

1 A Right.

2 Q What happened then?

3 A He got loose of my hand again and shook  
4 hands again with one of the dishwashers.

5 And then I took his hand again, and while I  
6 was pulling him, I was trying to get -- because too many  
7 people came behind us at that time.

8 Mr. Uno was in front of us -- Mr. Timanson --  
9 and he was calling, waving over, and I was trying to get as  
10 fast through the kitchen area there, through the pantry, as  
11 I could.

12 And while I was holding his hand, I was  
13 turning to my right towards -- to the Colonial Room where  
14 the press room was.

15 At the time something rushed on my right  
16 side. I -- at that time I didn't recognize what it was,  
17 and I saw some paper flying. I don't even remember what  
18 it was, paper or white pieces of things.

19 Then I heard the first shot and the second  
20 shot right after that, and Mr. Kennedy fall out of my hand.  
21 I lost his hand.

22 I looked for him, and I saw him falling down.

23 And I turned around again, and I saw the man --  
24 right standing next to me.

25 The arm, was holding the gun in, push the  
26 arm down or towards the steam heater, and my right arm I

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1 took around his neck as tight as I could, and pressing him  
2 against the steam heater.

3 In the meantime, somebody else came behind  
4 me and pushed me against the steam heater. The guy in  
5 front of me couldn't get loose.

6 While I was holding the hand where he had  
7 the gun in, I was trying to get the point of the gun as  
8 far as I could away from the part where Mr. Kennedy was  
9 laying.

10 From the left side, I was trying to push  
11 the gun away to the right side where I didn't see too many  
12 people, while he was still shooting.

13 Q Up to that point, do you remember how many  
14 shots you heard?

15 A I couldn't heard too clearly, but I thought  
16 it was five or six, but I was hitting his hand on the steam  
17 heater as hard as I could, with my left hand, I had him  
18 right here on the wrist, and hitting my left hand on the  
19 heater to get rid of the gun.

20 Q He has his gun in his right hand?

21 A In his right hand, yes.

22 Q And you grabbed him with your left hand?

23 A The left hand, yes, and had the right arm  
24 around his neck.

25 I was standing there and he was shooting,  
26 and I could feel when he was turning his hand towards the

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1 crowd, that's why I pushed all over the steam table as  
2 far as I could, to almost to the end of the steam table.

3 Q Let me back up and go back.

4 You could feel his hand with the gun in it  
5 turning, trying to turn the gun toward the crowd?

6 A Towards the crowd or towards me, I don't  
7 know.

8 Q You kept pushing it away?

9 A Pushing it away.

10 Q On the steam table?

11 A Right.

12 Q I think you can take your seat again, Mr.  
13 Uecker.

14 (Whereupon the witness resumed his place  
15 on the witness stand.)

16 Q Were you able at that time, after that, to  
17 grab him and keep him?

18 A I kept him all the time.

19 Q Did some other people --

20 A Until the gun was -- must have been empty,  
21 and I was still hollering, "Get his gun, get his gun."

22 And finally, after I didn't hear no more  
23 shots, many people I -- was around by that time; I don't  
24 know how many people because I was facing the wall.

25 The people behind me were pushing me against  
26 the steam table and I had -- still was holding on to him.

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1 And then I saw some hands coming over,  
2 reaching for the gun. I don't know who it was.

3 In the meantime, in between, I looked over  
4 my left shoulder and saw my partner, Eddie Minasian, and  
5 hollered to him, "Get the police, get the police."

6 I saw him running off, taking off through  
7 the people. They were standing on the left side.

8 Q About how many shots did you hear  
9 altogether?

10 A I couldn't swear on it, but I think it was --  
11 there was six shots -- six -- could be seven.

12 While I was hitting his hand on the steam  
13 heater, there was noise, too, you know.

14 Q Before you grabbed his arm or his hand with  
15 the gun, had the gun been shot before that?

16 A Yes.

17 Q About how many times did that gun go off  
18 before that?

19 A Twice.

20 Q Twice that you know?

21 A I must have grabbed the arm by the third  
22 shot.

23 Q Now, were you just going to escort Senator  
24 Kennedy through the kitchen to some other place?

25 A Yes, towards the Colonial Room, which is --  
26 supposed to be right here behind this here (indicating).

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1 Q The Colonial Room --

2 A The news room, right here.

3 Q That would be to the east of the pantry  
4 where you were, is that correct?

5 A Right, yes.

6 Q You were passing him through when the  
7 shooting took place?

8 A Through there, yes.

9 Q You see the exhibit there in front of you  
10 which has been marked Grand Jury Exhibits 3-A and 3-B, sir?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Is that the man --

13 A Yes.

14 Q -- you grabbed?

15 A Definitely is.

16 Q He is the one that was doing the shooting?

17 A Right.

18 Q I show you what has been marked Grand Jury  
19 Exhibit 2-A. Do you recognize anybody in that photograph?

20 A Yes. Mr. Uno Timanson, here on the left --  
21 he was not standing there before. He was standing farther  
22 towards the Colonial Room, or to the east.

23 He must have come, run over here towards --  
24 to see.

25 Q And do you see yourself in that photograph?

26 A Yes. I'm right here.

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1 Q And someone has already put your name on,  
2 where you are, is that right?

3 A Right, yes.

4 Q And there is someone against the table there  
5 on the table with a number of people grabbing towards what  
6 appears to be an arm or a hand there, is that right?

7 A That's right.

8 It's what I said before, I was holding on  
9 to him, and people were trying to get hold of the gun, right.

10 Q Okay. That is the gun that everyone is  
11 reaching for then in that photograph?

12 A Right.

13 Q I will show you the gun that has been marked  
14 Grand Jury Exhibit Number 7.

15 How does this compare with the gun that  
16 this person, pictured in these photographs, 3-A and 3-B,  
17 had?

18 A I don't know too much about guns, but I  
19 think it was about this size. It wasn't bigger than  
20 that (indicating).

21 Q Did it look like that gun as far as you  
22 can tell?

23 A I think so. Yes, it was not bigger. The  
24 gun was not bigger than this one.

25 Q I understand, you can't say it's the same  
26 gun?

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1           A       I couldn't tell you it was the same gun  
2 because I was too busy to keep him in my headlock.

3           Q       Did you find out or did you see other  
4 people that were shot or injured besides Senator Kennedy?

5           A       Yes.

6                   While I was holding the right arm from the  
7 shooter, I looked to the left, and while he was shooting  
8 still, I saw some more people falling down.

9                   But I wasn't sure they were shot or they  
10 just bent down to get away from the -- from the shots.

11          Q       After the shooting stopped --

12          A       I couldn't tell you.

13          Q       After the shooting stopped completely, did  
14 you see some other people bleeding or injured besides  
15 Senator Kennedy?

16          A       No, I did not.

17          MR. FUKUTO: That's all I have.

18          THE FOREMAN: Mrs. Meyers has a question.

19          Q       BY MR. FUKUTO: How far was the suspect --  
20 by "suspect," I mean the person that you finally caught  
21 pictured in those photographs that you identified -- how  
22 far was the suspect at the time -- start over.

23                   How far was the suspect from Senator  
24 Kennedy and yourself at the time that the first shot took  
25 place?

26          A       How far? As far as my left hand can reach

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1 because I remember I was trying to pull him, and the man  
2 who shot, I could feel him coming around me and falling  
3 over the steam table and start shooting.

4 Q You indicated that you had Senator Kennedy  
5 in your left hand?

6 A Right.

7 Q You had his right hand with your left hand?

8 A Right.

9 Q And you were directing him across the pantry  
10 toward the Colonial Room, is that right?

11 A Right.

12 Q And you indicated something rushed past you.  
13 Was that a person that rushed past you?

14 A On the right side?

15 Q Yes.

16 A Yes, it was the one who shot.

17 Q Okay. He rushed right past you and did he  
18 reach over you at the time he shot?

19 A He reached over in front of me.

20 Q And he reached over from --

21 A Not over me. He just -- I could feel when  
22 he -- I was right close to the steam table when we pass  
23 through, and I guess I could feel that the gun was about  
24 this far, when he shot, right from me, from my right.

25 Q Your body was in between this person's  
26 body and --

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1 A -- and Senator Kennedy.

2 Q And his arm reached over your body when he  
3 fired --

4 A Around me, around me, not over me.

5 MR. FUKUTO: Around you.

6 Any other questions?

7 Q Was there a previous arrangement for you  
8 to escort Senator Kennedy to the Colonial Room?

9 A No. As much as I know, he was supposed  
10 to -- the first plan was that he was supposed to go  
11 downstairs, the next floor, the next ballroom where we  
12 had the -- the other people which couldn't come into the  
13 Embassy Ballroom.

14 And we had about fifteen or eighteen hundred  
15 people in there, and he was supposed to make a speech over  
16 there.

17 And their minds were changed at the last --  
18 the last minute.

19 When I came out, I just remember that  
20 somebody told me, "Turn to your right. Bring towards the  
21 Colonial Room."

22 Q Someone told you to do that?

23 A Yes, somebody told me. I think it was Mr.  
24 Uno Timanson.

25 Q Did you notice this person before this  
26 shooting took place --

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1 A Not at all.

2 Q -- the suspect?

3 A There was nobody on my right side in front  
4 of -- my right side toward the Colonial Room. I couldn't  
5 see anybody there except --

6 Q Did you notice anybody else other than  
7 hotel employees inside the area there?

8 A No, just behind the -- the door, which  
9 goes into the pantry, I think somebody was on the right  
10 side.

11 I think it was somebody from the newspaper  
12 or -- but I couldn't tell you.

13 Q You didn't pay any attention to that?

14 A I didn't pay no attention to it at all.

15 MR. FUKUTO: That's all.

16 THE FOREMAN: There being no further questions,  
17 it is my duty to caution you and also warn you that you  
18 are not to impart to anyone or discuss with anyone any of  
19 the proceedings that went on in this room today.

20 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

21 THE FOREMAN: Do you understand that, sir?

22 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

23 THE FOREMAN: Thank you very much for coming. I  
24 am glad you are all right.

25 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

26

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1 (Whereupon the witness was excused and  
2 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

3  
4 EDWARD MINASIAN,  
5 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn  
6 as follows:

7 THE FOREMAN: Would you stand and raise your right  
8 hand, please?

9 (Whereupon the witness complied with the  
10 request of the Foreman.)

11 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence  
12 you shall give in this matter now pending before the  
13 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the  
14 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so  
15 help you God?

16 THE WITNESS: I do.

17  
18 EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. HOWARD:

20 Q May we ask you to state your name, and will  
21 you spell your last name?

22 A Edward Minasian, M-i-n-a-s-i-a-n.

23 Q Mr. Minasian, what is your business or  
24 occupation?

25 A I am employed by the Ambassador Hotel.

26 Q And in what capacity?

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1 A As a banquet captain.

2 Q Directing your attention, if I may --- the  
3 Ambassador Hotel is located on Wilshire Boulevard, is that  
4 correct, sir?

5 A 3400 Wilshire Boulevard.

6 Q That's in the City and County of Los  
7 Angeles?

8 A Yes, it is.

9 Q Were you on duty and working on election  
10 evening and the early morning following the election on  
11 June the 4th of this year?

12 A Yes, I was.

13 Q And were you working in or about the  
14 Embassy Room?

15 A Yes, I was.

16 Q Was there some type of Kennedy sponsored  
17 party at that location?

18 A Yes, there was.

19 Q Was there a great number of people?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q At about midnight or shortly thereafter,  
22 did Senator Kennedy arrive, to your knowledge, to give a  
23 talk or speech to his supporters?

24 A Yes, he did.

25 Q And did he give a talk from a little  
26 platform?

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1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q What time would you judge that to be?

3 A Oh, I would estimate a few minutes after  
4 midnight. He completed, I would imagine, five minutes  
5 after 12:00.

6 Q Were you near or in the room of the  
7 Embassy Room at the time of the speech?

8 A Yes, I was.

9 Q You wanted to kind of hear what was going  
10 on?

11 A Well, I escorted the Senator down from  
12 his suite, down to the Embassy Ballroom.

13 Q I see. Now, would you look at Exhibit 1;  
14 that's the large diagram.

15 Would you stand up and look at it?

16 There has been testimony, sir, that this  
17 represents a portion of what I visualize as the Embassy  
18 Room, the kitchen, or supporting pantry for the Embassy  
19 Room, with this, over on the left, identified as the Stage  
20 Anteroom.

21 Are you familiar with that location?

22 A Yes, I am.

23 Q Would that depict a certain portion of the  
24 Ambassador Hotel?

25 A Yes, it does.

26 Q Would that indicate the supporting rooms

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1 for the Embassy Room?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And we have here a serving kitchen. We have  
4 here what has been identified as a ramp and a pantry.

5 This isn't exactly where you cook the food,  
6 is it?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q Is this where they move the food in case the  
9 banquet has to store ---

10 A We call this the pantry area.

11 Q Would that be the entire area?

12 A No. From this point on is considered the  
13 pantry area.

14 Q Fine. Now, directing your attention to the  
15 termination of the Senator's speech, did you see what the  
16 Senator did?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Now, you escorted him down to make the  
19 speech. Were you detailed to go with him upon completion  
20 of the speech?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Did you know where the Senator was going?

23 A Well, we had -- it was discussed upstairs  
24 that when the Senator finished, that we were going to go  
25 down to the Ambassador Ballroom, which is one floor below  
26 us, where there were additional precinct workers.

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1 Q Was there a second party on that level?

2 A Yes, sir, because of -- the fire inspectors  
3 were there and they told everyone that the number of  
4 people were going to be limited into the Embassy Room.

5 So consequently, they also made  
6 arrangements to have the Ambassador Ballroom available  
7 for additional people, and the Senator --

8 Q That's fine. Pardon me. I didn't mean to  
9 interrupt.

10 Was there a change of plans at the last  
11 minute?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q Were you directed to escort the Senator  
14 somewhere else?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Where was that, sir?

17 A To the working news room, which was called --  
18 at that hotel it's the Colonial Room, but they changed  
19 it into a working press room.

20 Q Going to that diagram, would you take the  
21 marker --

22 THE FOREMAN: Right here.

23 Q BY MR. HOWARD: -- which is hanging -- will  
24 you describe on that to us what happened when the Senator  
25 left? Did you start out through a back --

26 A Well, we came in through here and he made

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1 the speech, and there were some curtains drawn here and  
2 the stage was extended out, and I was led to believe that --  
3 and understand we were going to go out this door and we  
4 were going to turn left, to go down.

5 Instead, it seemed to me there was a  
6 suggestion with several other people about going into the  
7 news room for an interview. Because of the lateness of  
8 the hour, they wanted to get some film back to -- to the  
9 East.

10 So the last minute -- it couldn't have  
11 lasted more than ten seconds or so -- decided to turn  
12 right -- the whole party, the Kennedy party decided to go  
13 to the Colonial Room at this time.

14 And we proceeded through this area --

15 THE FOREMAN: Can you speak just a little louder?

16 THE WITNESS: Yes. Shall I continue?

17 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Real loud, please.

18 You went through a door we have designated  
19 as S-2?

20 A Right.

21 Q The party did. You proceeded then down  
22 toward the area that is marked Serving Kitchen on the  
23 diagram; is that a fair statement?

24 A That's correct, sir.

25 Q Did something happen in this general area?

26 A Yes, sir.

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1 I was walking, possibly no more than two  
2 feet in front of the Senator, on his right-hand side, and  
3 Karl Uecker was approximately in the same distance on the  
4 left-hand side of the Senator.

5 And as we were walking forward, and just as  
6 we reached the serving table section here, the steam  
7 tables, on the Senator's left there was several hotel  
8 employees standing in this area, and the Senator noticed  
9 them and he stopped to shake hands.

10 He turned to his left, and I proceeded to  
11 take an extra step or two, and I felt that he wasn't as  
12 close as I -- as he was when we started walking.

13 And I turned my head to the left again, and  
14 I took a step back towards him to stay a little closer to  
15 him -- and Karl Uecker did the same thing -- and it seemed  
16 to me just at that precise moment that I turned to my left,  
17 out of the side vision, my peripheral vision, I noticed  
18 someone dart out from this area, dart out and lean against  
19 the steam table.

20 And I saw a hand extended with a revolver,  
21 and I saw the explosion of the cartridges out of the --  
22 out of a revolver.

23 Q May I ask this: this person was a male,  
24 was he not?

25 A Yes, sir, he was.

26 Q And did he move quickly to a position close

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1 to the Senator?

2 A Yes, he did.

3 Q When the hand was extended, was the gun  
4 pointed toward the Senator?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q To what portion of the Senator's body?  
7 Could you tell that?

8 A Well, he had -- I would say the revolver  
9 was at the suspect's shoulder height.

10 Q The suspect was holding the gun shoulder  
11 height?

12 A Right.

13 Q Pointed at what, at the Senator's --

14 A I would -- well --

15 Q Could you tell?

16 A I couldn't tell.

17 Q Could you tell how close to the Senator the  
18 barrel of that gun would be?

19 A Approximately three feet.

20 Q Was there one shot at this time or more  
21 than one shot?

22 A There were two shots and -- I heard two  
23 shots.

24 Q Describe --

25 A They were very, very deliberate shots.  
26 There was just a slight pause.

1           It was a bang-bang cadence, and after the  
2 second shot, why, as I said, I saw the flash of the  
3 cartridges being discharged, and immediately there were  
4 several other people in that area behind the Senator, and  
5 I just pushed into Karl Uecker.

6           And he -- we both made an attempt to get at  
7 the hand holding the gun, and we had him -- I was down  
8 low, pushing up against him.

9           And at that same time I turned to my left  
10 and I saw -- well, there were some more wild type firing  
11 which was a more rapid fire than the first two, as they  
12 were struggling for the gun. I'm sure that's why the  
13 gun was going off.

14           And it seemed to me that the gentleman  
15 standing behind the Senator fell first.

16           And the Senator was kind of staggering a  
17 little bit, and then seemed to me that that was the order  
18 that they fell.

19           Q       How many shots were fired in all, can you  
20 tell us?

21           A       Well, I -- at the time that I was questioned,  
22 I thought there were approximately six.

23           I thought he emptied the revolver, and  
24 there were quite a few -- I know the first two were  
25 deliberate, and the others came in quick spurts, so --

26           Q       Were the first two or the first series,

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1 we will call them -- if there were two -- was that before  
2 anyone touched the suspect or the person shooting?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q After that, people started grabbing?

5 A Right.

6 Q And there were then shots fired after that,  
7 is that correct?

8 A That's correct.

9 Q Were those shots fired in the general  
10 direction of the Senator?

11 A I doubt it because the Senator at that time  
12 was -- well, the suspect was shooting from this --  
13 approximately this point (indicating).

14 Q That's the end of the --

15 A At the end of the table.

16 And when the Senator fell, he fell in this  
17 area right here (indicating), on an angle.

18 And I don't see how he could have been  
19 shooting at -- and we had him and his arm was somewhere  
20 on this steam table here.

21 And I doubt if it was in the same direction  
22 as the first two shots.

23 Q Now, would you return to your seat,  
24 please?

25 Before we go further, let's see if we can  
26 find something out. Maybe you better stay there a moment.

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1                   On this diagram, you'll notice in the area  
2                   located as Serving Kitchen, there appears to be what I  
3                   would describe as three serving tables, is that correct?

4                   A           That's correct.

5                   Q           And there is one that is down toward an  
6                   end and a room that leads -- a door that leads to the  
7                   Colonial Room.

8                   A           That's correct.

9                   Q           The other one -- there is a middle, of  
10                  course, of the three -- and there is one down towards the  
11                  ice machine.

12                  A           That's correct.

13                  Q           Now, at the time of the actual shooting,  
14                  Senator Kennedy and yourself were in the area behind the  
15                  ice machine and the table opposite?

16                  A           Right at the end of the table.

17                  Q           Now, after the shooting, a struggle ensued,  
18                  is that correct?

19                  A           Yes, sir.

20                  Q           And you were in, trying to pin and disarm  
21                  the subject; is that a fair statement?

22                  A           Yes, sir.

23                  Q           Later on some police officers arrived and  
24                  took custody of that person?

25                  A           Right.

26                  Q           Were you at that time --

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1 A I was the one who called the police and the  
2 ambulance.

3 Q When the police arrived, do you recall  
4 where the suspect was?

5 A Yes. They were back on the last steam  
6 table.

7 Q They were at the table where we have  
8 marked -- I can't read that.

9 A W-1.

10 Q -- W-1, is that correct?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q But it would be a fair statement to say if  
13 it was -- W-1 is where they ended, they started at -- I  
14 will mark this first table as "W," is that correct?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Was there a struggle that ensued between  
17 the subject, you, and the other people from the position  
18 of W to W-2 and the time of the arrest?

19 THE REPORTER: W-2?

20 Q BY MR. HOWARD: W and W-1, I'm sorry.

21 A While we were going from W to W-1, did you  
22 say?

23 Q Right.

24 A He didn't struggle. We had a pretty good  
25 hold on him.

26 We moved because of the fact it was getting

DONALD L. OSTROV, C.S.R., OFFICIAL REPORTER

1 too congested where the Senator was, and somebody yelled  
2 out, "Let's move him back from here."

3 And we proceeded to move towards W-1  
4 location.

5 Q I see. Now, would you return to the stand.

6 (Whereupon the witness complied with the  
7 request of Mr. Howard.)

8 Q That was to allow breathing room and  
9 access to the Senator and other injured people?

10 A That's correct.

11 Q Would you examine, if you will, first of  
12 all, two photographs we have marked 3-A and 3-B,  
13 visualizing the person identified in there and depicted  
14 on that, on those photographs.

15 Have you had a chance to examine them?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Are you familiar with the individual  
18 portrayed?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Who is he?

21 A He is the gentleman that fired the shots.

22 Q Now, would you examine Grand Jury Exhibit 7,  
23 which I believe has been described as a weapon, I believe,  
24 also was a .22, but are you familiar with that gun?

25 A Yes, sir.

26 Q Recalling now the time that you saw the

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1 suspect, you saw the shooting of the Senator, did you get  
2 a look at the gun?

3 A I just saw the barrel of the gun, sir.

4 Q You didn't get a look at the whole thing?

5 A Well, his hand was on the handle, so --

6 Q As to size and coloration, does it seem to  
7 be similar?

8 A Yes, sir, very similar.

9 Q Now, after you called for the assistance  
10 of police and for ambulances, did you return to the scene?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Were you by chance familiar with an  
13 individual named Roosevelt Grier?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And was he there at that time, on your  
16 return?

17 A He -- yes.

18 Q He is the football --

19 A Well, I think we -- I would say we almost  
20 arrived at the same time, I imagine. He was, I would say,  
21 approximately twenty feet behind us.

22 My belief, he was staying with Mrs. Ethel  
23 Kennedy at the time.

24 And he -- by the time he got through the  
25 cameramen and all that -- I believe, after I called, then  
26 Roosevelt Grier joined us at the location of -- W-2.

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1 location.

2 Q W-2? You mean W-1?

3 A Excuse me. I mean W-1, I'm sorry.

4 Q And do you know Rafer Johnson?

5 A Yes, I do.

6 Q Was he there, also?

7 A He also arrived just seconds after Mr.  
8 Grier.

9 Q Did you see what happened to the gun, how  
10 the person depicted in Exhibit 3 series, how he lost the  
11 gun?

12 How was he disarmed?

13 A I didn't actually see the disarming, but I  
14 know that the last I saw of it, Rafer Johnson had the gun.

15 Q And he had it in his possession?

16 A Yes, sir. I believe he put it in his  
17 pocket.

18 Q You know that much?

19 A Yes, I know that.

20 Q And did you know what Rafer Johnson did  
21 with the gun after that?

22 A No, sir, not after he put it in his pocket.

23 Q Were you aware that there were other  
24 individuals injured?

25 A No other except the gentleman who was  
26 standing -- excuse me -- the gentleman who was standing

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1 behind the Senator, Mr. Strode, I believe, a  
2 representative of the Automobile Workers' Union.

3 Q Is that Mr. Paul Schrade, S-c-h-r-a-d-e?

4 A I believe that's his name, yes, sir.

5 Q Did you stay around and were you aware  
6 after a while there were more injured people -- not at  
7 the exact time?

8 A I would say approximately an hour or so  
9 later I was told there were other people injured.

10 Q What were the characteristics of that room  
11 of the shooting? Were people calm, excited? Describe it  
12 to the Jury.

13 A In that particular pantry area?

14 Q Right.

15 A There was a great deal of confusion.  
16 Everybody was trying to do something.

17 And surprisingly, the only thing that --  
18 around the Senator, no one was near the Senator after he  
19 had fallen, I would say, for -- approximately a minute  
20 elapsed before anyone got near the Senator.

21 And the television -- as I said, there  
22 were a great deal of cameramen with the portable television  
23 cameras that were following the Senator. I would say  
24 there might have been approximately thirty, thirty-five  
25 people walking directly behind him with cameras and lights,  
26 and so on.

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1                   And when this happened, everybody just kind  
2 of caused a great mayhem (sic) back there, and I saw --  
3 noticed several newsreel people pushing everybody back  
4 into the -- in the direction of the Embassy Room.

5                   The doors which we entered the pantry,  
6 there were several people pushing people back through the  
7 same doors that we entered.

8                   MR. HOWARD: That's all we have of the witness.

9                   THE FOREMAN: Any questions? Do you have any  
10 questions? Mrs. McCowan has a question.

11                  Q           BY MR. HOWARD: If you know, at the time  
12 that the Senator completed his speech, who, exactly, was  
13 responsible or gave the direct order that the route was  
14 changed from going downstairs and going instead to a press  
15 conference in the Colonial Room?

16                  A           I have no idea.

17                           All I heard -- in that particular area,  
18 it's -- the visibility is not too clear. It was dark.

19                           And again, it was just to the -- I would  
20 say about five feet to the left of that door was the  
21 anchor desk where Pierre Salinger and Mr. Mankiewicz  
22 were sitting there, getting returns on the phone, and so  
23 forth.

24                           There were a great deal of people up there  
25 and I can't positively identify anyone who decided to go  
26 to the press room.

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1           Q       But would it be a fair statement that  
2 you, at least, knew of that as you left what we have  
3 demonstrated to be there as the stage?

4           A       To go to the Colonial Room?

5           Q       Right.

6           A       Yes, sir.

7           Q       As I understand you, this is, now, by the  
8 diagram, as you left -- on Exhibit 1 -- the door on the  
9 upper area over the words "Stage Anteroom," you expected  
10 to turn left?

11          A       That's correct.

12          Q       Had you turned left, you would have gone  
13 downstairs to the second party?

14          A       That's correct.

15          Q       Instead, you turned right on a path toward  
16 the Colonial Room which would be off the map through the  
17 serving kitchen; fair statement?

18          A       That's correct, sir.

19          Q       And you did not know that until some time  
20 after you started out, actually?

21          A       That's correct.

22          Q       And there appeared to be some type of  
23 consultation?

24          A       That's correct.

25          Q       Now, if you know, that consultation took  
26 place near a desk where, at least to your knowledge, where

1 there were people at that desk?

2 A It wasn't done at the desk. It was done  
3 while they were standing at that -- right at that doorway.

4 But due to the location of that desk --  
5 there were a great many people there -- so I couldn't  
6 positively identify who decided to --

7 Q -- who was in on the conversation. Do you  
8 recall that?

9 A Yes, it was difficult to.

10 THE FOREMAN: No further questions? There being  
11 no further questions --

12 MR. HOWARD: Thank you very much.

13 THE FOREMAN: -- it is my duty to caution you and  
14 also warn you that you are not to impart to anyone or  
15 discuss with anyone any of the proceedings that went on  
16 in this Jury Room today.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 THE FOREMAN: And thank you very much for coming  
19 in.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

21 (Whereupon the witness was excused and  
22 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

23  
24 THE FOREMAN: We will adjourn until 2:00 o'clock.

25 (Whereupon a recess was taken until the  
26 afternoon of the same day.)

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 1968

2:07 O'CLOCK P.M.

THE FOREMAN: May we come to order. Mr. Reporter, may I remind you you are still under oath.

THE REPORTER: Yes.

THE FOREMAN: We are ready.

MR. HOWARD: We need Harold Burba.

HAROLD L. BURBA,  
called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn  
as follows:

THE FOREMAN: Would you raise your right hand,  
please, Mr. Burba?

(Whereupon the witness complied with the  
request of the Foreman.)

And do you solemnly swear that the evidence  
you shall give in this matter now pending before the  
Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the  
truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so  
help you God?

THE WITNESS: I do.

THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please. For  
the record, would you give us your name?

THE WITNESS: Harold L. Burba.

DONALD L. OSTROV, C.S.R., OFFICIAL REPORTER

## EXAMINATION

1  
2 BY MR. HOWARD:

3 Q Is that B-u-r-b-a, last name?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q What is your business or occupation?

6 A Fireman, City of Los Angeles, Fire  
7 Department.

8 Q Do you have a special assignment as a  
9 Fireman?

10 A I am assigned to the Photo Bureau.

11 Q And as part of your duties, do you cover  
12 different events and take photographs as necessitated by  
13 fire prevention -- or for proper fire prevention?

14 A When requested by other agencies such as  
15 the Fire Prevention Bureau, yes.

16 Q May I address your attention to the election  
17 evening of June 4th and the early morning of June 5th of  
18 this year, do you recall that time?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Were you at the Ambassador Hotel?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q Were you in and around the Embassy Room?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Did you have certain equipment with you  
25 for taking photographs?

26 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q Did you see the Senator Kennedy -- the  
2 arrival of the Senator Kennedy at about midnight?

3 A I saw him pass along in the corridor along-  
4 side of me, yes, sir.

5 Q And where did the Senator go at that time?

6 A He went to the end of that particular  
7 corridor and turned right and disappeared.

8 Q Did he make a speech at that time, at that  
9 approximate time?

10 A I presume. I didn't hear it.

11 Q Now, about what time are we talking, first  
12 of all?

13 A I believe it was in the vicinity of  
14 midnight. I really don't know just exactly what time it  
15 was.

16 Q Tuesday, midnight, or Wednesday, early  
17 morning?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Fair statement?

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q Will you describe the crowd that was at  
22 the Embassy Room?

23 Was it a crowded room at the time of the  
24 arrival of the Senator?

25 A Well, I hadn't been out in that room for,  
26 oh, at least half an hour; but when I left, they had



1 closed off the hall and had guards at the door.

2 And anyone that left, they wouldn't readmit  
3 them because the room was already overcrowded.

4 Q And by "overcrowded," what are we talking  
5 about, in the neighborhood of hundreds of people,  
6 thousands? What are we talking about?

7 A A rough estimate would be a thousand  
8 people.

9 Q Now, at the time you saw the Senator, you  
10 were not in the Embassy Room itself, is that correct?

11 A No, sir.

12 Q Where were you?

13 A What has since been referred to as the  
14 kitchen. It was a little, oh, alcove where the kitchen  
15 help ate, apparently. There were tables and chairs.

16 Q After you saw the Senator enter and  
17 apparently disappear for a speech, did you see him shortly  
18 thereafter?

19 A I -- I didn't see him before the shooting.  
20 I -- I saw the party come back that way. I didn't  
21 actually see the Senator.

22 Q Could you tell, by the flow of people --

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q -- that the Senator was in the party?

25 A I -- I could tell from the flow that he  
26 was coming back out, and I couldn't place exactly where

1 the Senator was.

2 Q Now, did you see or hear some shots?

3 A I heard shots.

4 Q Where were you at that time?

5 A I was sitting in the -- in this little  
6 alcove back in the corner.

7 Q Is that a little area where there are  
8 tables, where people that work there have their meals?

9 A I presumed that was the purpose of it  
10 because several people had come in, sat down, and had  
11 coffee and a piece of pie, or something.

12 Q And it appeared to be like picnic tables  
13 there?

14 A There was, I believe, only one or two  
15 tables there.

16 Q What is the first thing that you noticed  
17 or heard that was unusual?

18 A I think the first thing that attracted my  
19 attention was the gunshots sounded like a cap pistol to me.

20 Q What did you do when you heard those shots?

21 A Well, I was looking in that direction and  
22 saw the flashes, and I jumped up and started over in that  
23 direction.

24 And there was such a big crowd around, that  
25 I -- my second thought was, "My job is to take pictures,"  
26 so I went back and got my camera and started taking

1 pictures.

2 Q Did you go to the scene and take pictures?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q At the time you arrived and shot your first  
5 picture, will you describe the area that you shot in your  
6 first picture?

7 A Well, it was hard to get close. I couldn't  
8 see the Senator himself.

9 But I did see some struggling, so I just  
10 snapped a picture in that general direction, not -- not  
11 knowing what I was shooting.

12 Q May I direct your attention to a photograph  
13 that we have previously identified as Grand Jury Exhibit  
14 2-A. Will you examine that?

15 Are you familiar with that photograph?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Did you take that photograph?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Now, as a sequence of shots, would you have  
20 any way of knowing if that was the first of the sequence  
21 of shots that you made, or a present recollection or  
22 belief?

23 A I believe it was. And the only way I could  
24 be sure is to look at my negatives.

25 Q Now, directing your attention to this  
26 picture, when you shot it, what kind of a camera did you

1 use?

2 A A Rolleiflex.

3 Q Is this an enlargement of what you actually  
4 shot?

5 A This is a crop. The Rolleiflex uses a  
6 square picture, and this is the -- a blowup of the  
7 principal action.

8 Q In other words, it fairly portrays what --  
9 the picture you shot, but it's been enlarged for clarity?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And at the time that you shot this picture,  
12 time-wise, how long had the shots preceded your shooting  
13 this picture? Are we talking --

14 A I would estimate roughly thirty seconds.

15 Q Now, there is an individual there who  
16 appears only by what appears to be bushy hair, is that  
17 correct? Is that a fair statement?

18 A Are you referring to the head we see here?

19 Q Right.

20 A Yes, sir.

21 Q It appears that people are holding a person --

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q -- and we see a head, is that correct?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q When you shot that picture, or shortly  
26 thereafter, did you get a better view of the situation

1 than in that picture?

2 A No, sir.

3 Q Did you ever see the person that was held  
4 down in the area of the head in the picture, 2-A?

5 A Not after the shooting, no, sir.

6 Q Did you see someone removed by the police?

7 A I -- no, sir, I didn't see that action.

8 Q You shot the series of pictures though, did  
9 you not?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q I'd like to direct your attention to the  
12 photographs we have marked the 3 series, A and B, now  
13 before you. Will you examine that person?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Have you seen 3-A and 3-B? Now, you told  
16 us that you were in -- can I refer to it as the kitchen  
17 area of the Embassy Room?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q -- for at least a half an hour before the  
20 Senator arrived?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Did you happen to see that individual  
23 depicted in the picture?

24 A At the best of my knowledge, this person  
25 followed the Senator in when he arrived, and I couldn't  
26 say how far back.

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1 But he was in the group that walked in with  
2 the Senator.

3 Q Now, how were you dressed that night?

4 A Much the same as I am now, except I had  
5 short sleeves and no tie.

6 Q But you were in a uniform distinctive to the  
7 Fire Department?

8 A Yes, sir, yes, sir.

9 Q And you, as you looked around, recalling  
10 now, were you perhaps one of the few people there in a  
11 uniform?

12 A Probably the only one.

13 Q Did you have a badge on, similar to the one  
14 you wear now, over the heart?

15 A The identical badge, yes.

16 Q As this person walked in, depicted in the  
17 exhibit before you, Exhibit 3-A and 3-B, is there some  
18 reason that you observed him in the party?

19 A Yes, sir. He appeared to be looking all  
20 around him instead of looking ahead, as all the other  
21 members were, and --

22 Q When he passed you or got near you, was  
23 there anything that you noticed?

24 A He -- well, he seemed to look at me as he  
25 passed by.

26 But then he looked on around, but he was

1 looking all over all the areas as he passed by.

2 Q So I will understand, the Senator was  
3 entering to make his speech?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q I assume a crowd came with him?

6 A Not too big a crowd.

7 Q What are we talking about, twelve, twenty --  
8 what?

9 A Not over ten or twelve people, I would say,  
10 offhand.

11 It's hard to judge because there were other  
12 newsreel photographers and television men, and so forth,  
13 that I don't know whether they were in the party or not.

14 Q Right. But you, when we say party, you mean  
15 the Senator's party?

16 A As far as I know, there were only about ten  
17 people in the party.

18 Q In addition to the ten, were there  
19 newspaper photographers or television cameramen, too, that  
20 you do not consider as part of the party, but that were  
21 there?

22 A There were a few. It -- it was as if they  
23 didn't really know he was coming -- this route or at this  
24 time. They didn't seem to be prepared.

25 There was only possibly one television  
26 cameraman, but there were other men running back and forth

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~~in~~ ~~conjunction~~ ~~with~~ ~~this~~ ~~cameraman~~.

Q Now, the person depicted in 3-A and -B, did he follow the Senator out of your view?

A The last -- the last I saw of him, he reached the intersection -- as I picture it in my mind, it's really one corridor that they entered, and it intersected this other corridor which runs parallel to the ballroom.

He had an object in his hand as he passed by, and I saw that object in the air, later, up at that -- the intersection of these two corridors.

Q You mean later, at the time of the shooting, perhaps?

A No, possibly, oh, just after he had disappeared from view.

But I noted this as he passed by, and then I noted it again up in the air, and I assumed it was the same person.

The only reason it caught my eye was because it was the same object. I wondered about it as he passed by, what it was.

Q When the person passed by, he had something in his hand, or hands?

A Yes, sir.

Q Could you describe that to us?

A Well, it looked to me like a rolled up



1 poster, and I thought maybe it was a Kennedy poster, or  
2 something.

3 And he was holding it in both hands.

4 Q About how long was it?

5 A In this manner (indicating) -- oh, I would  
6 say twenty-four inches long.

7 Q Now, the circumference of the roll, would  
8 it be large or small, like a pencil, or how big was the  
9 roll?

10 A No, it was possibly three -- three -- three  
11 to four or five inches in diameter.

12 Q And you noticed that as this person walked  
13 by you?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q And later on, you noticed it shortly  
16 thereafter in another area and assumed it was the same  
17 person in that area?

18 A I saw the poster, as if he was holding it  
19 up, to get it out of the way, or something.

20 At least, I saw the poster up in the air.

21 Q Now, would you step to the board? Do you  
22 see that exhibit that we have marked as 1 for  
23 identification?

24 There has been testimony that this is a  
25 diagram of the auxiliary kitchen or pantry area supporting  
26 the Embassy Room and between the Embassy Room and the main

1 kitchen.

2 Will you examine that? Would that refresh  
3 your memory, generally, as to an area that you saw and  
4 became familiar with on the election evening?

5 A Yes, sir, yes, sir.

6 Q Are you familiar with that location?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q Could you locate on that where you were  
9 at the time that you heard the shots, or approximately  
10 where you were?

11 A This doesn't appear to be in the proper  
12 perspective, but I am sure it is accurate.

13 But the table I was sitting at was pulled  
14 away from the wall, and I was sitting in a chair right  
15 about here (indicating).

16 This table was moved out.

17 Q Would you put an X, a big X there? Do you  
18 have a pen?

19 Will you take the red pencil, put an X  
20 there, and put your name?

21 A My name?

22 Q Yes, just put "Burba," will you, please?  
23 (Whereupon the witness complied.)

24 Q You were seated at that area where we have  
25 Table written on Grand Jury Exhibit 1?

26 A Yes, sir.

1 Q That was pulled away from the wall, is that  
2 correct?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q And where was the Senator or his party at  
5 the time -- or at the approximate time of the shot?

6 A In this area right here (indicating).

7 Q Indicating the area that we have already  
8 marked with the term "X-R.F.K.," is that a fair statement?

9 A I -- I'm not sure about this. This  
10 doesn't seem to be right to me.

11 I believe I was in this area here  
12 (indicating). In fact, I'm quite sure, this is the  
13 passageway that I saw what went on through, I am pretty  
14 sure.

15 Q Fine. Then the mark that we heretofore  
16 made for "Burba" is not correct?

17 A As near as I can tell, this isn't right.  
18 There is -- there was an opening, a  
19 passageway back through here, and I was sitting back in  
20 here, I believe (indicating).

21 Now, to the best of my understanding of  
22 this -- do I understand there is no -- no opening or no  
23 walls in here (indicating)?

24 Q That's been the testimony up to now.

25 A There was a wall between me and this area  
26 here (indicating).

1 So do you want me to move the "X" up here?

2 Q Fine.

3 A It's roughly in this position. I don't  
4 have anything more to go by.

5 Q And the Senator's party was in the  
6 approximate position now named "X-R.F.K.," is that  
7 correct?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 MR. HOWARD: That's all we have. Any questions  
10 of this witness?

11 THE FOREMAN: Does anyone have any questions?  
12 Mrs. Meeker?

13 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Will you return to the  
14 stand?

15 (Whereupon the witness complied.)

16 Where were you when you first saw the  
17 person identified in the pictures 3 series before you --  
18 where were you on the diagram, if you can tell us, when  
19 you first saw --

20 A Where I marked the X, I was sitting there  
21 during the whole time that he went through, until the  
22 shooting.

23 Q Now, just to refresh your memory, perhaps,  
24 you were seated in a little room, were you not?

25 A A little alcove, I would call it.

26 Q As you looked out, you could see the

1 passageway where the Senator was coming and going?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Behind you, was there a kitchen?

4 A There was a wall behind me.

5 Q And was there a kitchen in there?

6 A I have no idea.

7 THE FOREMAN: Any more questions?

8 There being no further questions, it's my  
9 duty to caution you and also warn you that you are not to  
10 impart to anyone or discuss with anyone any of the  
11 proceedings that went on in this Jury Room this afternoon,  
12 and thank you very much for coming in.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you, sir.

14 (Whereupon the witness was excused and  
15 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

16  
17 MR. FUKUTO: Henry Carreon.  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

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1 HENRY ADRIAN CARREON,  
2 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn  
3 as follows:

4 THE FOREMAN: Would you raise your right hand,  
5 please, sir?

6 (Whereupon the witness complied with the  
7 request of the Foreman.)

8 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence  
9 you shall give in the matter now pending before the  
10 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the  
11 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so  
12 help you God?

13 THE WITNESS: I do.

14 THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please, Mr.  
15 Carreon. And into the microphone, for the record -- move  
16 your chair a little forward -- you will be more  
17 comfortable -- there you are -- would you give us your  
18 name, for the record?

19 THE WITNESS: Henry Adrian Carreon.

20 THE REPORTER: Spell your middle name, please.

21 THE WITNESS: A-d-r-i-a-n.

22  
23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. HOWARD:

25 Q Mr. Carreon, will you tell us your business  
26 or occupation?

1 A I am now employed by the Los Angeles City  
2 School District as Playground Director in Elementary School.

3 Q Do you also attend school?

4 A Yes. I am majoring in Police Science at  
5 East Los Angeles College.

6 Q And may I ask you to talk a little slower.  
7 We are going to report everything you say and it's -- you  
8 do speak a little rapidly.

9 Can I call your attention to June the 4th,  
10 1968?

11 A Okay.

12 Q Do you recall on that date if you had  
13 occasion to go to a range, a rifle range or a revolver  
14 range?

15 A Yes, I did.

16 Q Did you go alone or with someone?

17 A I went with another individual.

18 Q Was that on June 4th, 1968?

19 A That's correct.

20 Q Whom did you go with?

21 A David Montellano.

22 THE REPORTER: Will you spell that, please?

23 THE WITNESS: M-o-n-t-e-l-l-a-n-o.

24 Q BY MR. HOWARD: And about what time did you  
25 go to the range?

26 A Approximately 12:00 noon.

DONALD L. OSTROV, C.S.R., OFFICIAL REPORTER

1 Q Where was the range located?

2 A I believe it's east of Arcadia, out near  
3 Fish Canyon.

4 Q Does it have a name?

5 A I think it's called the San Gabriel Gun  
6 Association or Rifle Association.

7 Q And when you went there, did you and the  
8 man you called David, did you and Dave have firearms?

9 A Yes, we did.

10 Q Did you take some target practice?

11 A Yes.

12 Q About how long were you there?

13 A From 11:00 o'clock until -- about 11:00  
14 or 12:00 until around 2:00 o'clock that afternoon.

15 Q And is there an area where you on this  
16 range use revolvers as distinguished from rifles?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Were you at the revolver range area?

19 A Yes, that's correct.

20 Q Did you see some individual there on  
21 June 4th?

22 A Yes, I did.

23 Q Was there something unusual about him that  
24 directed your attention to him or what he was doing?

25 A Most definitely, there was.

26 Q Will you tell us what directed your



1 attention to him?

2 A Well, David and myself were shooting on  
3 the pistol range, and to the left of us there was an  
4 individual around five feet away, shooting very rapidly  
5 on the range with a revolver.

6 And on the range, you are supposed to  
7 shoot and pause, et cetera, et cetera.

8 Q Explain that to me. In other words, you  
9 don't just rapid fire on the range?

10 A Yes. Usually the range officer goes up  
11 to an individual shooting in this manner and he will  
12 inform them that it's not supposed to be done on the range.

13 So this attracted our attention, and David  
14 went over to this individual and asked him what type of a  
15 revolver it was.

16 Q Were you there, too?

17 A No. I had just left to go to the rest room.  
18 When I got back, I found David speaking to  
19 this person.

20 Q Don't tell us what took place out of your  
21 presence, but when you came back, your friend David was  
22 talking to this person?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Would you examine the exhibits before you,  
25 3-A and 3-B, the photographs? Do you see that person  
26 there?

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1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q Do you recognize him?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is that the person David was talking to?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Now, after you arrived, will you tell us  
7 what --

8 First of all, did you talk or take part  
9 in the conversation between David and this person  
10 identified in the picture?

11 A Well, when I arrived, David was speaking to  
12 him, and I hesitated to interrupt the conversation, so I  
13 waited until I had something to say.

14 Q What was the conversation you came up on?

15 A David was asking him whether or not it was  
16 a .38 revolver or a -- what type of revolver it was.

17 And at this point this individual that he  
18 was speaking to came out and said it was a .22 caliber.

19 Q Did you look at the gun at that time?

20 A Yes, I did, myself.

21 Q Are you somewhat familiar with firearms?

22 A To a degree, yeah.

23 Q Was there some conversation?

24 A Yes. He -- I asked him what type revolver  
25 it was.

26 And at first, he paused. He didn't say