast." Burns called out to the Senator to slow down since he was getting ahead of everyone. He rushed after the Senator, overtaking him as he stopped to shake hands with kitchen help.

Richard Lubic stood in the kitchen as Senator Kennedy entered. Lubic had been acquainted with the Kennedys and was familiar

with their campaign techniques. He was most impressed with the fact that the Senator was "out in front of the group alone."

Valerie Schulte followed the Senator into the kitchen. Walking on a crutch, she found it difficult to keep up as Senator Kennedy was "walking very fast."

Boris Yaro, photographer for the Los Angeles Times, stood in the kitchen and raised his camera as the Senator approached, but before he could take a picture, the Senator had rushed past him.

Vincent Di Pierro, a college student and son of the hotel maitre d', was walking to the Senator's right and was approximately five feet from the Senator. Prior to the Senator's stopping to shake hands and converse with hotel employees, Di Pierro was in the vicinity of the wall, next to the ice machine, that extends from the south wall of the pantry. It was at this location that Di Pierro observed a man standing on a tray rack at the east end of the ice machine. He recalled the man as he had an unusual smile on his face and appeared to be bending over, holding his right hand against his stomach. Di Pierro turned his attention from this man and looked in the direction of the Senator who was speaking with hotel employees.

Karl Uecker and Edward Minasian, hotel waiter captains, accompanied the Senator from the stage, to the kitchen. They had stopped and were standing by the Senator as he shook hands and spoke with the kitchen help. After a few moments, Uecker reached out and took hold of the Senator's right arm to assist him toward the Colonial Room.

**THE SHOOTING**

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Senator Kennedy stopped and shook hands with Martin Patrusky, a hotel waiter; he then shook hands with two other employees, Vincent Di Pierro and Jesus Perez. Karl Uecker, with his left hand holding the Senator's right arm, was standing at the west edge of the first serving table across from the ice machine.

Lisa Urso, college student and campaign worker, had driven from San Diego for the election night activities. She was standing in the pantry across from the second serving table. She saw Sirhan B. Sirhan cross her field of vision, going from left to right, and move toward the Senator. Uecker was two feet from the table looking toward the Senator when he felt Sirhan come between him and the table. Urso saw Sirhan reach to his waist area with his right hand. He removed a gun and lunged toward the Senator with his right arm fully extended. The following statements are recollections of persons present in the pantry during the shooting:

Karl Uecker stated the suspect was in front of him when the first shot was fired. Uecker thought the first shot was a firecracker, but when the Senator started to fall, he became aware that someone was shooting. Di Pierro observed Sirhan in front of him and thought he was going to shake hands with the Senator. Then he saw that Sirhan had a gun in his right hand. Then Sirhan was "up on his toes" and firing. Edward Minasian saw Sirhan moving to his right and instantly saw two flashes from the gun. He saw Paul Schrade fall to the floor and then the Senator fell. Dolores Beilenson saw Sirhan raise a pistol,

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fire three shots, and observed three flashes from the gun. She had a distinct recollection of an "angry and determined" look on Sirhan's face. Her view of the suspect was brief because people were moving in front of her. After the third shot, she lost sight of Sirhan. Richard Lubic observed an arm and a gun pointed at the Senator's head. He heard the shots but did not see any flashes. His next recollection was being on the floor and the Senator's head next to his feet. Valerie Schulte saw Sirhan pushing a small gun toward the Senator. She recalled the gun was parallel to the side or back of the Senator's head when Sirhan began firing. She witnessed the shooting but did not see Sirhan sufficiently to identify him. A thirteen year old Kennedy worker, Ronald Panda, saw Sirhan holding a gun. He heard two shots, saw flame from the gun, and recalled a pause prior to the next six shots.

Constance Lawn, free-lance reporter, heard the first shot, turned, and saw Sirhan fire the gun. After the second or third shot, someone grabbed Sirhan. She observed the Senator raise his hands and stagger backwards. Evan Freed, free-lance photographer, was going to take a picture of the Senator. He heard the sound of firecrackers, saw Sirhan with the gun in his hand, and saw someone fall. Peter Hamill, a writer, was twelve feet in front of the Senator. He heard shots, saw Sirhan with his arm extended shooting at the falling Senator. He recalled a look of tremendous concentration on Sirhan's face. Frank Burns, attorney, heard the sounds of the shooting and saw an arm extended, holding a gun. He watched the Senator falling back, and he appeared to

no spinning. The Senator's arms were up. Sirhan had stepped forward and was firing the gun at the falling body of the senator. Boris Yaro, Los Angeles Times photographer, was about to take a picture of the Senator when he heard two shots. He saw the Senator take several steps backwards with his arms to his head. Sirhan was lunging at the Senator and firing. Martin Patrusky, hotel waiter, heard the shots and saw the Senator falling backwards. Robert Toigo, an aide to State Senator Anthony Beilenson, heard "popping" sounds, looked in the direction of the sounds, and saw a mass of figures. He then crawled under a table. Richard Drew, Pasadena Star News photographer, heard the sounds of firecrackers as he was going to take a picture of the Senator. He looked up, saw smoke, and observed the Senator falling. Ralph Elmore, ABC television engineer, heard four shots and saw a flash from the gun. He thought Sirhan was resting the gun on the table while firing. Larry Dean, ABC television technician, remembered the sounds of firecrackers and people screaming. He looked up and saw bits of paper falling from the ceiling. Joseph Jones, hotel waiter, heard the shots and took cover behind the steam tables.

Juan Romero, hotel busboy, thought the gun was three feet from Senator Kennedy's head as the shooting began. Urso described the gun as being fired from point-blank range. William Barry recalled seeing the gun twelve inches from the Senator's head when it was fired. Due to the excitement of the moment and position of witnesses each gave different versions of the distance of the first shot, ranging from point-blank to several feet.

the distance, later established in laboratory examinations by the Coroner's Office and Scientific Investigation Division, was approximately one inch.

Sirhan fired a total of eight shots. The first shot struck the Senator in the right mastoid. Two shots struck the Senator in the right armpit, and one shot went through the right shoulder pad of the Senator's coat, without hitting him. It was the opinion of DeWayne Wolfer, Scientific Investigation Division, that the bullet that went through the Senator's coat padding struck Paul Schrade, who was standing behind the Senator. Sirhan fired the last four shots while witnesses were trying to apprehend him. In addition to the Senator, five other persons were wounded.



A few seconds after the shooting.

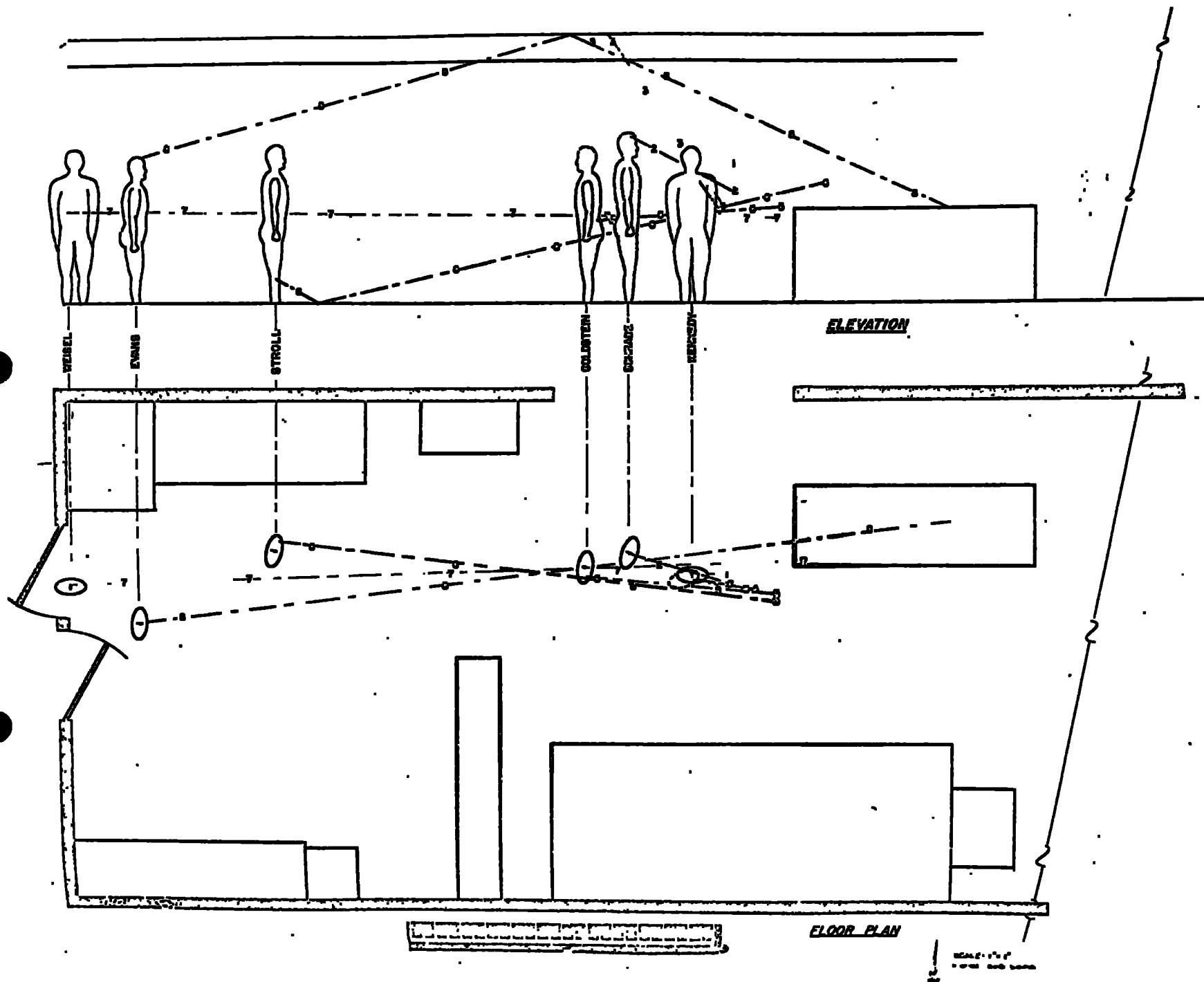


Diagram depicting the path of the eight shots fired by Sirhan.

## SIRHAN' CAPTURE

The following is the account of witnesses in the kitchen area who participated in the capture and holding of Sirhan prior to the arrival of the police.

Karl Uecker stated that he was holding Kennedy's arm and assisting him through the kitchen when the first shot was fired. Uecker swung around and seized Sirhan by the neck. Kennedy fell as Uecker grappled with Sirhan who continued shooting. Uecker then struck Sirhan's hand and tried to push the gun away from the crowd.

Edward Minasian, a waiter captain, stated that he seized Sirhan by the left side. Attorney Frank Burns stated that he also held Sirhan by the side and described the scene as chaotic as the group holding Sirhan struggled back and forth in front of the serving tables. Burns recalled that William Barry approached the struggling group and called out for a rope to tie Sirhan. Burns removed his belt and handed it to Barry. Burns then grabbed Sirhan's legs, and the group lifted Sirhan onto a serving table and restrained him.

Roosevelt Grier stated that he was in the anteroom when he heard the shots. He ran into the kitchen and saw the struggle with Sirhan. Grier attempted to grab the gun from Sirhan, but Sirhan was at first able to retain it. Grier then wrenched the gun from Sirhan's hand, and he gave it to Rafer Johnson. Joseph La Hive also attempted to grab the gun. When he saw that Grier had the gun, he let go of it. He told Grier, "Rosey, give it to

Rafer. Rafer is here. Give it to Rafer." Johnson and La Hive were also in the anteroom when they heard the shots. After Grier got the gun from Sirhan, he handed it to Johnson who kept it until he turned it over to Sergeant Mc Gann at Rampart Station.

William Barry, Kennedy's bodyguard, gave the following account of the capture of Sirhan. He stated that he was walking behind the Senator when he heard shooting and saw Sirhan with a gun in his right hand. Barry stated that he approached Sirhan and there was no one holding him. Barry then knocked the gun from Sirhan's right hand and struck Sirhan twice in the face with his fist. Sirhan retrieved the gun, and Barry wrestled with Sirhan until he felt that Sirhan was under the control of others. He then left to give aid to Senator Kennedy.

Jack Gallivan, a Kennedy aide, stated that he observed Barry and others wrestling with Sirhan. He ran to the group and told Barry that he could handle Sirhan and that he should assist the Senator.

Gabor Kadar, a businessman, observed Sirhan with the gun and people holding his arm on a table. He stated that he jumped on the table and hit Sirhan on the chest and knee. George Plimpton and Glen Midby stated that they also attempted to assist in the struggle with Sirhan.

Harold Burba, a Los Angeles Fire Department photographer, took five photographs of the capture of Sirhan approximately 20 seconds after the first shot was fired. The persons identified in the photograph were Uecker, Plimpton, Gallivan and Burns. Grier was seen approaching the struggle and Henry Carillo, Uno

Timanson and Richard Aubry were in the background.

Jesse Unruh was in the pantry but stated that he did not observe the shooting. He stated that he could do nothing for the Senator, and he concerned himself with the problem of restoring order by controlling the crowd. When it appeared that the crowd was controlled, he checked on Sirhan's safety. He remained in control of Sirhan until the police arrived and accompanied Sirhan with the police to Rampart Station.

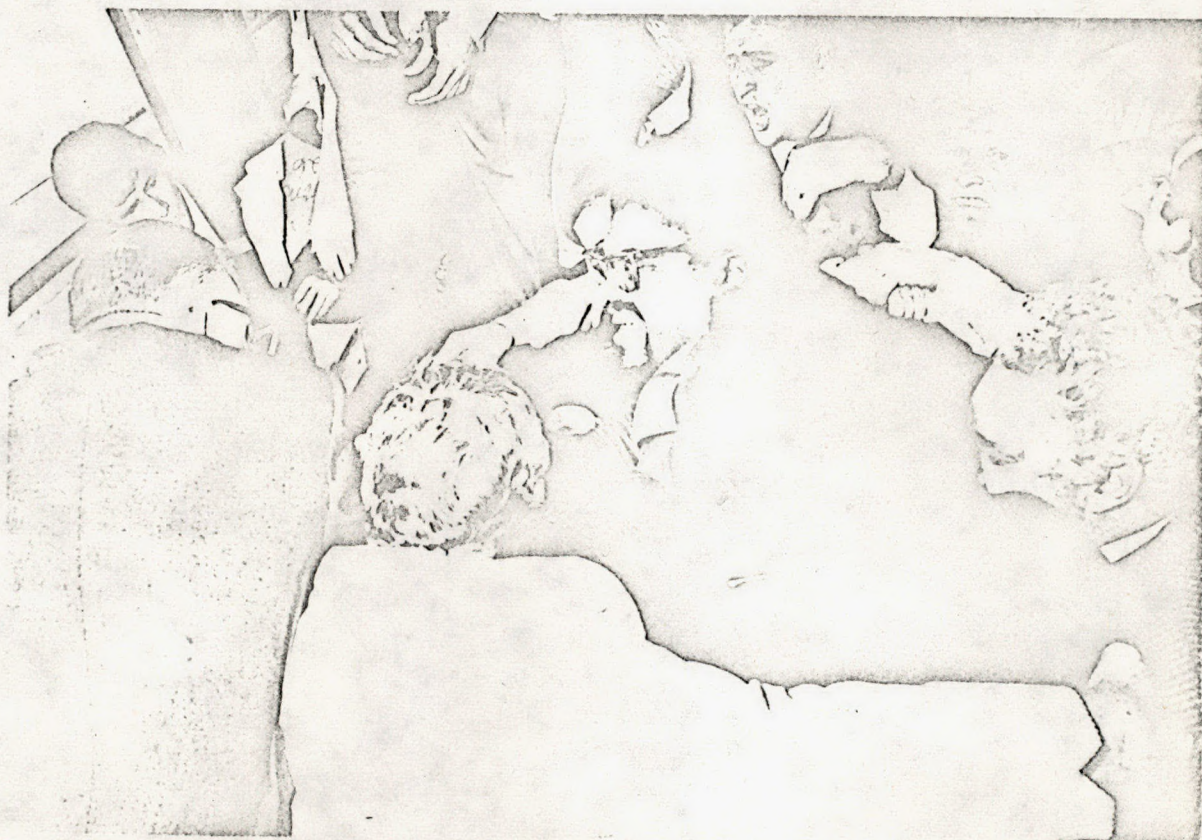
Recollections of witnesses reconstructing the capture of Sirhan place Karl Uecker as the first person who grabbed him after the first shot. Several others then immediately attempted to subdue Sirhan. Roosevelt Grier successfully secured the gun from Sirhan, and the persons holding Sirhan pinned Sirhan to a serving table until police officers arrived.

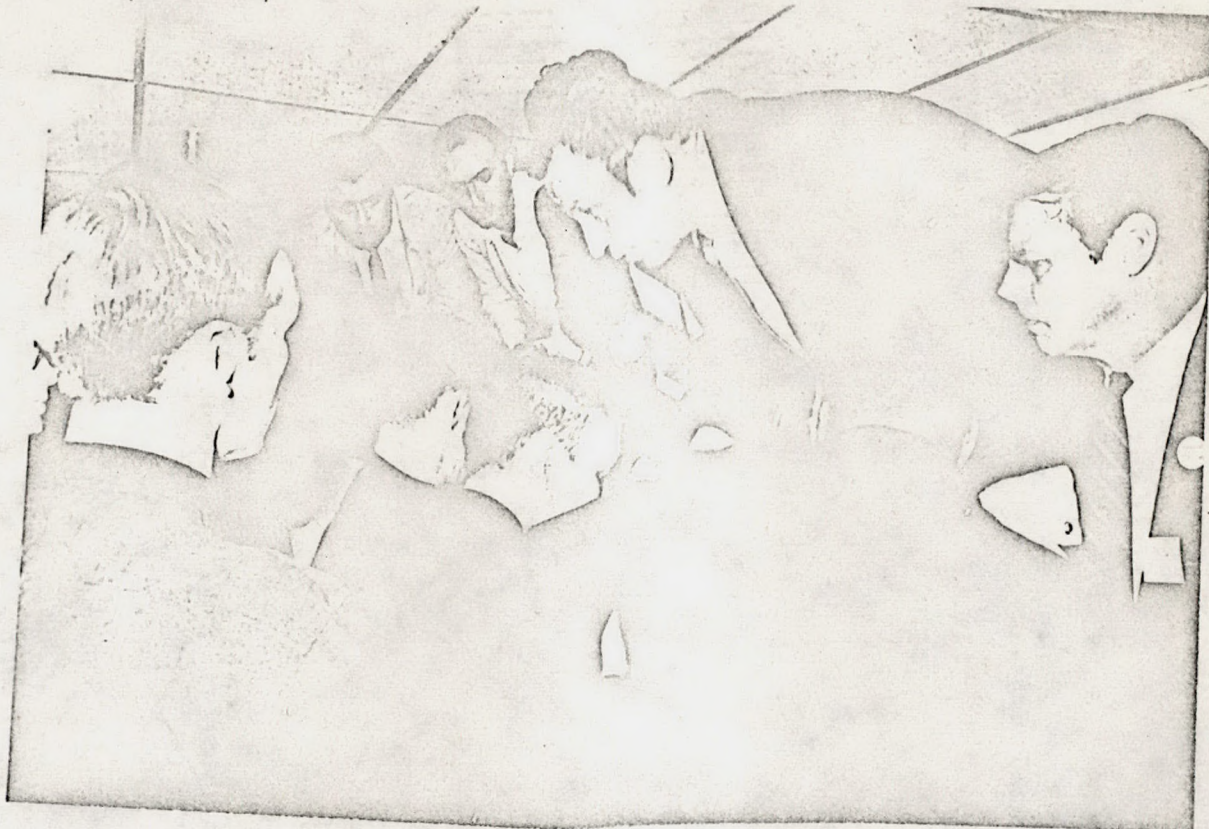


Plimpton and Gallivan struggle with Sirhan

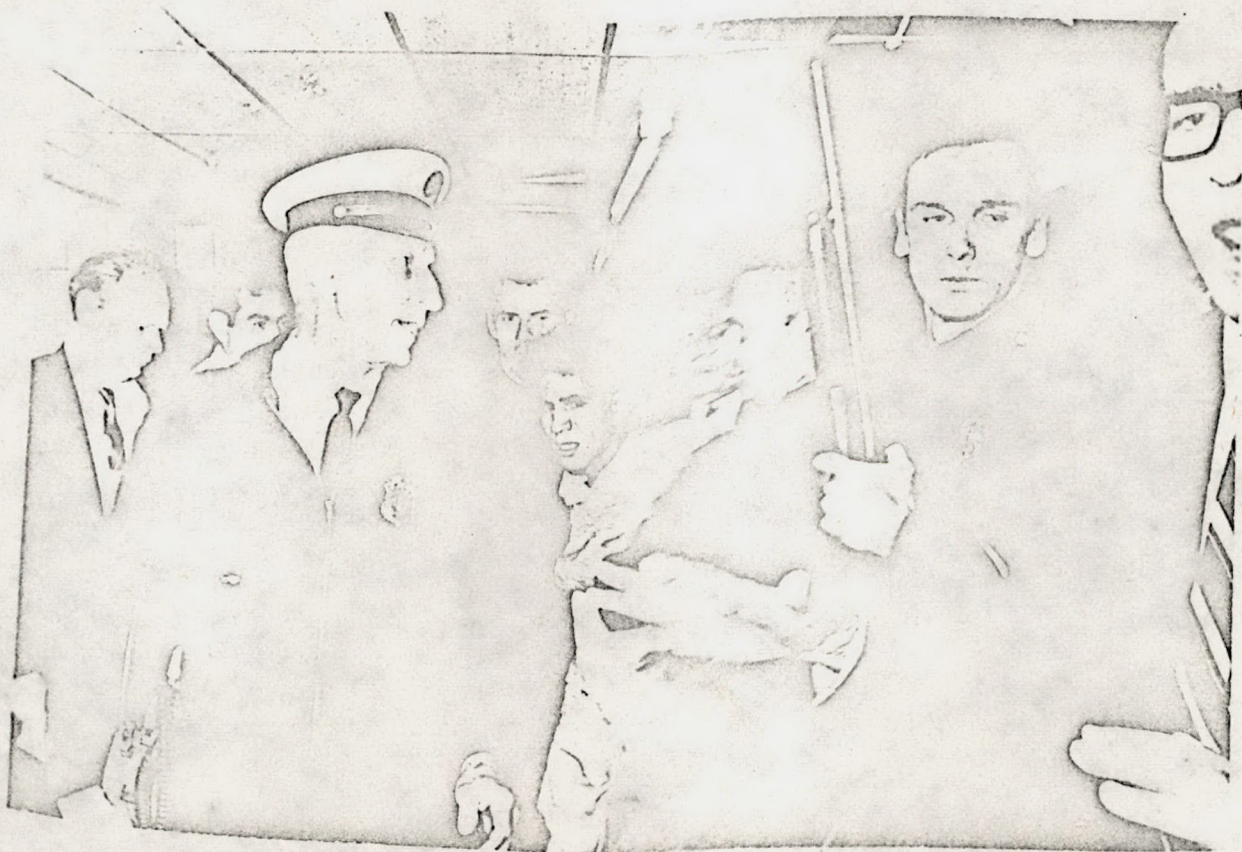


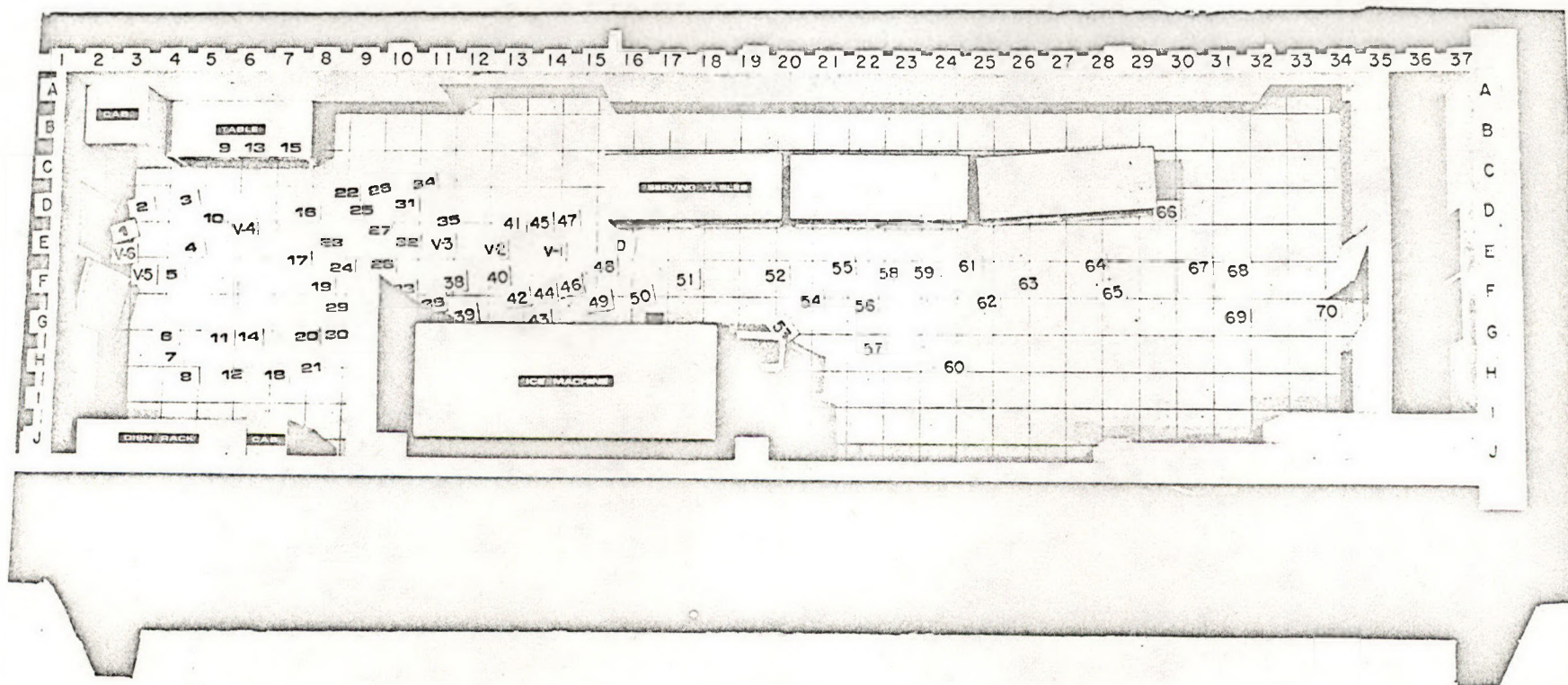
The Capture of Sirhan





The Arrest of Sirhan





# VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN KITCHEN

1. ROTHSTEIN, ALLEN	27. ELMORE, RALPH	53. HAMILL, PETE
2. KADAR, GABOR	28. RUBIN, BARBARA	54. LAWN, CONSTANCE
3. BRUCE, RAE	29. DEAN, LARRY	55. GUY, VIRGINA
4. PANDA, RONALD	30. CETINA, GONZALO	56. KAWEELEC, STANLEY
5. JAYNE, DAVID	31. CASDEN, ROBIN	57. URSO, LISA
6. WILLAMAN, EARL	32. DUTTON, FRED	58. PLIMPTON, GEORGE
7. MAMEY, NORMAN	33. DI PIERRO, VINCENT	59. ROYER, JUDY
8. CLARK, SONIA	34. BEILENSEN, ANTHONY	60. WAYNE, MICHAEL
9. LA GUERRE, MICHELLE	35. UNRUH, JESSE	61. GALLIVAN, JACK
10. MANKIEWICZ, FRANK	36. BENNETT, RONALD	62. ROSEN, RICK
11. CUMMINGS, JAMES	37. DREW, RICHARD	63. KLASE, ROBERT
12. MOONEY, GEONINE	38. WITKER, KRISTI	64. TIMANSON, UNO
13. LOCKE, SUZANNE	39. BARRY, WILLIAM	65. GRIFFIN, BOOKER
14. MURRAY, BARBARA	40. YARO, BORIS	66. JONES, JOSEPH
15. SULLIVAN, ACQUILINE	41. PATRUSKY, MARTIN	67. LEE, MURIEL
16. TOIGO, ROBERT	42. SCHULTE, VALERIE	68. WITCOBER, JULES
17. RICH, WALTER	43. CESAR, THANE	69. MURRAY, DAVE
18. WEST, ANDY	44. LUBIC, RICHARD	70. HEALY, ROBERT
19. JACKSON, LARRY	45. ROMERO, JUAN	V-1 KENNEDY, ROBERT F.
20. UNRUH, BRADLEY	46. BURNS, FRANK	V-2 SCHRADER, PAUL
21. MULLIGAN, GLORIA	47. PEREZ, JESUS	V-3 GOLDSTEIN, IRA
22. HOLME, BARBARA	48. UECKER, KARL	V-4 STROLL, IRWIN
23. HEATH, THADIS	49. FREED, EVAN	V-5 EVANS, ELIZABETH
24. RICH, TIMOTHY	50. MINASIAN, EDWARD	V-6 WEISEL, WILLIAM
25. HARDY, CAPT.	51. AUBRY, RICHARD	D SIRHAN, SIRHAN B.
26. BEILENSEN, DELORES	52. PLIMPTON, FREDDY	

**MEDICAL TREATMENT AND AUTOPSY (SENATOR KENNEDY)**

## MEDICAL TREATMENT

### Emergency Treatment in the Kitchen

Dr. Stanley Abo was in the Embassy Ballroom and heard the call for doctors. He identified himself, and an unknown male pushed him through the crowd and toward the kitchen area. His jacket was ripped off by the time he reached the kitchen. He was joined by Doctors Marvin Esher, Roland Dean and Ross Matthew Miller. Dr. Abo checked Kennedy's hearbeat and found it very strong with a pulse rate between 50 and 60, breath shallow. His left eye was closed. From his cursory examination, he believed Kennedy had full command or control of his left eye and thought Kennedy was quite lucid. Dr. Abo thought Kennedy's brother-in-law Stephen Smith had been shot, and he told Kennedy, "Mr. Smith is in perfect shape, just a superficial wound." Kennedy muttered, "Good." Continuing his examination, he found a small entry wound back of the right ear and a mass of clotted blood around the wound. A little blood was oozing down the back of his heck. He checked Kennedy's pulse again and found it to be slow, indicating possible intracranial pressure. Ethel Kennedy, kneeling alongside, passed Dr. Abo a bag of ice. The pulse rate was constant, breathing normal, twenty per minute. Dr. Abo tried to open Kennedy's left eyelid, but he resisted and looked around the room. He recognized his wife and called her name several times. He was able to move his hands and feet.

Daniel Curtain, a student, handed a crucifix to Juan Romero the kitchen employee. Romero placed it in Kennedy's left

hand. Kennedy then took his wife's hand and clasped it between his hands. Kennedy grimaced in pain but very quietly lay on the floor in obvious discomfort. Several times he moaned, "Oh, Ethel." Occasionally he moved his hips and legs to a more comfortable position. There appeared to be no impairment in this respect. According to Dr. Abo, the only neurological evidence of damage was to the right eye. During the fifteen minutes that Dr. Abo attended the Senator, the only medical function performed was to keep the wound bleeding; the theory being to prevent the formation of a clot which would cause intracranial pressure and internal hemorrhaging. Dr. Abo prevented other individuals from attempting external heart massage and mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

Dr. Marvin Esher arrived after Dr. Abo and at first believed that Kennedy had sustained a cardiac arrest. He observed his left eyelid closed, right eyelid open with the eyeball slightly deviated to the right. Kennedy was not alert, semicomatose and in critical condition. There was no visible movement in Kennedy's chest. Dr. Esher checked for a heartbeat and found his pulse good, strong but very rapid. There was no excessive flow of blood from his head wound.

Dr. Ross Matthew Miller rushed upstairs to the kitchen in response to the appeal for doctors; however, the pantry doors were blocked by hotel security guards. He managed to pass and saw Senator Kennedy lying on the floor with blood about the head. He checked Kennedy's pulse and found it strong but more rapid than normal. There were other doctors in attendance at

A plastic angiocath was inserted into Kennedy's left cephalic vein, and a solution of serum albumen and six percent Dextran was started. Kennedy was now out of shock, still comatose, and had hyper-reactive reflexes. There were no eyelid reflex or corneal reflexes. Dr. Bazilauskas had ordered adrenalin injected directly into the heart while the heart-lung machine was being installed. Upon listening to the Senator's chest and hearing good heart sounds, he later instructed the adrenalin to be given subcutaneously. This was done by Nurse Reba Nelson who made the injection in the left shoulder. Assisting in the supportive therapy of the Senator and the other five victims, who arrived after Kennedy, were Nurses Nora Plehn, Alice Mejia, and Barbara Bowes.

Mrs. Kennedy was standing nearby and was asked by Nurse Eby if she would like a priest called. Mrs. Kennedy replied in the affirmative, and a request was relayed to the hospital switchboard. Meanwhile, Mrs. Kennedy walked into the hallway and returned with Reverend James W. Mundell, a laicized priest. He administered absolution to Senator Kennedy. As Reverend Mundell was leaving the emergency room, Reverend Thomas Peacha arrived and administered last rites and annointed Senator Kennedy with holy oil.

Nurse Eby applied a pressure dressing to the patient's head wound and to a clean bullet wound in the right shoulder area. Polysporin ophthalmic ointment was applied in both eyes, and eye patches placed on the eyelids to protect the cornea. At this time, both Dr. Holt and Dr. Bazilauskas found the patient

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Kennedy's side, so Dr. Miller attended Paul Schrade and Irwin Stroll.

Dr. Roland Dean pushed his way through the crowd that surrounded Kennedy and saw that he was being treated by other doctors. He left and attended Mrs. Elizabeth Evans in the ballroom.

#### Kennedy Taken to Receiving Hospital by Ambulance

Ambulance Unit G-18, driver Robert Hulsman and attendant Max Alma Behrmann, was dispatched from Central Receiving Hospital at 12:18 a.m., and arrived at the hotel at 12:23 a.m.; covering the distance of 2.2 miles in five minutes. At the hotel they were directed to the second floor and told that Senator Kennedy had been shot. Behrmann was unable to open his first-aid kit because the crowd was jammed around Kennedy. Kennedy was placed on a stretcher by the ambulance crew and by Dr. Abo. The stretcher was wheeled from the kitchen accompanied by Mrs. Kennedy and Bill Barry. The scene at the ambulance was chaotic as individuals attempted to board the ambulance. People were crowded around the ambulance, and Hulsman left the cab on two occasions to relock the doors which were being opened by the crowd.

Bill Barry, Warren Rogers, and Hulsman the driver, were in the cab. In the rear of the ambulance accompanying the Senator were Mrs. Kennedy, attendant Max Behrmann, Fred Dutton, and Mrs. Stephen Smith. Behrmann began asking Mrs. Kennedy questions for notations in his medical book. Mrs. Kennedy grabbed the book out of his hands and threw it out the ambulance doors. The ambulance escorted by a Los Angeles Police Department patrol.

car proceeded Code 3 eastbound on Wilshire Boulevard en route to Central Receiving Hospital. En route to the hospital, Behrmann tried to stop the flow of blood from the head wound of Senator Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy said, "Don't touch him," and slapped Behrmann across the face. Barry tried to crawl through the boot of the ambulance but was prevented by Hulsman. Barry yelled at Behrmann, "Don't touch him, you son-of-a-bitch, or I'll come back there and kill you." Mrs. Kennedy then grabbed the surgical sponges from Behrmann and threw them on the floor. The Senator began gasping, and Behrmann administered oxygen. The ambulance arrived at Central Receiving Hospital at 12:30 a.m.

#### Treatment at Central Receiving Hospital

Prior to the arrival of the ambulance, the staff at Central Receiving Hospital had been alerted by Bette Eby, nurse-in-charge. She instructed the staff to have emergency room two prepared since it contained the necessary equipment, rapid accessibility and greater privacy. Dr. Faustin Bazilauskas, staff surgeon, met the ambulance and Kennedy was taken to room two and placed on a treatment table. Dr. Bazilauskas applied a stethoscope to his chest and began manual external cardiac massage. At this time Kennedy's condition was diagnosed as: a comatose, weak thready pulse, in extremis, blood pressure zero over zero, heartbeat almost imperceptible, bullet wound right mastoid area with swelling, and in shock. His skin color was good, blood was coming from his right ear and his eyes were open, staring, dry and lusterless. The pupils were not dilated or reacting. The breathing was accompanied by gurgling sounds.

Nurse Eby suctioned the pharynx. Nurse Margaret Lightsey assisted Eby in attaching the heart-lung resuscitator machine to the Senator. Nurse Kathryn Tolbert handed an airway to Dr. Bazilauskas who inserted it into the patient's mouth to facilitate breathing. The resuscitator mask was placed over his face, and the dials were turned to the proper adjustments as the heart-lung machine began functioning. Kennedy began breathing on his own. His breath sounds were good, and his radial pulse became stronger. Dr. Bazilauskas ascertained that the patient had a good heartbeat and offered Mrs. Kennedy the stethoscope to enable her to hear her husband's heartbeat as a reassuring measure. The resuscitator was removed, and the patient was administered continuous oxygen.

Dr. Albert Holt, also of the Receiving Hospital staff, entered and made a cursory examination. He found two bullet wounds in Kennedy, one in the right shoulder region and one in the right mastoid area. It was Dr. Holt's opinion that Kennedy required brain surgery immediately. Mrs. Kennedy asked for the best surgeon possible, and Holt requested that Dr. Henry Cueno be notified and briefed on the Senator's condition; and, that the staff at Good Samaritan Hospital be advised of the transfer and pending operation. Previously it was Dr. Holt's belief that the bullet in the right shoulder had traversed into the chest region. For this reason he further advised the staff to notify Dr. Bert W. Meyer, a thoracic surgeon. Blood samples were withdrawn from Kennedy's left arm and transported to the Good Samaritan Hospital Laboratory by a Los Angeles Police Patrol Unit for type and crossmatch.

A plastic angiocath was inserted into Kennedy's left cephalic vein, and a solution of serum albumen and six percent Dextran was started. Kennedy was now out of shock, still comatose, and had hyper-reactive reflexes. There were no eyelid reflex or corneal reflexes. Dr. Bazilauskas had ordered adrenalin injected directly into the heart while the heart-lung machine was being installed. Upon listening to the Senator's chest and hearing good heart sounds, he later instructed the adrenalin to be given subcutaneously. This was done by Nurse Reba Nelson who made the injection in the left shoulder. Assisting in the supportive therapy of the Senator and the other five victims, who arrived after Kennedy, were Nurses Nora Plehn, Alice Mejia, and Barbara Bowes.

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had responded favorably to treatment. His blood pressure was 150/90. His condition was nevertheless critical, and he continued to receive oxygen by nasal mask and serum albumen intravenously. Dr. Holt had contacted Dr. Cueno and advised him of Kennedy's injuries and the need for immediate surgery. Preparations were made to transfer Kennedy to Good Samaritan Hospital, 1212 Shatto Place.

Kennedy Transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital

Ambulance Unit G-16, driver Gilbert Van Ness and attendant Arlyn Nine, entered and prepared to transfer Kennedy from the treatment table to a stretcher. Dr. Holt accompanied Kennedy and carried the "piggy back" intravenous bottles. Kennedy was placed in the ambulance and transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital at 12:45 a.m., arriving at 12:48 a.m. Also accompanying the Senator were Mrs. Kennedy, Mrs. Jean Smith, William Barry and Warren Rogers. The ambulance was met by Dr. Robert Mendez, Dr. Roland Navarro and Dr. Paul Ironside. Kennedy was immediately taken to the intensive care ward. He was still unconscious and unresponsive with a strong and regular pulse. He showed evidence of brain injury with bloody spinal fluid draining from the right ear.

Kennedy's injuries were diagnosed as a gunshot wound behind the right ear in the mastoid sinus area and a gunshot wound in the right shoulder muscle, two entry wounds and no exit wounds. Dr. Ironside felt his pulse again and found it was now thready and weak. Kennedy was breathing on his own, but his breathing was noisy indicating an obstruction by secretions.

From these symptoms, Dr. Ironside made the decision to perform a tracheotomy. Kennedy's condition was flaccid. Dr. Jorge Mestman administered a urethreal catheter. The patient was not losing blood externally and had no gross reflexes. Dr. Ironside performed the tracheotomy, assisted by Dr. Hubert Hubel. Some blood-tinged secretion was removed and his breathing improved. Two minutes later, he stopped breathing and was placed under the respirator. His blood pressure was high.

Dr. Cuneo arrived and Dr. Holt advised him of the patient's previous care at Central Receiving Hospital and his diagnosis. At 1:30 a.m., Dr. Cuneo ordered Kennedy placed on an ice blanket; a plastic blanket filled with circulation alcohol to cool the patient and keep his temperature down. Father Lawrence Joy was admitted to the room and administered the last rites to the Senator. X-rays were taken of the head, neck, chest, and right shoulder. There was a gunshot wound in the right mastoid and two gunshot wounds in region of the right armpit within a half inch of each other. One exit wound was found in the front of the right shoulder. The X-rays showed one bullet had entered the right shoulder and coursed its way to the posterior lower cervical region. Disregarding the relatively harmless bullet in the neck, the surgeons turned their attention to the bullet in the mastoid. Kennedy was still unconscious, breathing heavily but at a normal rate. His pupils were mildly dilated, fixed and unresponsive to light. Blood pressure was dropping from 180/100 at 1:10 a.m. to 95/60

at 2:15 a.m. Whole blood transfusions had been started. According to all the doctors, the prognosis before surgery was extremely poor, and they agreed that they were dealing with an almost "absolute disaster." Dr. Cuneo would be in charge of the operation, assisted by Dr. Nat Downs Reid and Dr. Maxwell M. Andler.

### The Operation

Anesthesia for surgery was started at 2:30 a.m. by Dr. Earl C. Skinner. Dr. Skinner's observation was that Kennedy was comatose and so far down that he would not respond to any type of painful stimulus. Kennedy was still under the respirator and making no effort to breathe on his own. The purpose of the operation was to remove any blood clots or foreign bodies causing pressure on the nerves. Before the operation started, the patient was given a solution of mannitol to shrink the brain and relieve pressure.

Surgery was started at 3:10 a.m. The head was shaved, overlying skin and muscle were cut and laid back. Dr. Reid used an air saw to cut a window to facilitate a larger area to operate. Dr. Cuneo probed the wound and found bone fragments had been pushed into the brain. Bone fragments, clotted blood, and bruised brain tissue were removed by Dr. Cuneo. Dr. Reid removed a piece of bullet about twelve millimeters in diameter and other lead fragments from the mastoid area and adjacent to the cerebellum. Some of the lead fragments removed were identifiable as being from a bullet.

Kennedy's blood pressure was now high, and he could move his left leg but not his right arm. He was still comatose. He occasionally started his own breathing, triggering every breath. During surgery, Dr. John A. Zaro noted that Kennedy's cardiovascular system was satisfactory. Dr. George C. Griffith termed his urine output satisfactory. Dr. Skinner disconnected the respirator. The patient was now doing quite well and breathing regularly. When it was noted that he was able to move only half as much air as he needed, the respirator was reapplied. Surgery was terminated at 6:20 a.m. and anesthesia at 6:40 a.m.

The specimens removed from the patient's head during the operation were taken by Dr. Andler and given to Dr. Paul Wertlake, pathologist. In the laboratory at Good Samaritan Hospital, these specimens were examined microscopically, and additional multiple bullet fragments were found and removed.

#### Care from Operation to Death

The patient was removed to the intensive care unit, and Dr. Ironside was instructed to keep him aspirated. Dr. James L. Poppen, the Kennedy family physician, flew to Los Angeles from Boston, Massachusetts, and arrived at Good Samaritan Hospital, June 5, 1968, at 11:00 a.m. He consulted with Dr. Cuneo, examined Kennedy, made periodic checks after the operation, and kept the family advised. Twelve hours after the operation, Kennedy's blood pressure had dropped to 80/20.

At 6:09 p.m., Dr. Poppen indicated the patient had steadily lost ground and developed cardiac and kidney changes. The

pulse was slowing as to volume and rate. Later there was no response. This condition was considered terminal and only time was the remaining factor. Brain wave tracings showed no brain function. The heart and pulse were irregular. The pupils were fixed. By 8:00 p.m., Kennedy seemed to be stabilizing but by 11:20 p.m. the heart tones had debilitated. At 12:30 a.m., the blood pressure was checked and found to be down. No blood pressure was detected at 1:15 a.m. At 1:27 a.m., no pulse, no breathing, and no heart sounds were recorded. All tubing was removed. On June 6, 1968, 1:44 a.m., Senator Robert F. Kennedy was pronounced dead.

There were other doctors who were in the operating audience that made only a cursory examination of Senator Kennedy or were in standby readiness for medical consultation or surgical assistance. The following names appear on the Kennedy medical chart:

Willard J. Zinn, M.D.  
Lorin Swagel, M.D.  
Robert L. Scanlan, M.D.  
Clarence J. Berne, M.D.  
Quentin R. Stiles, M.D.  
William R. Schumann, M.D.  
Juales A. Kernan, M.D.  
Carl Schwab, M.D.  
Blake H. Watson, M.D.  
Eugene J. Ellis, M.D.  
A. A. Marinacci, M.D.  
J. Carroll Ramseyer, M.D.  
Richard Dennis  
Hurley L. Motley, M.D.

The nurses surgical team was composed of:

Verda McBride, R.N.  
Elaine Krukow, R.N.  
Delores Mendez, R.N.  
Thelma Welch, R.N.  
Mabel Crawford, R.N.

Cecile Dumair, R.N.  
Virginia Buntalilib, R.N.  
Flora Welch, R.N.  
Teresa Pagaling, R.N.  
Sachiye Munekata, R.N.

The duty nurses assigned to Senator Kennedy were:

G. Jacobs, R.N.  
J. Bright, R.N.  
J. Leven, R.N.  
D. Nakanishi, R.N.  
B. Tan, R.N.  
E. Fukunaga, R.N.

#### Autopsy

The autopsy was conducted on Kennedy at a specially designated room at the Good Samaritan Hospital on June 6, 1968, at 3:00 a.m., and completed at 9:15 a.m. Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, the Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner of Los Angeles County, was in charge of the autopsy and was assisted by pathologist John E. Holloway, M.D. and Abraham T. Lu, M.D. The cause of death was gunshot wound of the right mastoid, penetrating the brain.

A summary of the autopsy report concluded the following description of the gunshot wounds:

1. The fatal gunshot wound penetrated the right mastoid region, the petrous portion of the temporal bone, the right temporal lobe and the right hemisphere of the cerebellum.

The direction of the bullet was right to left, slightly to the front and upward. Only fragments of this bullet were recovered.

2. A second gunshot wound penetrated the right axillary region and traveled through the soft tissue of the

right axilla and right infraclavicular region. The bullet traveled from right to left, back to front and upward, exiting the right infraclavicular region. No bullet was recovered.

3. A third gunshot wound entered the right axillary region just below the above-described wound. The bullet penetrated the soft tissue of the right axilla and came to rest in the soft tissue of the paracervical region at the level of the 6th cervical vertebra. The recovered .22 caliber bullet traveled from right to left, back to front and upward.



## OTHER VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTING

The five other victims of the shooting were initially transported to Central Receiving Hospital for emergency treatment. Irwin Stroll arrived in a Yellow Cab, the remaining four were transported by City ambulance. All five eventually recovered completely from their respective wounds.

### Paul Schrade

Paul Schrade, United Auto Workers Union Regional Director, was in the kitchen when the shooting occurred. He saw some flashes and lost consciousness.

James H. Hardy heard seven shots and pushed forward through the crowd observing Schrade lying on the floor. Hardy placed a "Kennedy hat" over Schrade's face thinking he was dead. Other witnesses saw Schrade fall and presumed he was dead. Hardy then stood astride of Schrade to protect him from the crowd. As he stood over him, he noted that Schrade's chest was moving and that he was breathing. Hardy then removed the hat from his face.

Dr. Stanley Abo, upon entering the kitchen, observed Schrade lying on the floor. Dr. Abo felt his pulse and saw that he was bleeding steadily from a scalp wound. Schrade was lucid, his pulse was good and his respirations were perfect. He ran his fingers through Schrade's hair and found what appeared at that time to be superficial scalp wound. There was no break in the skull, and a point of entry and exit could be felt. This examination took about fifteen seconds and Dr. Abo proceeded to Senator Kennedy's side.

Dr. Ross M. Miller joined the group and improvised a stretcher from a table top and with assistance carried Schrade to the first floor ramp to Ambulance Unit G-18. Schrade appeared to be in serious condition; therefore, Dr. Miller accompanied him to Central Receiving Hospital.

Schrade was admitted to Central Receiving Hospital at 12:45 a.m. and treated for a bullet wound in the head. No intracranial injury was apparent and he was discharged at 1:27 a.m. Schrade and William Weisel were eventually transported together in a Schaefer Ambulance to Kaiser Hospital, 4900 Sunset Boulevard, Los Angeles, and admitted by Dr. Esher at 2:15 a.m. They were accompanied in the ambulance by Dr. Bernard Arias.

Dr. Kasper Fuchs examined Schrade at 3 a.m. and found him somewhat lethargic, coherent and able to speak in a sensible manner. He was fairly alert but hazy about some details. Examination revealed that the bullet entered behind the hairline and exited two-and-a-half inches to the rear leaving a jagged-appearing exit. X-rays revealed an area three-quarters of an inch in diameter, where shattered bone had been forced into the skull. Portions of the bullet lodged in the bone. The wound was directly over the sagittal sinus. An incision was made and damaged tissue was removed along with bullet fragments. It was found there was minor injury to the sagittal sinus. There was a small hole in the skull at the entry which would heal. A portion of the bullet had exited. Bullet fragments were sent to the pathologist, and it was determined after examination that the bullet was .22 caliber. The nurses assisting in this.

operation were Stella Harrigan, Gertrude Weathers and Helen Lyons.

William S. Weisel

William Weisel, American Broadcasting Company Associate News Director, was entering the double doors to the pantry when the shots were fired. Looking toward Senator Kennedy, he observed Schrade falling to the floor. He then felt a pain in the abdomen area and realized he'd been shot. His shirt became saturated with blood as he held his left side and he was assisted to a chair where he awaited medical aid.

Gloria Farr pushed her way into the pantry from the anteroom explaining that she was a nurse. After entering the pantry, she observed Weisel seated on a chair with blood covering the front of his shirt. Another woman who had identified herself as a nurse tore Weisel's shirt and applied pressure to a wound in the upper left quadrant.

Weisel was admitted to Central Receiving Hospital at 12:41 a.m. and treated for a bullet wound in the left abdomen. The bullet entered his left side three inches above the waistline. He was discharged at 1:27 a.m. and transferred to Kaiser Hospital. Dr. William B. Neal examined Weisel at 2:30 a.m. and removed an identifiable bullet. The nurses assisting in this operation were Gertrude Weathers and Helen Lyon.

Elizabeth Evans

Elizabeth Evans, a self-employed businesswoman, was standing inside the pantry as Senator Kennedy, surrounded by a crowd of

people, passed by her. As she bent down to retrieve a lost shoe, she heard noises that sounded similar to firecrackers and realized she had been shot.

Evans was struck by a bullet fragment which had ricocheted off the ceiling. Angelo Di Pierro, maitre'd, was about to enter the pantry when he heard the shots. Evans fell at the door in front of Di Pierro. Jennie Ranelle, a housewife, was entering the pantry from the anteroom. She saw Evans bleeding about the head and held on to her stating, "You're shot." Ranelle assisted her to a guard who escorted Evans into the ballroom.

Dr. Roland Dean attended her and halted the flow of blood from her head. From his examination, it was evident that she had been shot, but at that time he was unable to determine if a bullet had penetrated her skull.

People were crowding and shoving around Evans in a tight cordon. Photographers were jostling and snapping pictures. Patrick Thornton, trying to protect her from being crushed, pushed back the crowd and in return was struck on the head with a camera.

Mrs. Evans was admitted to Central Receiving Hospital at 12:49 a.m. and treated for a gunshot wound to the head. She was released at 2:10 a.m. and transported by Goodhew Ambulance to Huntington Memorial Hospital, 100 Congress, Pasadena, California. Dr. Celso Ravello, the Evans family physician, examined her and found a bullet wound entering the scalp of the forehead just below the hairline. The bullet did not penetrate or exit and X-rays revealed the bullet flattened itself against the skull just