

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 11, 1968]
Father of Alleged Assassin of Sen. Kennedy Coming To U.S. To Help His Son

JERUSALEM, June 10 (JTA)--Bishara Salameh Sirhan, whose son is accused of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, announced today that he was going to the United States soon to help the son whom, he had said earlier, deserved to be hanged. He also was quoted today as blaming the martyred Senator for his own death because of his "anti-Arab statements." The former Jerusalem civil servant did not explain why he had abruptly changed his mind regarding his son and the late Senator he had formerly extolled, nor did he say who was providing the funds for the journey from his West Bank village to Los Angeles. He charged yesterday that Mr. Kennedy had "insulted the Arabs enough."

(In New York, the Wall Street Journal editorially rejected contentions that the assassination was a further indication of moral collapse in this nation and termed the contention "nonsense." The paper said "it is particularly strange since, as it happens, Robert Kennedy was killed by an alien, an Arab fanatic living here. The assassination was a gruesome act of violence bred of violence — but it was a violence primarily of the Middle East, not the United States.

(Hugh D. Auchincloss, Jr., president of the Holy Land Center, deplored, in a letter to the New York Times today the "unfortunate implication that this beastly act had some connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict." He expressed concern that the assassination had been followed by many anti-Arab statements on the streets of New York and said "we cannot and should not generalize the guilt, neither toward the people of Jordan and the Arabs." The center promotes Middle East tourism and is primarily supported by Jordan.)

Fifty-nine threats made against Sirhan's life

[JERUSALEM POST. June 12, 1968]

LOS ANGELES (UPI). — A total of 59 threats against the life of Sirhan B. Sirhan have been received by authorities over the past five days and jailers yesterday maintained strict security around the accused assassin of Robert F. Ken-

nedy.

The telephoned threats, including those from nine callers who threatened to use bombs to break into Sirhan's heavily-guarded cell, hit a peak of 29 last Saturday, the day after the suspect was arraigned.

The sheriff's department, heeding a court-ordered news blackout on pre-trial statements, refused to confirm or deny the threats, but other sources said the calls included many demanding that authorities "turn him over to us."

The sweeping "order re publicity" issued last Friday by Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon forbids witnesses, public officials and attorneys from discussing the case under threat of contempt of court.

The order silenced most sources except Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty, who in an interview published in the Manchester (New Hampshire) "Union Leader" repeated his contention that Sirhan "was strongly influenced by Communist ideology and was strongly pro-Communist."

Mr. Yorty was served with the order on Monday in his office and said he "certainly will abide" by it. "The court order did not for some strange reason apply to newspapers," he said. The mayor said during two news conferences last week that the diaries kept by Sirhan contained the statement that "Kennedy must die by June 5, 1968," the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Sirhan still has not said a word to anyone about the fatal shooting of Kennedy, and has shown no remorse, the sheriff's office said.

In Rabat, the Moroccan opposition party daily "L'Opinion," said yesterday that the Kennedy assassination was probably master-minded by Zionists.

In Amman, "Al Destour" editorially criticized the "double loyalty of American Jews and the exploitation of U.S. policy in favour of Israel and its aims in the Middle East." It added, "this policy probably forced Sirhan to think and behave as a young Arab who found U.S. leaders and politicians... adopters and protectors of a foreign state of Israel."

In New York, the head of the pro-Arab organization, Action Committee for American-Arab relations, M. T. Mehdi, said yesterday that the Kennedy assassination "reflected the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians who have sold the Arab people of Palestine to the Zionist Jewish voters."

SIRHAN: A LITTLE CHAP WHO WANTED TO BE A REAL MAN

June 14, 1968

By HENRIETTA BOAS

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

AMSTERDAM. — "Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was small and looked boyish," the most recent former employer of the accused assassin of Sen. Robert Kennedy said this week in an interview with the Dutch daily "Het Parool." "He could be taken for a 15-year-old boy. This, I think, was precisely one of his great frustrations. He wanted to be a man — a big and real man — about whom the whole world talked."

Jean Henri Weidner, educated in Holland, is the owner of a health-food shop in Pasadena, California. Sirhan Sirhan worked for Mr. Weidner for five months as a jack-of-all-trades but was dismissed early in April. Mr. Weidner said he hired Sirhan at the request of Sirhan's mother, whom he knew well.

"The U.S., in Sirhan's view, was always wrong," Mr. Weidner said. "American policy in Vietnam was entirely wrong; American policy regarding Israel was completely wrong. I sometimes had the impression he leaned toward anarchy."

Sirhan was ambitious, his former employer continued. "I often debated with him, but it was a somewhat frustrating experience as Sol — that's what his mother called him — was always completely convinced that he himself was right."

"Sol wanted to become a great man, and his mother believed that this was indeed possible. He thought that he could reach this target on his own account. I don't believe that he had friends. I never saw him with a girl-friend, and as far as I know he was not a member of any club or organization — he was just a small ambitious individualist." Mr. Weidner said he knew that Sirhan sometimes met with other Arabs.

U.S. investigation

S.L. Kenen reports from Washington:

A Republican Congressman has called on the U.S. Attorney-General to investigate the "foreign direction" of Communist and Arab propaganda "promoting violence and terrorism among young people in the U.S."

Rep. Joel T. Broyhill of Virginia said that Sirhan reportedly was "active in extremist agitation of Arab and so-called New Left student circles at Pasadena State College." In a speech on the floor of Congress Wednesday, Mr. Broyhill said that the assassination was "in obvious conformity with the stated aims of the Fatah."

The Communist aim, he said, "is to keep the Middle East issue inflamed to stampede us into making a hasty and unsatisfactory withdrawal from Vietnam..." He said a further step has been taken — the export of terrorism. The Arabs and the Communists, he said, "have moved from the guerrilla tactics of the Arabs against Israel to the assassination of American politicians inside the U.S."

Mr. Broyhill called for an investigation to determine who finances the organization of Arab students and whether it has links with foreign embassies or with Stokely Carmichael.

Sirhan's father may attend trial in U.S.

June 14, 1968

By ANAN SAFADI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Bishara Sirhan, father of the man charged with the assassination of Senator Robert Kennedy, is thinking of going to the U.S. for his son's trial. Mr. Sirhan, who lives in Taiybeh, in Israel-held territory, applied to the Military Governor at Ramallah yesterday for a permit to visit Amman, and told *The Post* that he wanted to go there "to draw some money from a private bank account." He needed the money so that he would be prepared if he decided to go to the U.S.

His son's case has been set for June 28.

Mr. Sirhan denied categorically that he had appealed to the Israel authorities for help either in formalities connected with the trip to the U.S. or in connection with a foreign currency allocation. He "would ask help from nobody," he said.

So far he had applied only for the travel permit to Amman.

Mr. Sirhan expressed his satisfaction at the appointment of Wilbur Littlefield, the Los Angeles Deputy Chief Public Defender, as his son's counsel. "I have already learned he is one of the best jurists there," he commented.

In London, an article in the "Evening Standard" said yesterday that an Arab Government had evidence that Sirhan Sirhan returned to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966, reports A.P. The article, by Jon Kimche, said this evidence could open a new line of investigation into the motivation for the Kennedy shooting and the organization behind it. The Arab Government, which was not identified, was forwarding its findings to the U.S.

Kimche said that in 1964 Sirhan returned to the Middle East for seven months, of which four were spent in Damascus. There was no indication where he spent the other three months.

He spent a longer time in the Middle East in 1966, including five months in Cairo. He returned to the U.S. at the beginning of 1967.

Kimche said that the investigation had also uncovered a number of other facts on Sirhan's background which varied with earlier accounts of his past.

His full name was given as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan Abu Khatar. He was first brought to the U.S. at the age of four in 1948, not in 1957, as earlier believed, said Kimche. The records showed Sirhan returned to the U.S. that same year, and at the age of 13, married Leila Yousef Mikhael in Es Salt, near Amman, on June 27, 1957. He returned to the U.S. that same year, and his wife joined him three months later.

The paper said that the Arab Government was convinced that its investigation was correct, but had asked that it be checked with the findings of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 14, 1968]

London Newspaper Reports That Kennedy's Alleged Assassin Returned To Mid-East Twice

LONDON, June 13 (JTA)--The Evening Standard reported today that an unidentified Arab Government has produced startling new evidence on the background of Sirhan Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and is supplying the United States with information that "may open up an entirely new line of inquiry into the motivation and organization' of the Kennedy murder.

According to a front page article by Jon Kimche, the new information shows that Sirhan, whose full name is given as Sirhan Bistrara Sirhan Abu Khatar, was first brought to the United States in 1948, at the age of four, not in 1957 at the age of 12, as previously announced and that he returned to the Middle East three times for extended periods. The purported record also shows, according to Mr. Kimche, that he was married near Amman, Jordan, on June 27, 1957 (if correct, he was 12 years old at the time) and that he returned to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966. In the former year, he reportedly spent seven months there, four of them in Damascus. In 1966, his stay included a five month stretch in Cairo. He returned to the United States early in 1967. The Arab Government, said Mr. Kimche, is convinced that its records are accurate but they are being sent to the United States to check against information developed by the FBI.

State Department Says It Has No Evidence On Sirhan Return Trips

WASHINGTON, June 13 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today in response to queries about the London report that State Department information is that Sirhan Bashira Sirhan came to the U.S. in January, 1957, with his family and it has no evidence that he left America and returned to the Middle East subsequently.

Official sources in the Departments of State and Justice disclosed today that the Government has much more information on Sirhan than has been made public. But while the Government will no doubt provide the prosecution with any evidence needed to convict the accused, there is no intention of disclosing any of the facts at this time, they said.

Justice Department attorneys cited previous revelations of alleged evidence against Sirhan by Los Angeles Mayor Samuel Yorty and complaints by the American Civil Liberties Union that this compromised Sirhan's right to a fair trial. But State Department officials have stressed that in the interests of national security they must suppress any findings that might inflame passions against the Arabs. At this juncture, it was pointed out, the U.S. is trying to rebuild its relations with the Arab states that suffered badly in the aftermath of last June's Six-Day War.

A top priority is the avoidance of any disclosure that might embarrass the Administration's policy of rearming Jordan and its support of the Hussein regime, it was reported. Nevertheless, Congressmen have started to speculate that the assassination was in line with the proclaimed terrorist policies of El Fatah, the principal Arab guerrilla band that operates against Israel, mainly from bases in Jordan.

MIDDLE EAST FEELS THE BACKLASH

JEWISH LEADERS AVOID POLITICS

[JEWISH OBSERVER, June 14, 1968]
J.N.F. TO PLANT SECOND KENNEDY FOREST

from a special correspondent

New York:

The Kennedy killing is certain to leave a deep scar on America's relations with the Arab world. But the short-term picture is less clear. The State Department is sparing no efforts to play down Sirhan's Arab origins. This is also reflected in many newspaper editorials which focus on the internal sickness of American society, rather than on the foreign overtones of the incident.

Similarly all members of Congress avoided reference to the Arab-Israel war in their speeches. The *Washington Post* said editorially: "Those who are attempting to exploit the Arab link for a political purpose — either to demean the Arabs or to demonstrate the folly of American support for Israel — are guilty of a mischievous cynicism. They serve neither the memory of Senator Kennedy nor the continuing American interest in peace in the Middle East."

American Jewish leaders, too, have shown no inclination to make political capital out of the killing. Nor is this just because they are still extremely shocked and saddened by Kennedy's death. When the shock recedes, this caution is expected to continue at the senior, more responsible level. Grass-roots Jewish reaction is likely to be

more vocal particularly in New York.

Firmly established: American Jewish feelings were expressed not in words but in Sunday's announcement by the Jewish National Fund in New York that it plans to create a forest of half a million trees in memory of the dead Senator. JNF President Herman Weisman said the forest would be planted in the John F. Kennedy Peace Forest area in the Judean Mountains south of Jerusalem. It is expected to be massively oversubscribed.

Meanwhile, the killing is already creating a climate which would seriously restrict any attempt to alter the current pro-Israel policy of the US Government. But this too needs to be put into perspective. Despite the fit of nerves displayed recently by the Israeli press, it now appears that US policy is immovably based on the five principles enunciated last June by President Johnson. These principles are not expected to be diluted at Israel's expense. The Israel Foreign Minister's expressions of confidence last week are based on sound assessments.

Although the Egyptians have been forecasting greater American fluidity on the Middle East after the Presidential elections, they have probably misread the situation. Johnson's exclusion from the Presidential campaign means that current US policy is not subject to election year pressures.

Crazy irony: Similarly, although there had been shades of policy difference between the various candidates, they were so slight as to make the Middle East — and the whole myth of a solid Jewish vote — less relevant than in any election since 1948. Perhaps that is the craziest irony of Sirhan's crime.

[JEWISH OBSERVER]
**THE MAN WHO
 WANTED PEACE**
 June 14, 1968
**WHY KENNEDY BACKED
 ISRAEL**

Senator Robert Kennedy was always one of Israel's staunch supporters, and on several occasions in the election campaign had called for an increase in American military aid to Israel.

On May 26, addressing the congregation of the Neve Shalom Synagogue in Portland, Oregon, he said: "The Soviets have sent supersonic fighters to the Arabs, Soviet planes and pilots have trained on Arab soil, 40 Soviet warships are in the Mediterranean and their advisers are in Arab nations." The US, he declared, could not permit such an imbalance, and it should sell Israel without delay "the 50 Phantom jets she has

so long been promised." He added: "We all desire an end to the arms race, but it cannot be unilateral, for such a course promises only more aggression and the threat of yet another bloody conflict."

Six days earlier, on a previous visit to Los Angeles, he had called for Middle East peace negotiations. Speaking to the congregation of Temple Isaiah, he said: "This negotiation must start with a clear recognition of Israel's existence by the Arab States — an absolute commitment to respect her territorial integrity — and full guarantees of all international rights of passage."

Brush with diplomat: Senator Kennedy's last public comment on the Middle East came in his June 1 televised confrontation with Senator McCarthy.

His outspoken attitudes had already earned Kennedy open Arab hostility. A year ago, during the UN Security Council debate, Saudi Arabian delegate Jamal Baroudy had singled him out for special attack, denouncing him as "an upstart, son of a whisky merchant", who visits a New York synagogue "just to catch votes"; and who "said our commitment to Israel is clear and must be clear."

In a pointed reply Kennedy said that the Middle East would be better served "if the Saudi Arabian delegate and his Government and all Governments paid more attention to the need for economic development and permanent peace than to criticisms of political figures in the US".

Sympathy for Arabs: Kennedy's personal links with the Middle East were first forged long before he entered politics and became a senator for New

York, with its large Jewish community. Soon after graduating from Harvard in 1948, he worked for a time as a correspondent with the *Boston Post*, and covered the 1948 War of Independence. According to one account, he had a narrow brush with death on the road to Jerusalem. In *R.F.K. — the Man who would be President*, author Ralph de Toledano wrote:

"Preparing to get a lift from Tel Aviv in a convoy to Jerusalem, he ran into a tank captain who offered him alternate accommodation. He chose the tank. When he arrived at Jerusalem he learned that the convoy had been wiped out by the Arabs."

Last June, in an address at New York's Fordham University, Kennedy spoke of Israel as "a tiny outpost of

Western culture and ideals", and said that "this gallant democracy, this nation of survivors of history's greatest example of man's capacity for senseless cruelty to his fellow man, cannot be allowed to succumb to the threats and assaults of her neighbours."

But he also had a place in his heart for the plight of the Arab peoples. He told a group of New Yorkers in Washington the same month: "Let us hold out our hand of friendship to the Arab peoples, so long living in poverty and disease and misery, so long the tools of irresponsible propaganda, so long the greatest losers from the military adventures of their leaders."

SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY

ARAB SYMPATHY FOR THE KILLER

DANGEROUS BOOST FOR TERRORIST GROUPS

[JEWISH OBSERVER, June 14, 1968]
from our correspondents

In the Arab world, last Wednesday's shock is already wearing off. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is becoming a hero in the eyes of many Arabs. If he is eventually punished for shooting Senator Robert F. Kennedy, he will also become something of a martyr.

And yet at first, there was no unanimous Arab reaction to the killing. As was reported in last week's JEWISH OBSERVER, some Arabs were instinctively implicating Israel even before the identity of the California gunman was revealed. These charges were strengthened on Thursday morning. But there are two widening strands of Arab reaction—the responsible and the irresponsible. In New York, the Jordan ambassador met State Department officials and afterwards they both issued statements playing down any connection between the shooting and Middle East politics.

In Amman, Yehia Hammouda, the acting chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, also said: "I do not believe it has anything to do with the Arab-Israeli dispute. Kennedy was killed because he wished to help the Negroes and the poor and tried to stop the dirty war in Vietnam to which powerful extremist elements in the US were opposed."

In the same way other Arabs, including many in the West Bank, stressed that Sirhan was as much an American as a Jordanian, having lived half his 24 years in the US.

Cairo radio on Friday attributed the shooting to the violence in American society which had its roots in American violence abroad. "American society needs a moral revolution," the radio said. Cairo's *Akhbar al-Yom* pinned indirect blame on Israel—"Sirhan's family would have hardly emigrated to the US if Israel had not been established thanks to US help," it wrote. Cairo's *al-Ahram* said Kennedy's killer was the natural product of a mixture of violence which characterised American life and discrimination against a people's cause.

It was the al-Fatah terrorist movement's radio *Voice of Fatah*—broadcasting from Cairo—which displayed

most unease. It said the movement rejected the method of political assassination as being against its principles. But there was no shortage of hints that the Zionists must have been responsible. The Tunis paper *a-Sabah* saw "the hand of Zionism" in the "carefully and ingeniously laid plot" of which the assassination was but a part. Sudan's Information Minister expressed a similar theory.

The official Jordan paper *a-Dustur* wrote that Kennedy had been no worse in Arab eyes than any other US leader who consistently backed Israel's existence at the expense of the Palestinians.

Within days of the killing, some Arabs had sought to give substance to their Zionist plot theory. On Sunday night, Cairo's official news agency quoted "informed sources" in Baghdad as saying Iraqi authorities had arrested a brother of the accused slayer of Kennedy months ago on charges of spying for Israel. The brother, Soliman Sirhan, was said to be an engineer working for a private company and carrying a Jordanian passport.

A CONSPIRACY IS POSSIBLE

This report was soon punctured by Sirhan's father who said he has no son called Soliman—and by Jordan which pointed out that Sirhan is a very common Arab name. On Monday, Sirhan senior announced that he will fly to the US to aid his son's defence.

Ironically, although the Arabs feared a Western anti-Arab backlash as a result of the Kennedy killing, this fear was not justified by Israeli press reaction. Shock and sadness was the dominant theme in Israeli comment. There was no attempt to see an immediate link between Sirhan's action and the Middle East, but several papers noted the climate of terrorism and assassination now prevailing in the Arab world and with which Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was apparently infected.

Nevertheless, at the level of public opinion—in Israel as elsewhere—theories

continue to evolve. Although Sirhan is said to have all the symptoms of the lone killer, many people insist on seeing some kind of organisation behind the series of political assassinations in the US.

This theory is strengthened by Sunday's capture in London of the alleged assassin of Rev. Martin Luther King. His intricate movements in the last two months bear the marks of considerable organisation and co-ordination, perhaps on an international scale. Monday's *Daily Mail* reported a strong theory that King's murder was connected with a powerful US-based right-wing political group with vast connections and financial resources in Europe.

It is also curious that, instead of keeping an open mind on a *sub judice* matter, America's attorney-general, Ramsey Clark, should have insisted in a weekend TV interview that there was no conspiracy in the King or the two Kennedy killings. But how could such an organisation have been connected with Sirhan? By promising to make massive secret payments to an organisation of the gunman's choosing?

Again, this is only a theory, with as little basis as the wild charges emanating from Arab sources. It is still much more probable that Sirhan was a "loner". What is certain is that the Kennedy affair will act as a catalyst on Arab opinion. It may prompt moderates to speak out. But it will also feed the already strong forces of terrorism and political assassination.

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 17, 1968]

Father Of Sen. Kennedy's Alleged Assassin Gets Israeli OK To Visit United States

LONDON, June 16 (JTA)--The London Daily Telegraph's Jerusalem correspondent reported this weekend that Bishara Salameh Sirhan, father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the Jordanian accused of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy, has received a permit from Israeli authorities to leave his West Bank village to travel to the United States for his son's trial.

(In Washington, it was reported that Arab attorneys are seeking State Department help in coming to the U.S. to defend Mr. Sirhan. Two lawyers in Beirut, Lebanon, have offered to fly to Los Angeles to aid in the defense. Moussa Prince asked for facilities to go to Los Angeles to "clarify the circumstances which surrounded Sen. Kennedy's assassination." He wrote the U.S. Embassy in Beirut that he should be informed on developments in the case because "the Arab people have the right to know the real motives that made Sirhan do what he did." Mr. Prince would be accompanied by his assistant, Abdel Hamid el-Ahdab. They have cabled an offer of aid to Wilbur Littlefield, Mr. Sirhan's court-appointed public defender, in Los Angeles.)

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 18, 1968]

Los Angeles Arabs Reported Nervous, Sympathetic With Sirhan's Anti-Zionism

WASHINGTON, June 17 (JTA)--The Arab community on the West Coast is nervous over possible reprisals in the aftermath of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and has "gone into hiding" ever since it was learned that the accused gunman is an Arab, Sirhan Sirhan, the Washington Post reported from Los Angeles today. According to Post reporter George Larduer, there is, at the same time among Los Angeles' 25,000 Arab-Americans, a "widespread rationalization, even sympathy, for the murder for which Sirhan stands indicted. His anti-Zionism is widely shared," Larduer wrote and "time and again it is argued that the real villain is 'international Zionism' and secondarily, Kennedy's support of jet fighters for Israel." Mr. Larduer said that "not a few of the Arab-American organizations show the same sort of persecution complex so widely attributed to Sirhan. It also makes them candidates for the overtures of the American far right and white racists."

The Post report named four Arab-American organizations that had been active before the assassination. They are the United American Arab Congress, formed after Israel's victory in the June, 1967, Six-Day War "to help raise funds for Arab refugees and to combat 'support of Zionism by the American press'; the American Arab Citizens Council; the Americans (of Lebanese-Syrian ancestry) for America; and the Arabic Society of Americanists. The United American Arab Congress has likened Israel to "Nazi Germany" and "Fascist Japan" in its propaganda, Mr. Larduer reported. "Sirhan does not appear to have been a member of any of the Arabic organizations in the city," he said, but "according to one report, Sirhan and several of his brothers attended meetings of the so-called 'American Arabs' which was allegedly a youth auxilliary of the UAAC."

According to the Post report, the Arab community in Los Angeles has been the target of a few minor incidents by cranks since the assassination. But Sirhan's family is under tight security guard. Mr. Larduer said it was an open question how successful the Arab organizations have been in resisting overtures from the extreme right. "One UAAC newsletter last summer warned against 'white racist groups...coming out in support of the Arabs' and cautioned its members against aligning themselves with 'hatemongers,'" Larduer said.

The Larduer report on the plight of West Coast Arab-Americans followed by two days an anti-Israel article by the Washington Post's senior White House correspondent Chalmers M. Roberts, who charged that Israelis were trying "to take political advantage of the fact that a Jordanian-born man is accused of killing Senator Kennedy." Mr. Roberts, who is close to both President Johnson and Secretary of State Dean Rusk, claimed in his story that "Israelis and their more passionate American supporters are trying to nail down a policy of firm American support" for Israel in an election year. He also chastized "cynical American politicians (who) long have noted that there are no Arab votes of consequence in this nation whereas the much sought after Jewish vote and financial support is often of critical importance in such cities as New York and Los Angeles." Observers here saw the Roberts article as an attempt to generate support for Administration policy which is currently directed toward improving American relations with the Arab states. Administration sources have expressed concern lest Sen. Kennedy's assassination arouse anti-Arab feelings in the United States and embarrass these attempts.

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 20, 1968]
Four Jordanian Lawyers Abandon Plan To Defend Sirhan In Trial For Kennedy Murder

LONDON, June 19 (JTA)--Four Jordanian lawyers designated to come to the United States to defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, today cancelled their proposed trip. (The matter had been discussed in diplomatic contacts between Jordan and the United States, it was reported in Washington.)

No explanation was given for the cancellation when it was announced in Amman following a meeting that involved Premier Bahjat al-Talhouni. A statement said that "after consulting some fellow lawyers in neighboring Arab countries who will undertake to defend Sirhan on behalf of the Arab Lawyers Federation," the decision was taken for the Jordanians to drop out of the case.

Meanwhile, Sirhan's father, Bishara Salameh Sirhan, went to Amman yesterday to draw funds from his bank account for his projected trip to Los Angeles, and held a press conference in which he appealed to Pope Paul VI and "the conscience of the world" to secure a fair trial for his son. The elder Sirhan, according to Amman dispatches, told the newsmen that he regretted the death of "Kennedy the human being" but that the Senator's "unbalanced" support of Israel in his presidential campaign statements "provoked the sensitive feelings of Sirhan who had suffered much from the Jews." The alleged assassin's father dwelt at length on what he claimed were his son's "painful memories" of the 1948 Palestine war. (The Washington Post carried a dispatch from Jerusalem today quoting neighbors of the Sirhan family who said that the elder Sirhan was a cruel father who "once beat one of his sons until the boys was unconscious and chased away neighbors who sought to intervene.")

[JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY. Daily News Bulletin. June 24, 1968]
Justice Department Keeps Watch On Arab Students Group As Sirhan Probe Continues

WASHINGTON, June 23 (JTA)--The Department of Justice said yesterday that it will remain alert to operations of the Organization of Arab students while the investigation of Sirhan Sirhan and all ramifications of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination is continuing. This disclosure was made by J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney-General, in a letter to Rep. Joel T. Broyhill, Virginia Republican. Mr. Broyhill had asked the department to investigate Arab extremist activities in this country and possible Communist links with them.

The department said that on the basis of information so far available to the Government, "it does not appear that the Organization of Arab Students has incurred an obligation to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act at this time. While the organization does receive some funds from officials of foreign governments, the amount is not sufficient to warrant a conclusion that it is acting within the United States at the direction or control of a foreign government so as to create the requisite agency relationship necessary to require registration."

Arab-American businessmen in Los Angeles are spreading a story that Sirhan Sirhan, alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was "a secret agent 'paid by the Zionists' to blacken the name of the Arab world," it was reported here today by the Washington Post.

In a related development, the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine, in Beirut, has instructed its New York office to offer "all possible assistance" to Sirhan. The committee's spokesman, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haj Amin el-Husseini, who visited Berlin during World War II and collaborated with Hitler, said it had instructed its New York representatives to legally defend Sirhan as far as United States law will permit. The committee is known in New York as the Palestine Arab Delegation. Its New York representatives are Issa Nakhleh and Omar Azzouni, both attorneys.

[Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Daily News Bulletin, June 27, 1968, p. 4]
Rabbinical Council Asks U.S. Action On Arab Student 'Hate Activities'

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 26 (JTA)-- "Arab students on American college campuses are engaging in a vicious campaign of defamation against American Jews and are casting aspersions on their loyalty, integrity and devotion to the ideals of America," Rabbi Zev Segal of Newark, N.J., the newly-elected president of the Rabbinical Council of America, declared here today.

Rabbi Segal, speaking at the 32nd annual convention of the association of Orthodox rabbis, blamed "these Arab students for causing the recent assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy due to their inflammatory, irrational and brazen hate activities." Rabbi Segal, in his acceptance speech to the 600 delegates, appealed to Attorney General Ramsey Clark to "undertake an intensive investigation of the nature of Arab propaganda and action on the campuses and to suppress any manifestations, illegality, abuse and violence which are being indulged in by these Arab students organizations." He said, "It is absurd to permit these students to castigate the American Government which is extending to them extraordinary opportunities for study, learning and travel. They are abusing the hospitality and generosity of the American taxpayer who is defraying the costs of their lengthy stay in the United States."

Rabbi Segal also called upon the State Department "to revoke the scholarships of these 7,000 Arab students who are not adhering to the requirements of the moral and legal code which is explicit in the grant of financial assistance. The Arab students are collaborating actively with a variety of subversive elements such as the Communists and the Black Nationalists in a deliberate effort to damage and undermine the security of the United States. They are daily waging a most contemptible program of hatred and animosity against American Jewry throughout the length and breadth of the United States," Rabbi Segal declared.

Rabbi Segal warned the State Department and the Department of Justice that "failure to stem this type of Arab campus involvement will inevitably result in other homicidal tragedies, weaken the diplomatic status of the nation, and create an environment of mutual hostility among our populace. It is incumbent upon all of our Government officials to prevent such catastrophes by adopting drastic means to curb this well-financed Arab machine," he asserted.

UNITED STATES PRESS COVERAGENEW YORK TIMES:

KENNEDY BACKS PLEDGE TO ISRAEL

[NEW YORK TIMES]

Tells Jews in Portland, Ore.,

U.S. Has Commitment

[May 27, 1968]

By WALTER RUGABER

Special to The New York Times

PORTLAND, Ore., May 26—

Senator Robert F. Kennedy assured a Jewish audience here today that the United States had "a clear and compelling commitment to defy "any attempt to destroy Israel, whatever the source."

The New York Democrat, campaigning in next Tuesday's Presidential primary election, concentrated on Portland again today. The area holds nearly half of the state's vote and appears to present some problems for Mr. Kennedy.

The crowds here have not appeared as enthusiastic, with two or three exceptions, as those the Senator encountered during a tour of outlying towns

earlier this week. It has often seemed difficult for him to rouse the Portland audiences.

The Senator's managers believe, however, that he has done as well as his rivals in a city that is simply more restrained. Recent samplings, they say, indicate that he has remained safely ahead in the contest.

President Johnson is still on the ballot here and write-in votes for Vice President Humphrey are permitted. Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota is expected to make a strong showing in the state.

Points To Soviet Moves

Mr. Kennedy discussed the Middle East during a speech at his first stop today, at Congregation Neveh Shalom, a Conservative body. Donning a skullcap, he declared:

"The Soviets have sent supersonic fighters to the Arabs. Soviet planes and pilots they have trained are on Arab soil. Forty Soviet warships are in the Mediterranean, and their advisors are in Arab nations."

The United States, Mr. Ken-

nedy said, cannot permit such an imbalance. The United States should without delay sell Israel "the 50 Phantom jets she has so long been promised," he went on.

"We all desire an end to the arms race," he said, "but it cannot be unilateral—for such a course promises only more aggression and the threat of yet another bloody conflict."

SUSPECT IS SEIZED WITH GUN IN HAND

[NEW YORK TIMES]

Men Wrestle Him to Table
as Kennedy, Bleeding,
Lies in a Corridor
[June 6, 1968]

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 5—A thin, intense man stood on the platform in the glare of television lights. He had come to share victory with those who had helped him win it.

Those who knew him recognized the strain in his 5-foot-nine-inch, 150-pound figure, and in his speech and manners, too.

The microphones didn't work; then the lights for the television cameras were too hot. It was annoying to Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The crowd was noisy, and the candidate for President was eager to finish thanking those who helped him. He wanted to go to a nearby room for a news conference, and then escape to The Factory, a discotheque, for a celebration party with his friends.

He had spent the day at Malibu in the home of John Frankenheimer, the film director, where he fretted to be away and to have over and done with the agonizing wait for the vote count. Then he had returned to suite 512 in the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard.

Politicians and Reporters

About 50 people were there. Among them was Theodore H. White, who became a famous chronicler of elections by reporting carefully the 1960 election of the brother whose campaign the candidate himself had managed.

When that brother had been assassinated, Teddy White had written a famous interview with the widow that had caused the present campaign to be called an attempt to return to Camelot.

There was also Charles Evers, a Negro leader, whose brother was shot down in the night by someone who opposed his campaigns for equal rights for blacks in Mississippi.

There were politicians, such as Jesse M. Unruh, the Speaker of the California Assembly, who helped to persuade the Senator to offer his candidacy for President. There were also newspapermen, magazine reporters and the entourage that follows Presidential candidates.

Mr. Unruh left the suite first to prepare the crowd for the Senator's arrival. Then the Senator was led to the meeting hall through a kitchen passageway to avoid the crowd.

Kennedy Gives Thanks

Once on the platform, Senator Kennedy named some for whose help he was grateful.

One was Cesar Chavez, the farm union organizer. Another was Rafer Johnson, an Olympic decathlon champion.

Senator Kennedy spoke, too, of Roosevelt Grier, the huge black man who plays defense for the Los Angeles Rams professional football team. The Senator said:

"Rosey Grier said he'd take care of anybody who didn't vote for me."

He also thanked Paul Schrade, an official of the United Automobile Workers' Union official, and he thanked his wife, Ethel.

Then he turned to a statement of his campaign aims:

"I think we can end the divisions in the United States. What I think is quite clear is that we can work together in the last analysis."

"And that is what has been going on within the United States over a period of the last three years—the division, the violence, the disenchantment with our society, the division, whether it's between blacks and whites, between the poor and the more affluent, between age groups, or in the war on Vietnam—that we can start to work together."

"We are a great country, an unselfish country and a compassionate country. And I intend to make that my basis for running..."

The sentence was swallowed into the applause of a crowd that was hearing what it came to hear.

He said, "We want to deal with our own problems in our country and we want peace in Vietnam."

Then, as he was ready to turn away from the microphones, he said:

"So my thanks to all of you and it's on to Chicago and let's win there."

He moved slowly down the three steps of a portable stairway to his left and then through two doors leading to the kitchen passageway. It was 12:13 A.M., Pacific daylight time.

He intended to go through the passageway to the smaller Colonial Room, which was in use as a pressroom.

Lisa Urso, an 18-year-old senior at Crawford High School in San Diego, had maneuvered herself ahead of the Senator. She was pushed to one side by the crowd and found herself behind two men. Senator Ken-

nedy was in front of her, reaching across a table to shake hands with a waiter.

The hands never met.

The second man in front of Miss Urso reached out a hand. Miss Urso heard three shots. Senator Kennedy flinched as if reaching for his head, and fell to the floor. Miss Urso saw

Mrs. Ethel Kennedy bending over her husband.

In the press room, reporters waited for Mr. Kennedy.

"I saw his head bobbing in the crowd about 25 or 30 feet away," said Robert Healy of The Boston Globe.

"Then there was gunfire. No question. The flashes lighted up the corridor."

Men ran for the double doors leading to the corridor. Women screamed and cried.

It was about 12:16 A.M.

At the other end of the corridor stood Karl Uecker, an assistant maitre d'hotel:

"I was bowing Senator Kennedy and his wife out of the room. I'm right in front of him. I have my hand on his arm. I have my other hand leading Mrs. Kennedy."

Mr. Uecker thought he heard three shots. (The police said later there were eight.)

"I recognized the danger," he said in his German accent. "I grab him by the neck."

"He was standing there by the corner and he looked like a houseman," by which Mr. Uecker meant the gunman looked like a hotel employee.

Mr. Uecker was aware that Senator Kennedy had fallen to the floor behind him, but he was busy wrestling for the gun. The Senator was 30 steps from the platform where he had spoken and 15 steps from the press room.

Mr. Healy of The Boston Globe ran down the passage. He was unable to make his way to Senator Kennedy. He jumped to the top of a stainless steel serving counter and looked down at the Senator.

Paul Houston of The Los Angeles Times burst into the corridor.

"I could see the floodlights on Kennedy as he sank to the floor," he said. "His head was bloody, and his eyes were open, but they looked very dazed."

Mr. Unruh stood on a table in the passage. "Where is the doctor? For God's sake! Get a doctor!" he yelled.

Senator Kennedy lay on his back on the concrete floor, his knees slightly elevated. Someone put what looked to be an icepack on the wound at his right ear.

Special officers tried to block off the corridor. Mrs. Kennedy knelt beside her husband, calling out again and again that the space round Senator Kennedy must not be blocked, that he must be given room to breathe.

Members of Senator Kennedy's staff thrust themselves through a row of waiters and kitchen workers who sought to hold back the crowd.

Someone removed Senator Kennedy's coat and opened his shirt. His face was ashen. His right eye was open and his left eye partially opened. Some persons thought he was aware; others thought not.

A rosary was on his chest and he clutched the beads. Mrs. Kennedy knelt by his side, as did Fred Lutton, a campaign aide.

Women screamed and screamed. Men cursed. Beyond Senator Kennedy, Paul Schrade of the U.A.W. lay with a wound in his head. Bill Weisel, an assistant producer for American Broadcasting Company news, was wounded in the abdomen.

He said, "I looked up and there was a body on the floor, and the next thing I knew I was falling."

Three doctors came into the passage and began to prepare Senator Kennedy for an ambulance. It was then 12:22 A.M.

A fierce struggle developed at the other end of the stainless steel serving table. A knot of men, with Rosie Grier's bulk dominating it, worried at a figure stretched on the table.

The figure was a man, and he had a gun in his hand. Mr. Grier pounded the hand repeatedly against the table top, and the gun flew to the floor. Rafer Johnson and William Barry, a Kennedy bodyguard, pounced on it.

The waiters, wearing their black dinner jackets, and kitchen workers, in white coats, pounded and pummeled their prisoner.

One jerked the prisoner's

hair. Hands could be seen trying to encircle his throat.

Rosie Grier having dislodged the gun, began dislodging those who wanted to do more than hold the prisoner. He shouted that he must not be hurt, and with his huge hands he pushed men away.

Yet the prisoner, a slight man, twisted and squirmed so that about eight men were required to hold him. Nothing that he might have said could be heard.

At approximately 12:30 A.M. a squad of Los Angeles policemen, some with shotguns, arrived.

They picked up the prisoner by arms and legs and carried him out, down the corridor, through the crowd, past the registration desk of the hotel, down the curved stairs, and out to the parking lot.

Speaker Unruh followed the police, shouting: "He must not be hurt."

An ambulance arrived, and Senator Kennedy was moved out a side door on a stretcher.

Dick Tuck, a political publicist and Kennedy campaign worker, helped to put the Senator on the stretcher.

"When I picked up his legs," he said, "No, don't!" as if it gave him pain," Mr. Tuck said. "I doubt that he said anything else."

The crowd poured out of the hotel to the parking lot, threatening to immobilize the ambulance and its police escort.

Mr. Tuck, his cheeks wet with tears, begged people to stay back, then climbed in the police car that led the ambulance out of the parking lot. It was approximately 12:43 A.M.

SUSPECT CALLED CALM AND LUCID

[NEW YORK TIMES]

Sirhan Describes Himself
as Jordanian Who Was
Born in Jerusalem

[June 6, 1968]

By PETER KIHSS

The man held in the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24 years old, who has described himself as a Jordanian born in Jerusalem.

He was 12 years old when he came to the United States less than three months after the Arab-Israeli war in 1956. His father stayed in New York to work as a plumber while his mother went to California with the children.

He was described yesterday by Police Chief Thomas Reddin of Los Angeles as "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

He was quoted as having said, "I prefer to remain incommunicado" when questioned about the shooting.

Mayor Samuel W. Yorty of Los Angeles said that the prisoner had had in his possession a schedule of Senator Kennedy's speaking engagements for this month, a clipping described as critical of the New York Democrat—and four \$100 bills.

Mayor Yorty's office said that the clipping was a Pasadena newspaper's publication of a suggestion by the Washington columnist David Lawrence that Senator Kennedy, while a dove in regard to Vietnam, was a

hawk in regard to Arab-Israeli hostilities.

"All I know is he is a nice kid," said Sirhan, identifying himself as a brother, declared in a telephone interview from Los Angeles reported by WCBS radio here.

Said Sirhan said that the suspect was a Pasadena Community College student who worked in a health food store. He said he had last seen his brother in Los Angeles more than a month ago and had never heard him mention Senator Kennedy.

John Weidner, owner of the Organic Health Food Store in Pasadena, said he had employed Sirhan Sirhan as a \$2-an-hour stock clerk and deliveryman from last Sept. 24 until March 7, when the man left "because he didn't like what I said about his work."

"He was a man with principles," Mr. Weidner said. "He didn't smoke. He didn't drink. He always said he wouldn't lie. But he was emotional. He would resent authority. He didn't like to take orders."

"When he was very young, he saw members of his family and friends killed by Israelis. My personal opinion is that I think he did something to Kennedy because he [Kennedy] said he would help Israel."

Mayor Yorty and Chief Reddin said that the prisoner, held in \$250,000 bail on six counts of assault with intent to commit murder, had been identified through two brothers.

The brothers were identified as Munier, also known as Joe, and Adel, who had been located by the tracing of a .22-caliber pistol said to have been used in the shooting.

Chief Reddin said that the identification had been confirmed through a set of fingerprints on file in Sacramento in connection with an application by Sirhan Sirhan for a job as an exercise boy for horses at the Hollywood Park Race Track.

The application was made some time ago while Sirhan Sirhan was a student at John Muir High School in Pasadena.

In Washington, the Department of Justice said that Sirhan Sirhan was an alien on permanent resident status, on which he arrived in New York City Jan. 12, 1957.

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave his birth date as March 19, 1944, in Jordan. Jerusalem was then part of Palestine, and part was Jordan-ruled from the end of the British Palestine mandate in 1948 until Israel took over after the war last June.

The Justice Department said that he had entered the United States with his father, identified as Bishara Salameh Ghattas Sirhan, and his mother, Mary Bishara Sirhan. Also arriving at the same time were three brothers, listed as Adel, Sharif and Munir, and a sister, Ayda. Another brother, listed as Saidallah, arrived in June, 1960.

No Record at Embassy

At the Jordanian Embassy in Washington, Dr. Waleed Sadi, counsellor, said that there was no record of Sirhan Sirhan there or in Jordanian consulates where Jordanian nationals are registered.

Dr. Sadi said "we are very shocked" to hear of the possibility that the alleged assailant of Senator Kennedy might have come from Jordan. He said the Embassy was "in contact with the State Department" but that the suspect's "nationality is not confirmed."

In New York, a 39-year-old former Arab News Agency representative in Jerusalem, who came here in 1958 and is now working for a publishing company, said that Sirhan Sirhan's parents separated "right away after they came here."

The former journalist, who asked that his name not be made public, said the father had been known as Abu Sharif Bishara Sirhan — Sharif being an honorific — while working here as a plumber.

The family, he said, was Greek Orthodox Christian. The father, he said, used to talk of his children as very nice and used to express his sorrow that they had gone off to California with the mother.

The journalist said that the Sirhans "don't want Israel to exist, that's for sure." He added, however, that they were not rabidly anti-Zionist and that the father had not discussed the problem much.

The father, he said, lived at 156 Allen Street. This is a six-

story building in a tenement neighborhood where the residents now include Chinese, Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Albanians and Turks and the shops sell clothing at cut rates.

The father, the journalist said, went back to Jordan, and has a house in Jerusalem as well as a new home he built recently in the village of Et Taiyiba.

The village is seven miles northeast of Ramallah on the west bank of the Jordan River and appears to be where the Sirhans grew up. It has about 2,000 residents. The journalist said he had seen the father there last August as an owner of about 50 acres of land, with olive and other fruit trees.

The area contains some of the world's oldest Christian communities. The Greek Orthodox churches are under the jurisdiction of the Patriarch of Jerusalem. Others are Melkites, —Christians who follow the Byzantine rite but are under the ecclesiastical authority of the Pope in Rome. There are also some Latin Rite Roman Catholics.

The Arab journalist said:

"Mostly everyone from that village is religious. They are very quiet and very nice. The people mostly support Socialist life."

He said about half supported the Arab leadership of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic and the others favored King Hussein of Jordan.

Sirhan Sirhan is 5 feet 5 inches and weighs about 120 pounds. His hair is dark and curly. His complexion is swarthy. He speaks English with a slight accent that Chief Reddin reported seemed "Jamaican or Cuban."

He has been living with the brother who goes by the name of Joe at 696 East Howard Street in Pasadena, according to Mayor Yorty. The Mayor said it was Joe who owned the gun held to have been used in the shooting, and the brother told police officers he had no idea how Sirhan Sirhan got the weapon.

Alvin Clark, a 40-year-old neighbor who is employed by the Pasadena Department of Refuge, asserted in an interview reported by United Press International that Sirhan Sirhan "hated Kennedy because he hated everyone with money."

Mr. Clark was quoted as having said that Sirhan Sirhan had received a \$1,100 settlement last month on a claim of a head injury suffered when he was thrown from a horse. California Horse Racing Board records indicated he had had a license in 1966 as an exercise boy and "hot walker," cooling out horses at Hollywood Park, but had not renewed the license.

Chief Reddin said that Sirhan Sirhan had complained about difficulty with his eyes, apparently from the asserted accident with the horse.

John Shear, an assistant trainer at the track, said in an interview, according to The Associated Press:

"He wanted to be a jockey and the people around the track advised him to get a job on a farm where he could exercise horses and learn to ride."

Mr. Shear was also quoted as having said:

"When there was trouble between Jordan and Israel, he would be inflamed. Since I wasn't interested in politics, I would not discuss it. But he was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israel."

Articulate Police Chief

Thomas Reddin

NEW YORK TIMES June 6, 1968

THOMAS REDDIN, the police chief of Los Angeles looks a bit like Hubert Humphrey and is as articulate as most politicians. The 6-foot-4-inch policeman, whose salm, measured words were the nation's main link with the facts yesterday as the shooting of Senator Kennedy unfolded, was born in New York 51 years ago and grew up in Denver. He ran a gas station and served four years as a seaman in the Navy before becoming a policeman in Los Angeles in 1941.

While working his way up on the Los Angeles force, he studied law at Los Angeles universities and represents what might be called the "new breed of cop" in urban America. One of his first moves, he said when he became chief last year, would be to reorganize the department so that it could apply current scientific and technological knowledge to police work.

Chief Reddin, a beaming, 210-pound giant of a man, moved into one of the world's toughest law-enforcement jobs after the death last July of William H. Parker, the 64-year-old police chief whose policy of holding his men at a distance from Los Angeles blacks was blamed for precipitating the race riots in Watts in 1965.

As he demonstrated for a nationwide audience while he was being questioned by newsmen after the assassination attempt, Chief Reddin is not easily flappable. A round-faced man with dark eyes, he breaks into a wide, thin smile every few minutes, under normal circumstances. Even while replying to confused questions about the shooting, he did not lose his composure.

The chief, the son of a New York millionaire who lost his fortune while drilling for oil in Oklahoma, was forced to drop out of the University of Colorado during the Depression, in 1933.

Charges of police brutality and highhandedness have not been eliminated in Los Angeles under the Reddin regime. Last September the American Civil Liberties Union filed a suit against the department charging that

the police deprived antiwar demonstrators of their constitutional rights during President Johnson's visit to the city in June, 1967. Beating of several demonstrators "with billy clubs" was also alleged.

Last July, 100 of Chief Reddin's men stormed a Black Muslim mosque to search for a reported arsenal. They did not find one, and the chief joined Mayor Samuel W. Yorty at a news conference during which they admitted, "We were misled. We made a mistake."

However, Chief Reddin's attack has generally been conciliatory. Although he proclaims that "crime in the streets" is his first priority, he has called for improved relations with slum dwellers, whom he refers to as "our first defense against riots." At the same time, keeping an eye on all contingencies, he can express interest in buying for the force a 20-ton armored vehicle costing \$35,000. Designed as a barricade crusher, it carries 20 men.

Because of its sprawling vastness, Los Angeles presents special problems, and Chief Reddin's \$28,000-a-year job is regarded as one of the most difficult in the nation. New York with three times as many people as Los Angeles, last year had five times as many policemen. As a result, almost all patrols in Los Angeles are made in prowler cars, which not only cuts down the efficiency of the police but severely limits the policeman's opportunity to know the people under his protection.

The police in Los Angeles, however, have the highest pay scale in the nation, starting at \$641 a month, compared with New York's \$586. But the pay scale has proved inadequate to lure enough good men into the force, and Chief Reddin began pushing for across-the-board increases and overtime pay as soon as he took charge. He deplores what he calls the poor image that policemen have in the United States.

"Actually, it's exciting, stimulating, gratifying, well-paid work, and we've got to get this across. We've got to change our own attitudes," said the man with 27 years of police experience.

[NEW YORK TIMES]
[June 7, 1968]

'HYSTERIA' IN WEST IS FEARED BY ARABS

AMMAN, Jordan, June 5 (UPI)—Palestinians here voiced fears today that a "wave of anti-Arab hysteria" in the United States and other Western nations might follow allegations that a Palestinian Arab had shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

"Jewish propaganda" was one Palestinian Arab's reaction to reports that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan had been charged in the case.

"It's outrageous!" declared Mahmoud el-Sharif, editor of Amman's semi-official newspaper, Ad Destour. "What Arab in his right mind would do a thing like this? The only people to benefit from such actions are the Jews."

Some Palestinians expressed the belief that Sirhan was a "hired killer" and part of a Zionist plot to discredit the Arabs.

[NEW YORK TIMES]
June 8, 1968]

F.B.I. Asks Israel for Data On Early Life of Sirhan

ET TAIYIBA, Israeli-occupied Jordan, June 7 (UPI)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation has asked Israel for information on the childhood of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused murderer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, informed sources said today.

The Arab elders of this small village painted a picture of a boy who grew up in a poor family that lived on church charity and who "was always kept in close line by the father."

The father, Bishara Sirhan, has lived here since leaving his wife and five children in Pasadena, Calif., after family quarrels. Before going to America, the Christian Arab family lived in Jerusalem with little money to spend, the elders said.

SIRHAN IS INDICTED ON MURDER COUNT

[NEW YORK TIMES]
June 8, 1968]
Jury Acts in Kennedy Death
—Girl Denies to the Police
She Said, 'We Shot Him'

By GLADWIN HILL
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — The Los Angeles County grand jury late today indicted Sirhan Bishara Sirhan on a charge of murder in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The murder charge was accompanied by a five-count charge of assault with intent to kill five other persons at the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday.

The indictment was handed down by the grand jury shortly after a woman who identified herself as Kathy Fulmer, 19 years old, surrendered to the police, saying she believed she was the woman in a white polka dot dress whom the police had been seeking.

A woman so attired had been quoted as shouting soon after Mr. Kennedy was shot, "We shot him! We shot him!"

Today she said she had not said this, but merely had screamed that Mr. Kennedy had been shot. The police said her description closely answered that of the woman they had been seeking.

Says She Was Hysterical

She explained that she was hysterical as a result of the shooting and ran screaming from the scene. She said she had no connection with Sirhan.

"I was scared," she said. "The guy next to me got shot. I was running and on the way out somebody yelled 'What happened?' I yelled, 'Kennedy was shot.'"

The murder charge was in the first degree, involving a possible death penalty. The charge of assault with intent to murder carries a penalty of one to 14 years' imprisonment.

The grand jury heard testimony that Sirhan loitered in a Los Angeles hotel corridor at least half an hour before Mr. Kennedy was shot there shortly after midnight Wednesday.

After appearing before the grand jury, Jesus Perez, a dishwasher at the Ambassador Hotel, told newsmen that a man he identified as Sirhan had lingered in the pantry corridor nervously shuffling papers, and had asked him "three or four times" if Senator Kennedy would be going through the corridor.

Mr. Perez said he himself was shaking hands with the Senator at the moment the bullets struck him.

He did not see the shots fired, he said, and in the crush their sound was so drowned out that he realized something had happened only when Senator Kennedy's hand suddenly pulled from his grasp and the victim slumped to the floor.

The dishwasher was the first of a score of witnesses presented to the grand jury.

Another witness, Henry Carreon, told reporters that he encountered Sirhan at a shooting range in San Gabriel, a suburb adjoining Pasadena, Tuesday afternoon.

He said Sirhan attracted his notice and they had a conversation because of Sirhan's rapid-fire shooting, which was against range rules.

Sirhan, he said, was firing a .22-caliber revolver—the same type of weapon that killed Senator Kennedy.

Sirhan, seized at the shooting scene, was an unemployed clerk, a resident alien for 11 years and an ardent Arab nationalist.

Tells of Conversation

Police Inspector Peter Hagen today confirmed a report that W. J. Wood, a geologist and Arabic linguist, had told investigators of overhearing a conversation among three men who seemed to be Arabs last Sunday night at Kennedy campaign headquarters at 5615 Wilshire Boulevard.

Mr. Wood, 43, who recently spent five years in Saudi Arabia, was quoted by The Los Angeles Herald Examiner as saying:

"They began speaking in a distinct Jordanese dialect. One of them said: 'He won't be in the hotel tomorrow night, but we can get him there the next night.'"

The "next night" was Tuesday when Senator Kennedy was fatally wounded shortly after midnight.

Inspector Hagen pointed out that the phrase "we can get him" could have had an innocuous meaning. He suggested the police did not attach major importance to it, among scores of leads being pursued. But he acknowledged that the identity and whereabouts of the three were being investigated. M. Wood, who did some volunteer work in Senator Kennedy's Democratic presidential primary campaign, could not be reached for comment.

The witness list included seven police officers, four hotel employees, eight ambulance attendants, two doctors who treated the stricken Senator, County Coroner Thomas Noguchi, an acquaintance of Sirhan, a friend of Senator Kennedy and two others shot in the hail of bullets.

The friend was Paul Ziffren, Los Angeles lawyer and a former Democratic national committeeman.

One of the shooting victims, Irwin Stroll, 19, testified from a wheelchair, with his wounded leg propped up. The other victim was Ira Goldstein, 19, a radio newsman.

The district attorney's office and the sheriff arranged for an unusual arraignment proceeding in the infirmary section of the county's central jail, a mile south of the city's center.

Sheriff Peter Pitchess said the jail arraignment was occasioned by the fact that the defendant was in the infirmary with a sprained ankle and a broken finger, along with "the obvious need for total security."

Daily since Wednesday the prisoner has been visited by A. L. Wirin, chief of counsel for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Each meeting has lasted about an hour and a half.

Sirhan's counsel is now Public Defender Richard S. Buckley, a county employee.

But the A.C.L.U. said its proposal that private counsel be selected by a judge from a list of nominees had received a favorable reaction from Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon. Judge Alarcon is filling in for the presiding judge of the Criminal Courts, Richard Shauer, whom the A.C.L.U. suggested to select counsel for Sirhan.

It was suggested that the list might be prepared by the county bar association and the criminal courts bar association, in collaboration with the public defender and the A.C.L.U.

District Attorney Evelle Younger said personnel of his office as well as police investigators had questioned Sirhan, but "in a sense it was like talking to the man in the moon."

"It was a one-sided conversation—he wouldn't even answer to what his weight was," Mr. Younger said.

The District Attorney told reporters he was "uneasy about anything" connected with the case, because of possible international repercussions.

"Everything that is done or said will be scrutinized by politicians all over the world," he said. "Some will want our country and our system of justice

to look as bad as they can make it look."

The police reported today that they had discovered a car belonging to Sirhan only about a block from the Ambassador Hotel, where it had apparently been since Tuesday night.

The car is a 1956 DeSoto painted pink and white.

Officers said a key found in Sirhan's pocket Tuesday night fitted both the car door and ignition switch.

WOMAN IS SOUGHT IN KENNEDY DEATH

[NEW YORK TIMES]

[June 7, 1968]

A Witness Says She Ran
From Scene Exclaiming
That 'We Shot Him!'

By GLADWIN HILL
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 6—The Los Angeles Police Department pressed a statewide search today for a possible accomplice in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, as the authorities prepared the prosecution of the principal defendant.

A police bulletin transmitted to law-enforcement agencies throughout the state said Los Angeles officers wanted to question a woman in her twenties. She had been reported to have exclaimed jubilantly at the scene of the shooting of Senator Kennedy early yesterday, "We shot him!" The identity of the woman was not made public.

In the wake of the Senator's death early this morning, the District Attorney's office prepared murder charges against the accused assailant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Official apprehensions were voiced that an unprejudiced trial might be jeopardized by reckless dissemination of hearsay regarding the 24-year-old Jerusalem-born Jordanian.

Controversy was rising in Los Angeles over the actions of Mayor Samuel W. Yorty because of statements he has publicly made concerning Sirhan and certain items of possible evidence.

Expressions of concern came from Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the Los Angeles District Attorney, Evelle Younger, and the American Civil Liberties Union, which may defend Sirhan.

Police Chief Thomas Reddin said he had not excluded the possibility that more than one person was involved in the killing. In the bulletin transmitted to law-enforcement agencies the Los Angeles police said they wanted to question a Caucasian female, between 23 and 27 years old, five feet six inches tall, who had been observed at the assassination scene wearing a blue voile dress with white polka dots and a bouffant coiffure.

Miss Sandy Serrano, 20, a cochairman of Youth for Kennedy in the suburban Pasadena-Alhambra area, told officers that just after the shooting she had seen a woman of that description run out of the hotel exclaiming triumphantly, "We shot him! We shot him!"

"Who did you shoot?" she asked the woman.

"We shot Kennedy," the woman answered, according to Miss Serrano.

Another witness questioned by the police, Booker Griffin, a Negro community leader, said he had seen a woman of similar description a few minutes before the shooting in the company of a man resembling the Senator's assailant.

Held in 'Maximum Security'

Sirhan was being held under "maximum security" in a medical unit of the County Central Jail a mile east of the city's center.

He was arraigned yesterday on six counts of assault with intent to murder, covering injuries inflicted on Senator Kennedy and five other persons by eight bullets from a .22-caliber revolver.

The police moved today to change the charge to murder but were persuaded by District Attorney Younger that this would not be necessary in view of the scheduled presentation of the case to the county grand jury tomorrow.

District Attorney Younger said he planned to present 17 witnesses to the grand jury.

After an indictment is handed down a defendant must be arraigned within 48 hours, and the trial must be set within 60 days after he enters his plea.

The District Attorney said the fact that Sirhan was an alien would not affect prosecution procedures.

However, his Jordanian nationality could result in an additional charge of a firearms law violation. California forbids aliens, unlike citizens, to possess "any firearm capable of being concealed upon the person." Penalties range from a \$500 fine to five years in prison.

The Police Department prepared witness subpoenas for two Negro athletes prominent in the Kennedy campaign, Roosevelt Grier of the Los Angeles Rams and Rafer Johnson, former Olympic decathlon star, now a television commentator.

They were among those who scuffled with Sirhan in the Ambassador Hotel pantry just after the shots were fired.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which Sirhan asked to help him get a lawyer, said it was trying to work out an arrangement to, have a Los

Angeles Superior Court judge designate counsel from a list of lawyers prepared by the liberties union.

Police spokesmen said two clues suggesting possible involvement of other persons had been unproductive.

One was an ignition key found in Sirhan's pocket that fitted a car parked near the hotel owned by a hotel kitchen employee.

Detectives interrogated the

employee, who was not identified, but established no link. They said it apparently had been a case of a worn key that just happened to fit the hotel worker's car.

The other possible clue concerned four \$100 bills found in the defendant's pocket, raising the possibility that he had been hired to shoot the Senator.

The police classified this as quite inconclusive, since Sirhan was known as thrifty and had recently collected an insurance settlement for an accident.

The police denied reports that the defendant's rights might have been infringed in a search of his Pasadena home yesterday and the impounding of some documents without a warrant. A department spokes-

man said a brother of the defendant had admitted officers voluntarily to the house, making a warrant unnecessary.

Told of Notebook Entry

Mayor Yorty said yesterday that a notebook of Sirhan's contained an entry saying the Senator "must" be killed by June 5. He also speculated that the defendant had left-wing associations.

Enlarging on the same theme at his news conference today, the Mayor said that Sirhan had "clearly expressed his Communist sympathy in his writings" and that it was apparent that an "evil Communist organization has played a part in inflaming the assassin of President Kennedy."

He said the authorities "have

learned his car was seen outside meetings where Communist organizations or Communist front organizations were in session."

"From that circumstance we probably can deduce he was in contact with Communists," he said.

He said he had received a telephone call from Attorney General Clark expressing concern over his airing of possible trial evidence.

"But," the Mayor said, "I told him that I'm a lawyer, I'm in a position here where I'm going to have to try to exercise what the public needs to know about this case. There is so much evidence in this case."

State Attorney General Thomas Lynch in a formal statement today said he had "cautioned Mayor Yorty to confine his release of information," citing court decisions that "evidence may be ruled out and a trial severely hampered by such public statements."

The Civil Liberties Union chapter here expressed regret that "the Mayor seems compelled to discuss the character and background of Sirhan."

"Regardless of the evidence available to the prosecution," it said, "the defendant has a right to a jury unprejudiced by inflammatory comments."

Cleric Cites Arab-Israeli Hate as Factor in Shooting

By JOSEPH NOVITSKI

"If one is looking for the psychological background of this assassination, it must be found in the years and years of Arab-Israeli hate," Bishop Shahe Ajamian of the Armenian Orthodox Church in Jerusalem said here yesterday.

Although they were not members of his church, Bishop Ajamian, Chancellor of Jerusalem's Armenian Patriarchate, knew the family of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the young Arab Christian being held in the killing of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The Armenian prelate is in the United States to help in a Christian-Jewish-Moslem effort to raise \$2-million to rebuild Christian shrines on Mount Zion that were damaged in Arab-Israeli conflict over the years.

Recalling young Sirhan's educational background and the shifting temper of Palestinian Arab feelings toward Israel, the Bishop suggested that Sirhan had left Jerusalem when Arab hate for Israel was at its peak.

Recalls Passionate Speeches

He said in an interview that he thought Sirhan might not have sensed a moderation of Arab attitudes in Jerusalem after the Arab-Israeli war in June, 1967.

Bishop Ajamian spoke of "passionate speeches on all the Arab radios spreading hate" in the period immediately following the Suez war in 1956. The Sirhan family, which had lived in the Armenian quarter of Jerusalem near the Patriarchate,

arrived in New York in January, 1967.

Asked whether he thought organizations in this country

that dealt in anti-Israel propaganda, the precise, soft-spoken priest said, "I suppose that there must be."

The Armenian Orthodox Church, Bishop Ajamian said, is one of the Eastern Christian faiths, like the Coptic and Ethiopian Churches, and operates all the primary schools in the Armenian sector of Jerusalem's Old City.

He said he believed that Sirhan had attended one of the church's schools, although he did not remember the boy.

Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, "was known to quite everybody because he used to work in the municipal water department," Bishop Ajamian said. He recalled that the father was a very quiet man and that the family had a reputation of piety and devotion.

Known as Arab Christians

"They are what we call Arab Christians," the Bishop said. "They are known as an honorable and conservative family."

Bishop Ajamian met Senator Kennedy last February when he accompanied the Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem, Elisha II, on a visit to the Senate. He was impressed with Senator Kennedy's knowledge of the Arab-Israeli problem during a 15-minute conversation.

"His approach was very — I want to use the term Christian, that of a person who loves human beings as such," the prelate said.

Bishop Ajamian spoke to his Patriarch Wednesday night in Jerusalem and afterward, in a telegram to Mrs. Kennedy, expressed the Patriarch's sorrow. The Bishop said he planned to attend Senator Kennedy's funeral here.

Kennedy, as Reporter, Came to Admire the Israelis

By PAUL HOFMANN

The Israelis "are a young, tough, determined nation," a 22-year-old correspondent, Robert F. Kennedy, cabled from Palestine to The Boston Post just 20 years ago.

The fledgling reporter, who already revered pugnacity and "vigor," added: "They fight with unparalleled courage. This is their greatest and last chance; there will be no turning back."

The young Mr. Kennedy, between Harvard University and the University of Virginia Law School, served his stint as a newspaperman covering the fighting between Arabs and Jews that, in 1949, was to lead to the establishment of the state of Israel. By his own choice, he lived with Israeli soldiers.

This early experience was recalled yesterday, by persons who had been close to the late Senator Kennedy, as a motif that must be kept in mind in evaluating his relationship towards Jews and Israel. Mr. Kennedy's often professed sympathy for Israel was not a matter of political expediency, some of these sources stressed, but stemmed from an enduring emotional involvement.

Close Scrapes With Death

It was widely felt yesterday that exploration of Mr. Kennedy's posture toward Israel was relevant because the suspect held in his slaying, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was a 24-year old Jerusalem-born Arab immigrant.

One of the late Senator's biographers, Ralph de Toldano, wrote in his generally unsympathetic book, "R.F.K. The Man Who Would Be President" (G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1967) about how the young reporter narrowly escaped

*They're 'Tough, Determined,'
He Cabled Boston Post
Just 20 Years Ago*

death. An Israeli tank convoy to Jerusalem, in which he was supposed to travel, was wiped out by the Arabs. Mr. Kennedy reached Jerusalem with the help of an Israeli tank Captain.

Another biographer, Margaret Laing, who is British, wrote in her book, "The Next Kennedy" (Coward-McCann, 1968), that the young war correspondent's praise for the Israelis was his first public statement on a political issue.

Miss Laing continued: "Suspensions of anti-Semitism still (probably unfairly) clung to his father [former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy], but for the son, the Jews had the qualities he admired most. And as time passed, his emotional commitment to them was to grow. He increasingly believed that he could communicate with them."

Admired Jewish Spirit

Reached at her home in London yesterday, Miss Laing said in a telephone interview that she had spent three weeks in 1966 with the Senator and the Kennedy family. The Senator admired "the spirit of determination and discipline" of the Jewish people, whom he considered an underprivileged community, the British author recalled.

Senator Kennedy was planning to revisit Israel sometime this year. A Washington lawyer, Maurice Feldman, was making tentative arrangements.

"The plan wasn't publicized," Mr. Feldman said in a telephone interview yesterday, "because the visit might have been interpreted as a political move."

project was first discussed last autumn, then again earlier this year, Mr. Feldman said. He said he himself visited Israel about two months ago, conveying messages from Senator Kennedy to Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Defense Minister Moïse Dayan and other officials. Mr. Feldman said he was not at liberty to discuss the terms of the messages, but he emphasized that "Israel could not have had a better friend" than the Senator.

Criticized in U.N. By Arab

Throughout his political career, Mr. Kennedy made many statements favorable to Israel and was a frequent speaker in Jewish, Zionist and pro-Israel gatherings. He emphasized his support for Israel before, during and after the Middle East war last summer.

His stand drew a harsh reaction from an Arab spokesman in a United Nations Security Council debate on the Middle East crisis last June 12. Jamil M. Baroody, who has been Saudi Arabia's representative at the world organizations for more than 20 years, pictured Mr. Kennedy as a pro-Zionist, describing him as an "upstart, the son of the whisky merchant."

In 1964, when Mr. Kennedy was running against Senator Kenneth B. Keating, the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, a militantly anti-Zionist group, portrayed both men as being beholden to Israel.

It was recalled yesterday that Mr. Kennedy was interested in and concerned with the plight of Palestinian Arab refugees because of the work of his brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, as chairman of the Special Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees.

Suspect Is a Strong Nationalist Who Hoped to Return to Jordan

[NEW YORK TIMES]

[June 7, 1968]

Family Remains Silent

By ROBERT WINDELER

Special to The New York Times

PASADENA, Calif., June 6

—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan always meant to go back to Jerusalem some day, Linda Massri said last night outside the cream-colored clapboard cottage here where the 24-year-old suspected slayer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy lived with his mother and two brothers.

"The whole family hoped to return to Jordan together and reclaim their lost land—that was their dream and that's why most of them didn't become American citizens," she said.

Miss Massri, a near neighbor and close friend of the Sirhan family, and herself an American of Syrian extraction, then went inside the three-bedroom house to visit Sharif Sirhan, one of the suspect's elder brothers. She emerged an hour later

with two other Syrian women from Hollywood and the news that Sharif Sirhan would not talk about the suspect or the shooting of Senator Kennedy.

Sharif Sirhan, who is said to be 30 or 31 years old, his brother, Adel, 29, and their mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, who joined him an hour later, have kept the silence. The three stayed in the family home last night, guarded by four Pasadena policemen put there at the request of the American Civil Liberties Union.

A telegram sent by Mrs. Sirhan to the Kennedy family was the only break in the silence. The telegram, sent from Pasadena this afternoon, said:

"It hurts us very bad what has happened and we express our feelings with them and especially with the children and with Mrs. Kennedy and with the mother and father. I want them to know that I am really crying for them and we pray that God will make peace—really peace—in the heart of the people." It was signed "Mrs. Mary Sirhan."

The suspect lived quietly, almost obscurely, with his mother, Adel and a younger brother, Munier, who is 20 years old and is sometimes called Joe. The small, one-story house, like those around it, is about 45 years old. The

family has owned it for six years, but there were many times when the payments on it almost were not met. The house is estimated to be worth about \$15,000.

The house is on tree-lined East Howard Street, which runs through a racially mixed neighborhood. The tiny lawns are well-kept and the gardens abound in flowers, particularly roses at this time of year.

Sirhan, Sirhan was a sometime gardener, and his neighbors knew him mostly as a quiet youth who worked hard around the house, in his studies and, most recently, as a clerk in a neighborhood health food store.

But in private conversations—particularly in the year since the start of the Arab-Israeli war—he was violently anti-Zionist and pro-Palestine. With friends and acquaintances of his own age he was outspokenly against American support of Israel.

Two Years at College

"But we all were," said a 28-year-old Syrian woman, a friend of Adel and Sirhan, who asked that her name be withheld. "We all had strong feelings about it, especially when we got together. He was no more active than anybody else and he's never made any threatening remarks about anyone."

The young woman is a member of the American Arabs, a youth offshoot of the United

American Arab Congress of Southern California in Hollywood. She said Sirhan, Adel and Sharif had all attended meetings of the group during the Arab-Israeli war, but that they were not members.

There is no Arab youth group in Pasadena except for Arab Students at Pasadena City College. Sirhan attended that college for two years, 1964-66, and was a member of the Arab student group.

The organization American Arabs, in a program called USOMEN, supplied Jordanian and Syrian refugees with money during the war. It was not known whether the suspect participated in the fund-raising.

Pasadena itself has few Arab families, estimated to be fewer than 50, and they are scattered throughout this city, rather than concentrated in one neighborhood. Those of the older generation like Mrs. Sirhan who

preferred to speak Arabic or who had not learned English, are in particularly close contact but Miss Massri said all the families knew each other to some degree.

There is a larger Arab community in Los Angeles, numbering perhaps 20,000 persons, which its own newspaper, and some members of the Sirhan family were known to it. Adel, the most gregarious of the brothers, was a frequent visitor to the Arab-American gathering spot in greater Los Angeles.

[NEW YORK TIMES]

[June 7, 1968]

Early Life Termed Bitter

By TERENCE SMITH

Special to The New York Times

JERUSALEM, June 6—In the class records of the Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran School for 1951-52 there is an entry for a 6-year-old first grader named Sirhan Sirhan.

The grades are uniformly high. The boy ranked fifth in his class of 26 students, and in the margin of the report his teacher commented: "Diligent, attentive in class, industrious and good in character. He should be promoted."

The records for the next four years follow the same pattern, and the grades, except for the class in drawing, which he perennially failed, remain high. The composite picture is that of a well-balanced, secure boy with a promising academic future.

"What the records do not show," Salim Awad, the headmaster of the school who was Sirhan's teacher, said in an interview today, "is what went on at home. The father and mother had terrible fights, and the children suffered as a result. Their father beat them, and drove the two oldest boys to desperation. Finally they moved out and lived by themselves."

Just as it was around the world, the name Sirhan was being discussed today in the Old City of Jerusalem, where the man accused of killing Senator Robert F. Kennedy, lived for nearly a decade.

From the recollections of relatives, teachers, neighbors and clergymen, there emerged a portrait of a bitterly fractious family dominated by a violent father, and held together by a zealously religious mother, whose view of life was as rigid as her ideas of salvation.

There was in the view of one neighbor, "simply no joy in the Sirhans' world. It was a vicious place."

Parents Wed in Jerusalem

Mary and Beshara Sirhan met and married in Jerusalem and their children were born in a small house in the Musrara Quarter, in the sector of the city that became Israeli after the war in 1948.

As it did so many other families in Palestine, the war uprooted the Sirhans. The father lost his job with the city water supply and the family lost nearly all of its possessions when it fled to the Arab sector and settled in the Old City.

The Sirhans — there were seven of them at this point — moved into two rooms on the street level of an old stone house on a street that runs between the Jewish and Armenian Quarters of the Old City. Four other families, three Christian and one Moslem, lived in the other part of the house. Water had to be drawn by hand from a pump, electricity had never been installed.

Zirhan was the fourth of five sons. His brothers were Sharif, Saidallah, Adel and Munir Sirhan, and they had a slender, sickly sister, Ida.

House Still Stands

Their house is still on Souk el Houssov Street, at the corner of Al Mulak Street, but the windows and doors have been covered. Early last year, the nearby Armenian Convent, which owns the building, decided that it was unsafe and walled up the openings. Of the neighbors, only the family of Amin Youssef Hashima still lives in Jerusalem.

"The Sirhans kept to themselves when they lived here," Mrs. Hashima told a caller today. "They had little to do with us and never spoke to the Armenians. The mother always talked about Jesus and religion. She told the children about Lutheranism and Jesus and how Jesus was crucified."

In the months after the war, Beshara Zirhan found no work and the family's position became desperate. Late in 1948, Mrs. Zirhan came to Pastor Daoud Haddad of the Lutheran Church of the Saviour in the Old City, and begged for help.

"She was not a member of our congregations," the pastor said today, "but we did what we could to help."

For the next seven years, the Church of the Saviour all but

supported the Sirhans. The parish provided them with used clothing, and food and permitted their children to attend the church school tuition-free. Pastor Haddad frequently visited the family's dark, squalid home.

He remembers the fourth son, Zirhan, very vividly.

"He was a clever boy—very quick—but unstable and very unhappy," the pastor said as he sat in the living room of his residence in the Old City. "I remember thinking that he

would have a very difficult time later in life because the family he grew up in lacked the basic things a boy needs to understand life.

"Beshara had frequent violent fits and was given to breaking what little furniture they had, and beating the children. He thrashed them with sticks and with his fists, whenever they disobeyed him."

"Young Sirhan seemed to have some of this violence in him," the pastor went on. "He was thin and nervous and inclined to sudden bursts of temper. At other times he was oddly quiet, for long periods."

The pastor recalls the mother as the dominant figure in the lives of the Sirhan children. "But she was harsh herself," he said. She was terribly narrow-minded and rigid in religious matters, but she loved the children in her way and she managed to hold the family together."

A cousin, Mrs. Helen Ode, whose mother was a sister of Mary Sirhan's mother, recalled her cousin's dominance over her fourth son.

Sirhan was always with his mother, she said, in a conversation in the Old City home. "She never let him out of her sight. She always seemed to be afraid to let him go out by himself."

In addition to his fits of temper, Mr. Sirhan apparently was sometimes harsh in his punishment of the boys. Selim Atas, a boyhood acquaintance of Sirhan's, who grew up in the neighborhood, remembers an incident when the father heated an iron and pressed it against Sirhan's heel. "I remember Sirhan coming to school with no shoes," Mr. Atas said.

In 1956, for reasons that are not entirely clear, Mrs. Sirhan began to drift away from the Church of the Saviour, where she and her daughter had become regular worshippers.

"I think she began to get help from another religious group in Jerusalem," Mr. Atas said. A lot of the poorer families do that move from one denomination to another to get all the support they can."

The next year, the Sirhans made their move to the United States, apparently under the sponsorship of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. Authoritative sources said today that agency had paid part of the expenses of the move, though a top official of the agency here refused to confirm or deny the report.

The final break in the Sirhan family came while it was in the United States. After the separation, the father returned to Jerusalem and four years ago moved to the village of Et Taiyiba, seven miles northeast of the west-bank town of Ramallah, where he was born 53 years ago. Et Taiyiba is a prosperous village of about 3,000 Arabs, 80 per cent of whom are Christians.

As far as the people of Old Jerusalem were concerned, the Sirhans all but ceased to exist when they moved away. No letters or communication of any kind were received during the intervening decade. The name Sirhan was hardly mentioned in the Old City until yesterday.

ARAB PROPAGANDA SCORED

[NEW YORK TIMES. June 7, 1968]

TEL AVIV, June 6 (Reuters) - Israeli newspapers said today that Arab propaganda against Israel lay behind the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

In a typical reaction, the Tel Aviv newspaper Maariv said that a campaign of hatred originating from Cairo, Damascus and Amman had spread around the world.

Another newspaper, Yediot Aharonot, said: "The assassination was part and parcel of the 'Arab Struggle' that for years has struck dead women and children in Israel but has now burst out to engulf the Arabs' American benefactors."

ARABS LINK SENATOR'S DEATH TO POLICY OF U.S.

(Special to The New York Times)

[NEW YORK TIMES. June 7, 1968]

BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 6 - Initial Arab reaction today deplored the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, but several newspaper editorials here asserted that the crime could not be isolated from United States policy in the Middle East.

Many individuals appeared shocked. "My immediate thoughts are with the Kennedy's 10 children," a taxi driver said, while a shopkeeper asked: "What has become of this world that thinks of nothing but bloodshed?"

The fact that the suspect in the assassination, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was identified as an Arab from Jordan has generated profound interest in the Middle East.

Reports that Senator Kennedy's recent statements urging the United States to supply Israel with fighter planes had prompted the shooting were featured in the Arab press.

Two Beirut newspapers expressed the opinion that the assassination was a Zionist-inspired conspiracy, aimed at undermining the relations between the Arab and American peoples. In Amman, Jordan, the semiofficial Al Dastour said that only the Israelis could benefit from such a crime.

In Beirut, The Daily Star an English-language newspaper denounced Sirhan as an outcast, and declared that the assassination "has shocked the entire Arab world."

King Hussein of Jordan, in a message to President Johnson, said that the assassination was "particularly shocking to me."

Premier Abdullah Yaffi of Lebanon declared that all Lebanese were pained by the tragedy that has befallen the Kennedy family.

In Syria and Iraq, the news of the assassination was reported without comment.

Inquiry by Hussein Sees No Conspiracy Involving Suspect

[NEW YORK TIMES]

June 10, 1968]

By ERIC PACE

Special to The New York Times

AMMAN, JORDAN, June 9 —King Hussein said today that intentions investigations involving "all our security organizations" had uncovered no evidence that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the man accused of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, had been involved in a conspiracy or had had any

recent connections with Jordan.

"To the best of our knowledge, his contact with this part of the world ended when he left here as a child", the monarch said during an interview at the royal palace here.

His deep voice shaking, the King said the assassination had left him "most deeply shocked and nauseated" and that his investigators had "done their utmost to provide what information they could to our American friends."

Dressed in a gray business suit, King Hussein appeared more relaxed and serene than he has at other interviews in the last year. But he sighed and inhaled deeply on his

filtered cigarette as he described Senator Kennedy as "a friend, a person I admire."

For the assassination "somehow to be connected with an individual connected with this part of the world has caused me great distress and sadness," he continued, starting down at the velvety carpet.

Sirhan, the 24-year-old resident of California, is a Christian Arab of Palestinian origin. He emigrated from Jordanian Jerusalem as a boy in 1957, along with the rest of his immediate family.

"There is nothing to suggest" that the assassination was anything more than individual act, the King said.

"Beyond that, we have not been able to arrive at anything further," he continued, emphasizing that there was no indication that Sirhan had any ties with Jordan since he emigrated.

The King has escaped several plots against his life, although palace officials assert that there have been none in recent years.

The monarch has sent a message of sympathy to members of the Kennedy family and to President Johnson, but the interview, which lasted a half hour, was the first time that he had spoken publicly about the assassination.

Judge Fears Courthouse Trial Might Not Be Safe for Sirhan

[NEW YORK TIMES, June 11, 1968]

By TERRY ROBARDS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 10 — The presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court expressed anxiety today over the safety of the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The judge, Donald R. Wright, said he was opposed to holding the trial of the suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, in the county courthouse.

Judge Wright said the courthouse "has no security facilities at all, except on lockup." He said better arrangements could be made at the Hall of Justice, a much older building that, he said, has excellent detention facilities.

Using the Hall of Justice for the trial would enable Sirhan to be transported between a jail cell and the courtroom virtually without public notice.

Site of Indictment

Sirhan was indicted at the Hall of Justice Friday for Mr. Kennedy's murder. He was arraigned the same day in a chapel at the Los Angeles County mens central jail to avoid the public exposure he would have received in a courtroom.

Meanwhile, it was learned that the man who will most likely head the prosecution of Sirhan is J. Miller Leavey, chief of the trials division of the District Attorney's office.

Mr. Leavey declined to discuss the Sirhan case today. When asked if he would be the chief prosecutor he said, "I'm available." But he noted that he had not yet received any official indication that he would prosecute the case.

A defense lawyer has not yet been selected. A. L. Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern California, said that Sirhan would be represented by an attorney selected by the Los Angeles County Bar Association and approved by the defendant.

"The organized bar in the past has demonstrated its concern for the constitutional right of counsel," Mr. Wirin said, "and we have every confidence that, if requested by the court, the Los Angeles County Bar Association will secure counsel for this defendant."

He said he had "no intention" of requesting any A.C.L.U. lawyer to represent Mr. Sirhan. "The determination of Sirhan's guilt or innocence poses no civil liberties issue," he said.

Mr. Wirin, who visited Sirhan in jail for about 40 min-

utes today, said the defendant has twice asked the A.C.L.U. for a lawyer. Mr. Wirin said he had explained the union's position and had turned down the requests.

The defendant is undergoing psychiatric examination this week by two defense experts. They are Dr. Eric Marcus and Dr. Edward Steinbrook. Their findings will be made available only to the defense and will be used to make a decision on what plea Sirhan will enter on June 28, the date that has been set for pleading.

Sources in the county Sheriff's office said that Sirhan had not mentioned the shooting of Mr. Kennedy and five other persons early last Wednesday morning to anyone, nor had he asked for any member of his family to visit him.

Sirhan was reported to be eating three meals a day and sleeping well. He takes exercise intermittently by pacing the jail corridor and has been given books and newspapers to read, at his request.

Yesterday, Paul Schrade, regional director of the United Auto Workers, said he did not know who had shot him. Mr. Schrade was one of five persons wounded when Mr. Kennedy was shot.

Early Charges Dropped

On a motion by the District Attorney today, the Los Angeles Superior Court dismissed the original six-count complaint against Sirhan charging him with assault to commit murder. The reason for the dismissal was that the indictment, handed down two days later, superseded the original complaint.

In another development today, Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon said that his information control order concerning the prosecution of Sirhan was not meant to apply to the press or the general public.

Judge Alarcon, who presided at Sirhan's arraignment, issued, probably the most sweeping injunction yet to figure in a major criminal case forbidding public officials and others connected with the case from disseminating information that might impair a fair trial. "Swift" contempt of court action was promised violators.

A sentence in the preamble to Judge Alarcon's order, disapproving "dissemination by any means of public communication of any out-of-court statements," left a possible inference of application at least in spirit to news media and private citizens.

Woman Was With Sirhan Before Killing, Jury Told

[NEW YORK TIMES, June 14, 1968]

She Wore a Polka-Dot Dress and Was Smiling With Suspect in Hotel Where Kennedy Was Slain, Waiter Asserts

By GLADWIN HILL
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13—A woman in a polka-dot dress was huddled with Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in the Ambassador Hotel pantry just before he allegedly shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a principal witness has testified.

This was divulged today with the official release of the transcript of testimony given last

Excerpts from the testimony before grand jury, Page 28.

Friday to the county grand jury that indicted the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant on a first degree murder charge.

The testimony dovetailed with the report of another bystander, Miss Sandra Serrano, a local Democratic leader. She told the police last week that she had seen a woman in a polka-dot dress run out of the hotel just after the shooting June 5, exclaiming triumphantly "We shot him! We shot him!"

The police last week issued a nationwide bulletin saying that they wanted for questioning "a woman observed with the suspect" wearing a polka-dot dress. She was described as being between 24 and 27 years old, about 5 feet 6 inches tall, with a bouffant coiffure.

Police Chief Robert Houghton confirmed today that the woman was still being sought.

As to the possibility of a conspiracy in the murder, he said, "We are keeping an open mind on that and all aspects of the investigation include that possibility."

He also announced at a news

conference that the police department had organized a special 22-man force to pursue leads in the case, in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the District Attorney's office.

The grand jury transcript also contained testimony that made the following points:

¶Sirhan, at a suburban rifle range only 12 hours before the attack on Senator Kennedy, shot upwards of 300 "mini-magnum" disintegrating bullets of special destructive power in a session of rapid-firing practice.

¶Senator Kennedy was hit by three bullets rather than two, as previously reported—the fatal one fired perhaps only inches from his head.

¶Mrs. Kennedy was shielded, as eight shots came from Sirhan's .22-caliber revolver "like firecrackers," by Roosevelt Grier, star of the Los Angeles Rams football team.

¶Mrs. Kennedy became momentarily confused after the shooting and slapped another victim, Ira Goldstein, a newsman, who had asked about her husband — then quickly apologized and kissed Mr. Goldstein.

¶Arthur Placencia and Travis White, the two police officers who rushed the defendant out of the hotel, felt they had narrowly averted lethal attacks on him by groups of outraged bystanders both in the pantry and at the hotel entrance.

¶Neither of the arresting officers knew that Senator Kennedy had been the target of the attack until informed by the State Assembly Speaker, Jesse M. Unruh, Mr. Kennedy's California campaign chairman, as they were driving the prisoner to a police station.

¶On the way, one of the officers pulled out his Field Manual and twice read to the prisoner his constitutional rights.

The 23-member grand jury heard testimony from 23 witnesses in the all-day session before voting the murder indictment, which carries a pos-

sible death penalty. The jury also voted indictments on five counts of assault with intent to murder, relating to five incidental victims of the Kennedy attack.

The testimony about "the girl in the polka-dot dress" came from Vincent T. Di Pierro

a 19-year-old Santa Monica city college freshman, son of Angelo Di Pierro, the Ambassador banquet manager. The youth working as a waiter that night.

As Senator Kennedy strode into the pantry, after his claiming victory in California's Presidential primary, "I walked with him up to the ice machine," Mr. Di Pierro testified. "And it was there that I noticed there was a girl and the accused person standing on what we call a tray stacker. . . a very good-looking girl next to him.

'Very Good-Looking Figure'

"I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure—and the dress was kind of lousy. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka-dots on it. It kind of had . . . like a bib in the front. She had dark hair that was cut, I would say just above the shoulders. She had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too pretty. She had a very good figure."

"They were both standing together," he said. "He looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her, because she smiled. Together, they were both smiling, as he got down, he was smiling."

"In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that."

Mr. DiPierro said he had not seen the woman after the shooting.

Another hotel employee, Jesus Perez, a kitchen helper, identified photographs of the defendant and told the grand jury that "he was talking to me about half an hour before the shooting" in the pantry.

"He asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming through that way. And I answer I don't know."

The testimony of several hotel employees indicated that Senator Kennedy's entry into the pantry-corridor after his speech had been, as far as they knew, a last-minute move.

The gist of the testimony was that it was the merest fluke that had taken the Senator into a confrontation with his assassin.

The 273-page grand jury transcript was released by the Superior Court as soon as a copy had been made available to Sirhan's counsel, Deputy Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield. Sirhan, confined under heavy guard in the county jail, has indicated he would like private counsel, but no arrange-

ments have yet been completed.

Police chief Houghton said that the special unit handling the investigation would be headed by Capt. Hugh Brown, head of the homicide division.

District Attorney Evelle Younger announced that the prosecuting staff on the case would consist of Lynn D. Compton, his chief deputy; John E. Howard, chief of his special investigations divisions, who presented the case to the grand jury, and Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts.

Excerpts From Testimony Before Jury

[NEW YORK TIMES. June 14, 1968]

That Indicted Sirhan for Kennedy

Murder

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13—Following are excerpts from testimony of some of the 23 witnesses who testified last Friday before the grand jury that indicted Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the first degree murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The transcript of the grand jury proceedings was made public today. Questions were put to the witnesses by various members of the District Attorney's staff.

VINCENT T. Di PIERRO, college student and Ambassador Hotel part-time waiter, son of the hotel's banquet manager, Angelo Di Pierro:

I got separated from Senator Kennedy by about five feet [as the Senator entered the Ambassador Hotel pantry, where he was shot] and I walked with him up to the ice machine. And it was there that I noticed there was a girl and the accused person standing on what we call a tray stacker.

Whether or not the second person was involved, I don't know. . . . The only reason I noticed him—there was a very good-looking girl next to him. . . . He was grabbing on with his left hand [to a pipe on the tray stacker]. I could not see his right hand. He looked as though he were clutching his stomach, as though somebody had elbowed him.

Q. Was he in a straight up position or was he crouched or semi-crouched? A. Semi-crouched. . . . From that moment on, I just looked at the girl, and I saw him get down off the tray stand. And when

I went to turn, the next thing I saw was him holding the gun.

Q. How close did—we will call him the suspect—get to the Senator? A. It couldn't have been more than six feet.

Q. How close to the Senator was the suspect when this gun started firing?

A. Four feet—four to six feet. . . . He kind of went around Mr. Uecker, and he from here—he looked like—though he pulled his hand out from here and came around. . . . And then the other boy that got shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me, and they pushed me down, they fell on top of me.

Senator's Hands Went Up

Q. Did you see what happened to the Senator before you went down? A. He was on his way, falling—he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back very, very sharply.

Q. Did you see any movement of the Senator's arms after the first shot? A. Both hands went up like that [indicating].

Q. As near as you can, will you recall for the jury the events immediately after the shooting? What happened?

A. Well, the suspect turned almost immediately; and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to escape. He tried very, very hard to get away. But Mr. Rafer Johnson [the athlete, a member of the Kennedy party]—and by this time Mr. [Roosevelt] Grier [the athlete, also in the Kennedy party] and Mr. Uecker were all holding him

against the heater. It's the stainless steel table. And people were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean, everyone was trying to kill him. . . . I tried to help keep the suspect subdued, but it was, you know—wasn't really worth it because everyone else grabbed him already and were beating up on him.

Q. But he was apprehended at this time? A. Yes, almost instantly.

Q. Did some police officers arrive? A. Yes, they did, but at the time involved, I have no idea.

Q. Now going back to just before this shooting, you observed a nice looking girl [in the hotel pantry where Senator Kennedy was shot]? A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Could you identify her again if you saw her? A. To some degree, yes, sir, I could. I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good looking figure—and the dress was kind of lousy.

Q. Flousy? A. Lousy.

Missing After Shooting

Q. Now, after the shooting, you remained at the scene; did you happen to see this girl again? A. No, after the shooting I did not see her. I only saw her before.

Q. You didn't ask her name or anything? A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q. Did any of the fellows or guys you work with by chance—? A. No, no one had, other than myself, had seen her, I don't believe.

Q. You have inquired around, I take it, since? A. I have only talked to one fellow that was across from

me, that had seen me, that was with me the whole time. I asked him, and he said that he had seen her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name was.

Q. Could you describe what she was wearing? A. Yes. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka-dots on it. It kind of had — I don't know what they call it, but it's like—looked like a bib in the front that kind of went around. It's just like that [indicating].

Q. A lace dickey, probably?

A. It was like over the material itself; it was the same as the clothing. And she was—she—the person who is accused of shooting him was—like I say, they were both on the—standing standing together.

Q. Back of the tray stand?

A. Yes. And what happened, he looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her, because she smiled. This is just before he got down.

So at least, their association, in proximity of the tray stand, they are smiling, perhaps? A. Together, they were both smiling. As he got down, he was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that.

Q. Could you describe the facial characteristics first of all of this girl? A. Yes. She had dark hair that was cut, I would say, just above the shoulders, just around in here [indicating]. And it just kind of looked like it was messed up, at the time, I mean. She could have mean. She could have come up with curls. I don't

know, it was just messed up at the time. Her face—facial expression, she had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too pretty. And like I say, figure—she had a very good figure.

JESUS PEREZ, a kitchen helper at the Ambassador Hotel:

Q. Now, you see the two photographs which are in front of you [pictures of the defendant]. Did you see the person that's in those photographs around the hotel that night? A. Yes. He was talking to me about half an hour before the shooting.

Q. And where were you at that time that he was talking to you? A. In the steam table in the front—in the steam table—I was there, and he was close to me here. And he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming

through that way. And I answer I don't know because—really, I don't know what way he comes.

Q. But he asked you about three or four times? A. Yes, he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy come through from there, coming out from there. . . . He was there talking with me and other boys. And some Mexican boy, he said something, and the man was—he—he told me, "What he said?" And I tell him, "He is talking about the beautiful girl. He no talking about you." He said, "Oh."

Q. This was about half an hour before the Senator got shot that night or before the shooting got started? A. Yes. We was about half an hour standing there.

Q. Do you remember when you first saw this person? A. Yeah, I remember him. He was there in the steam table, getting some picture, doing something, you—he was standing there.

Q. How early in the night did you see him there? A. I say 15 minutes before 12.

Mrs. Kennedy Protected

IRWIN STROLL, 19, Kennedy campaign volunteer worker:

I started going through the kitchen door [as the Kennedy party left the ballroom]. . . . I got in front of Mrs. Kennedy by accident. Then we went through the door and all of a sudden the procession stopped and it was like fire-crackers, just pop, pop, pop all over the place, and smoke, and, well, I did this, I pushed Mrs. Kennedy—just a reaction, and everyone in front turned around.

I turned around and saw Mrs. Kennedy on the floor with Roosevelt Grier covering her. . . . I saw her on the floor with Roosevelt Grier hovering over her, protecting her.

IRA GOLDSTEIN, 19, radio newsman:

I was just barely skinned by a bullet . . . in the left thigh. . . . I staggered to a chair . . . and the first thing I said was, "How is Senator Kennedy? What happened to him?"

And this woman walked by, and she said to me, "How dare you talk about my husband that way," and she slapped me across the face.

And I said, "I am sorry,

lady, but I was shot, too. I'd like to know how the Senator was . . ." or ". . . is."

And she said, "Oh, I am sorry, honey," and kissed me. This was Mrs. Ethel Kennedy.

At that time she was not in tears. She was a little hysterical, though, but she wasn't crying.

Arthur Placencia, policeman, who, responding to a radio call, arrived in the Ambassador pantry a few minutes after the shooting:

Q. Were you in police uniform? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Telling everyone you were taking him [Sirhan] into custody? A. We had to keep telling them, "We are police, step aside."

And after a while we got tired of telling them. We just started pushing. . . . My partner had him from the right, from my partner's right, and the suspect's left, and [Jesse M.] Unruh [Speaker of the California Assembly] was on the other side—kept hollering, "We don't want another Oswald, we don't want another Oswald."

Because I know I was going to have to make a report on him, I asked him, just like any other suspect, I asked him, "What is your name?" He didn't say anything.

Q. Would he communicate at all with you on the ride to the station? A. Well, when I was giving him—Travis turned around, my partner, White, and told me, "You better give him his rights, partner."

Tells Sirhan of Rights

Q. For the subject—or the suspect, of his constitutional rights? A. Yes. So I took out my officer's Field Notebook, and I started reading off the rights. And after I read them off, I asked him, "Do you understand your rights?" And he looked at me, and I asked him again; and then he mumbled something.

So I told him, "Look, I will give them to you again." So I read them off again. Then I asked him again, "Do you understand your rights?" Then he looked at me and said, "Yes."

And then I said, "Do you wish to remain silent?" And he just didn't say anything. Then he looked at me again and he said, "Yes."

Then I said, "Do you wish an attorney present?" Then at that time he just said, "Yes." So after that I didn't ask him anymore.

And then, after that, I asked Jesse Unruh, I said, "By the way, who did he shoot?"

And he goes, "Bobby Kennedy."

And I said, "Oh."

DR. THOMAS T. NOGUCHI, coroner of Los Angeles County:

Q. And would you tell us how many wounds there were?

A. A total of three gunshot wounds sir. . . . A gunshot wound in the right mastoid; gunshot wound two was found in the back of the right armpit, known as the right axilla; and the gunshot wound 3 was also found very close, approximately — it's about half inch below the gunshot wound No. 2.

Q. So that you would regard wound No. 1 then as

being the wound that did cause death, is that right?

A. That's correct sir. . . . There was an extensive brain damage on the right side of the brain, mainly the brain called cerebellum. . . . There

also was marked swelling of the brain as well as flattening by the pressures inside of the brain and causing a flattening of the brain stem.

Q. Do you have any opinion as to what might have been

the distance from which that bullet was fired?

A. Allowing variation, I don't think it will be more than two or three inches from the edge of the right ear.

Coast Lawyer, 73, to Defend Sirhan Without Fee

(NEW YORK TIMES)

June 20, 1968

By ROBERT WINDELER
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 19— Russell E. Parsons, a 73-year-old Los Angeles attorney, will serve as defense counsel for Sirhan B. Sirhan, the 24-year-old Jordanian accused of murdering Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Mr. Parsons will be joined by another lawyer, whom he described as "a very able man, a good lawyer who is involved in something right now in which it would be detrimental if his name were announced in connection with the Sirhan case."

Sirhan picked both names from a list given him by A. L. Wirin, chief local counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Mr. Wirin said today that he had witnessed Sirhan's signing a retainer for the two lawyers in his windowless 12-by-12-foot cell in the Los Angeles County Men's Central Jail sometime between Sirhan's arrest June 5 and June 10.

Neither Mr. Parsons nor Mr. Wirin would say why the news had been delayed, but June 10 was the last day Mr. Wirin visited the suspect and today was Mr. Parsons' first visit.

"I talked with my client this morning on his bed in his cell for about two hours," Mr. Par-



Associated Press

Russell E. Parsons

sons said. He would not elaborate.

"Since Sirhan has now secured the counsel of his choice guaranteed by the Constitution the A.C.L.U.'s interest in the case is ended," Mr. Wirin said.

Sirhan was reported to have asked Mr. Wirin to take the case, but Mr. Wirin declined on the ground that no constitutional or civil liberties issue was involved. He said that the

A.C.L.U.'s only interest was in seeing that Sirhan got the lawyer of his choice.

Mr. Wirin saw the defendant almost daily between June 5 and June 10 but said today he did not know whether he would see him again.

A third lawyer may join Mr. Parsons and his associate, Mr. Parsons said, but he has not yet been selected.

Mr. Parsons said he would serve "without fee and as a public service." He replaces Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield as Sirhan's chief counsel.

Sirhan had not expressed any particular displeasure with the Public Defender's office, generally regarded as one of the best in the United States, but had said repeatedly that he would like his own lawyer.

His ability to pay a private lawyer was questionable, but his father, Bishara Sirhan, had said in Jordan that he would pay the cost of lawyers from Arab countries.

Several such lawyers have indicated their willingness to come to Los Angeles in Sirhan's defense. Neither Mr. Wirin nor Mr. Parsons had been reached directly by them and said they could not comment on the admissibility of foreign lawyers.

A public defender is a counsel appointed by the court to represent indigent defendants. There are 208 full-time defense attorneys in the Los Angeles

County Public Defender's office, and they may not, by law, simultaneously engage in private practice.

California state law provides that counties may set up a public defender's office, and most of the state's 58 counties have done so.

In a case such as Sirhan's, if money is found or a lawyer is willing to work for nothing, a public defender is "substituted out." That is what happened to Mr. Littlefield.

The names of Melvin Belli and F. Lee Bailey were on the original A.C.L.U. list of volunteers. Mr. Wirin said that Sirhan wanted neither.

Mr. Parsons, a native of Los Angeles, said he had tried more than 5,000 cases, "many, many of them murder cases."

He is best known, however, for his defense of Charles Cahan, convicted of conspiring to engage in bookmaking on the basis of evidence secured by placing hidden microphones in private homes without a search warrant.

In 1955 the California Supreme Court reversed the conviction, contending that such evidence was illegally seized and should be excluded from the trial. The decision in *Mapp vs. Ohio* United States in the Supreme Court six years later made this search and seizure doctrine applicable in all the states.

COAST POLICE HALT 'POLKA-DOT' HUNT

[NEW YORK TIMES]

Cancel Bulletin on Woman
Sought in Kennedy Case

[June 23, 1968]

By GLADWIN HILL

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 21—The Los Angeles Police Department canceled Friday a nationwide wanted-for-questioning bulletin for an unidentified "woman in a polka-dot dress" reported at the scene of Senator Robert F. Kennedy's fatal shooting June 5.

A key witness before the grand jury testified that this woman was talking to the alleged assassin, Sirhan B. Sirhan, in the Ambassador Hotel pantry moments before the shooting. Another bystander said a woman of the same description had rushed triumphantly out of the hotel exclaiming: "We shot him!"

The bulletin went out to law-enforcement agencies throughout the country a few hours after the shooting.

Capt. Hugh Brown, chief of the police homicide division, declined to comment on the cancellation of the bulletin. But circumstances suggested that the mysterious woman might have been eliminated as a significant factor in the event.

More than an hour after the cancellation order of 10:45 A.M., Police Chief Thomas Reddin, at an impromptu news conference, indicating that he was unaware of the move, remarked: "We still have not established her connection with the case."

The office of Sirhan's newly engaged lawyer, Russell H. Par-

sons, reported today that he had already received mail and telephone threats against his life.

Chief Reddin said his department had not been notified of the threats, but would take "whatever precautions are necessary."

He said, however, that he thought protection would be needed more in later stages of the prosecution, and that he himself had received threats. He said he was not unduly concerned because the importance of the threats depended somewhat on "the personal evaluation that the receiver puts on them."

Asked if he had expected questions of infringement of constitutional rights to be raised at the trial of Sirhan, who is charged with first-degree murder, Chief Reddin commented:

"Undoubtedly there will be some testing of every area of search and seizure."

Sirhan Family of Little Cohesion, Aloof From Community and One

[NEW YORK TIMES]
**Accused Slayer Said
to Be Quiet, Polite
and Thoughtful**
[June 30, 1968]

By ROBERT WINDELER
Special to The New York Times

PASADENA, Calif., June 29 — Mary Sirhan sat on the faded yellow sofa in the tiny living room of her house on Howard Street and sighed as she looked through a copy of Life magazine with a picture of her fourth son and of James Earl Ray on the cover.

"All wrong," she said softly with a noticeable Arabic accent. "The names are all spelled wrong and in the baby picture they got Adel and him mixed up."

Everyone was always getting Adel and "him" mixed up. And with the Sirhans hard facts were hard to come by, especially since the court had told them not to talk.

Adel and he were close in age (Adel is said to be 27 years old; his younger brother Sirhan B. Sirhan is 24) and even closer in looks. Neighbors were never sure just who it was out cutting the grass, or washing the car.

But Adel was the gregarious one, the one who went out with girls, who worked as a carpenter until he found a job as a musician. He felt at home in bars.

The Silent One

Sirhan was the silent one, the polite attendant at two Pasadena gas stations, the thoughtful neighbor who always had time to help an old lady roll a rug or reline a shelf, the serious student at Pasadena City College who kept wishing he was at U.C.L.A.

His social life in school seemed to consist of an occasional coffee with fellow students at Bob's Big Boy, a hamburger place across from the campus.

His only apparent aberration after school was spending most afternoons of the racing season at nearby Santa Anita, betting on every race and either winning a bundle or losing everything in his pockets. Once he

Another

did so well he quit working for Ivan Milicic's Chevron service station and lived off his winnings.

And Sirhan, according to a close family friend, was his mother's favorite. "He was the one who didn't wander," she said. He was at home at home.

Adel now sat in the living room across from his mother, sifting through a pile of mostly unopened letters and telegrams looking for a particular address.

Waiting to Plead

Sirhan sat in a 12-foot-square maximum security cell at the Los Angeles County Central Men's Jail, waiting to plead guilty or not to the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and not acknowledging, according to all reports from the jail, that that murder had ever taken place.

But the Senator was murdered, and on Howard Street they were talking about it. Mrs. Sirhan, a tiny woman not quite five feet tall and weighing 90 pounds, has read every magazine and newspaper account she could find.

There were frequent visits from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a few friends who got past both the Pasadena policemen who sat on the front porch or in a police car in the driveway and Shareis, her second son, who answered the door.

"Her heart is broken both ways," said Mrs. M. A. Pulite, a neighbor. "She is broken hearted for Kennedy and for her son. Most of the time she seems fine — I say fine, but how do I know, how does anyone know, what's inside her?"

Sirhan has not seen his family since his arrest June 5. They have made no attempt to visit him, and he has not asked for them. Ask Mary Sirhan about

that and she will simply say that she is under court order not to make a statement but that no, she still has not seen her son.

Different Careers

Despite their living together most of the time, the Sirhan family — mother, five brothers and a sister — seemed always to be apart, from one another and from their surroundings. They pursued different careers and made different friends.

They seldom communicated with each other — in English or in Arabic.

In this city, famous for its wealth, they were poor. In a thoroughly assimilated, largely Lebanese Arab-American community in greater Los Angeles, they were first-generation Jordanian nationalists. Of an ethnic group with a strong patriarchal tradition, they were a family without a father.

The Sirhans came here in

1957, with a father, Bishara Sirhan (according to tradition all his sons bear his first name as a middle name) but he left shortly afterward to return to Jordan, not to be heard from again until his son Sirhan was said to have killed Senator Kennedy.

Mary Surhan found work quickly, as the low-paid housekeeper for a church-run nursery school. But her children had less luck.

Saidallah, now 35 and the eldest, was a painter who was so often out of work that he had time to paint the Sirhan house on Howard Street three times, inside and out.

He was the only one of the family to have taken steps to become an American citizen, and he would have become one this month but for an unsettled matter of a narcotics charge.

Shareif, who is in his early 30's, found work as an accountant for the State Baptist

Convention but was dismissed, causing his family to quit the Baptist Church in protest.

The Sirhans' daughter, Ayda, died of leukemia three years ago. She would have been 30. She worked as a bookkeeper and shipping clerk and was the closest to her mother.

But even here there was estrangement; Ayda married a man named Mennell, who was several years her senior, under mysterious circumstances. They lived in Palm Springs, where he ran a shop. Mrs. Sirhan never met her son-in-law until Ayda's funeral, and he has not been seen since.

Munir, the suspect's 20-year-old younger brother, is also called Joe and it was through him that the murder weapon was traced. He was a clerk at Nash's Department Store here and he tried to resume his normal life last week.

He walked to the corner of Howard and Lake Avenue, to get the bus in the direction of Nash's, and waved to the lady in the Orange Julius stand, who said it was nice to see him back. Within an hour he was home again and a beige car with two F.B.I. men in it came by to take him away for questioning.

Best Hope of Family

Sirhan himself was the least outgoing of the six children, but the only one who went to college, and the best hope of all of them. He enrolled at Pasadena City College, a two-year publicly supported school of 13,000 students best known for its privilege of picking the annual queen of the Rose Bowl. There, he studied history and languages, including Russian, and he kept his name out of the weekly newspaper and school yearbook.

Toni Saylor, a classmate at P.C.C., remembers one night in the fall of 1964 at Bob's Big Boy when Sirhan criticized her for favoring Lyndon B. Johnson in the upcoming election. "We thought he must be for Goldwater, but he never said so," she recalls. She also recalls that in other sessions "he was always kind of secretive about what he was doing, but he would discuss girls a lot."

At various times, according to friends and neighbors, Sirhan wanted to be a journalist, a diplomat or a teacher. He gave up all those ideas to pursue a career as a jockey.

He had the build for that (5 feet 2 inches, 120 pounds) but apparently not much else. He failed his first test for an exercise boy's license, and when he finally did get the

license he fell from a horse and landed on his head, collecting \$1,705 in workmen's compensation. His new attorney, Russell Parsons, has hinted that brain damage from that fall might be a possible defense in his trial.

Of his brothers, Sirhan saw only Adel with any regularity. And most of the places Adel went were not for him.

Musician at Club

At the Fez, a second-story night club in Hollywood decorated in red velvet, the patrons sit on camel-leather floor cushions to watch the best of the few belly dancers in town.

The Fez is one of the few gathering spots of the Arab community in Los Angeles and it was there that Adel gave up wood cutting to become a musician. Over the protests of his mother, by all accounts a teetotaler, a strong moralist and a deeply religious woman who thought night clubs an unsuitable place for her children, Adel

played the oud, an Arabian guitar, while the dancers writhed and twisted.

Adel even sneaked his younger brother, Sirhan, into the club a time or two to play the tamboura, a Middle Eastern drum; and even Mrs. Sirhan was persuaded to go there one recent evening, to sip Turkish coffee and watch the proceedings.

It was one of the family's infrequent encounters with the larger Arab-American community in Los Angeles, a community that saw them as outsiders and treated them as such.

Liked California Climate

Arab-Americans here, numbering from 10,000 persons to 30,000 families according to va-

rious estimates, are overwhelmingly Lebanese and overwhelmingly Christian. Most of them came here prior to World War I, when Syria and Lebanon were actually one country, as Christians fleeing persecution by the majority Moslems.

They picked Southern California because the climate was so like the one they had left behind, except that it was less humid and less extreme. Oranges, dates, poinsettias and palm trees, mountains and ocean and snow and desert all came close together here in the same way as there.

The second and third generations of these first immigrants are, in the words of Prof. Gustave von Grunebaum, an Arabic affairs specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles, "well-civilized, with a high percentage of the men in the professions, well-groomed, prosperous and not organized."

They are also passionately pro-American and English-speaking (even the monthly magazine "Pyramid" is not in Arabic except for one page). There are no Arab-American neighborhoods, few organizations outside the Syrian orthodox cathedral, no congregating places except for that church, only a few broadly Mediterranean restaurants — with approximately 50 per cent Jewish patronage — and of course the Fez.

There is an active Republican club, but most Arab-Americans here vote Democratic and seemed to be for Mr. Kennedy. The Arab student organizations quietly support anti-Israeli efforts in the Middle East. They are noisy or activist.

At a student rally last year at the cathedral St. Nicholas,

which helped raise \$10,000 and 20 tons of clothing for Arab refugees, Sirhan Sirhan "lurked alone in the shadow just as he did the night Kennedy was killed," said Father Paul Romley, dean of the cathedral.

Arrived After '56 Crises

As Jordanians (of which there are only 50 families in the area, according to the Lebanese consul, Wadih Dib), comparative latecomers and political refugees — they arrived just after the Suez crisis of 1956 — the Sirhans from the first did not belong to the greater community.

The family spoke Arabic at home, although the younger children learned English well. They never made the trip into Los Angeles to the Syrian church except for a few visits at the very beginning and, for Ayda, one at the very end: Father Romley buried her at Forest Lawn Cemetery after she died.

"They've always been humble and aloof," said Father Romley. And in an ethnic community that has prospered, and that has a predilection to take care of its own who have not, the Sirhans always seemed to be poor.

The Sirhans also clung to the dream of one day returning to Jordan, and only Said even tried to become an American citizen.

The rest of the community is glad to be Americanized and "grateful that we are here where there is opportunity and not back in the Middle East where there is nothing but trouble," in the words of Philip Zogaib, a Syrian-American who edits "The Pyramid."

And now the Sirhans are more estranged than ever.

THE WASHINGTON POST:

Pistol Was Bought During Watts Riot

[WASHINGTON POST] June 6, 1968
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, June 5 — The gun used to wound Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and five other persons was originally purchased for home protection during the Watts riot in August, 1965, it was disclosed today.

The history of the 22-caliber, 8-shot pistol manufactured by Iver Johnson's Arms and Cycle Works in Fitchburg, Miss., includes at least four persons.

It was bought at a sporting goods store during the riot by Albert L. Hertz, 72, of Alhambra, a Los Angeles suburb. He gave it to his daughter, Mrs. Robert F. Westlake of Woodacre, in Marin County, in northern California.

Mrs. Westlake told investigators she gave it to a family friend, George C. Erhard, 18, of Pasadena, last November or December.

Erhard sold the gun to "Joe, a bushy-haired Pasadena man," who police identified as one of

the brothers of Sirhan B. Sirhan, suspected of wounding Sen. Kennedy and the others.

[WASHINGTON POST]

Police Check On Suspect In Jerusalem

[June 6, 1968]
By Yuval Elizur

Special to The Washington Post

JERUSALEM, June 5—Israeli police and newsmen have converged on the narrow streets of Jerusalem's walled Old City to trace the family of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who was reportedly born in east Jerusalem.

Although there is a Sirhan family in Siluan, a village just south of the walled city, no trace has yet been found of the man who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The news that the man who made an attempt on the life of Kennedy was born in Jerusalem gave the people of this city their second shock of the day.

In the morning, when the news of the shooting in Los Angeles first reached here, nobody, even among those Israelis usually deeply involved in their own affairs, could have guessed that the new tragedy in the United States could have even the remotest connection with the Middle East conflict.

[WASHINGTON POST]

Kennedy Admired by Egyptians

[June 6, 1968]

By Joe Alex Morris Jr.

Los Angeles Times

CAIRO, June 5—There is a tawdry night club featuring bad belly dancers just across the street from the American Embassy in Beirut. Until recently, a large billboard cut-out resemblance of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy shared the advertising spotlight with various well-endowed dancers.

"God bless Sen. Robert F. Kennedy," the sign said.

The Senator's portrait in formal attire—was pulled down recently in a citywide cleanup of unauthorized political posters along with those of Gen. de Gaulle and various Arab leaders.

The incident is worth recalling because it forms part of the Kennedy mystique which—in the Arab world—somehow managed to rise above the general tide of frenetic anti-Americanism. On innumerable occasions since the late President's death, well-meaning and intelligent Arabs have told this correspondent how much better relations would have been had he lived.

Similarly, those Arabs who wanted to see the U.S. regain some of its lost stature in world affairs generally hoped that Sen. Kennedy would be elected President this fall. Few thinking Arabs considered him hostile to Israel but they felt he would exercise a cool impartiality and recognize that America's own self-interests lay in supporting justice in the Middle East.

At the same time, Sen. Edward Kennedy's interest in refugee questions, particularly the Palestinian refugees, has not gone unnoticed. The Senator from Massachusetts made a Middle Eastern tour last year in which he visited many of the camps.

The attempt on Kennedy coincided with a day of mourning throughout the Arab world: the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war. Linking the two together, the official Egyptian spokesman, Dr. Hassan El-Zayyat, said: "To us, the policy of violence, whether on the individual or the international level, is hateful and inadmissible. We hope Sen. Kennedy will live."

Popular reaction to the Los Angeles shooting was generally one of shock but little surprise. After President Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the Arab in the street is becoming more and more convinced that the violence he sees in Hollywood exports on local movie screens is fact, not fiction.

Suspect Is a Jordanian, 24

[WASHINGTON POST June 6, 1968]

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 5—

A 24-year-old native of Jordan, described by interrogators as unremorseful and occasionally flippant, was identified by Los Angeles police today as the suspect seized in the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan,

who lives in Pasadena, refused to discuss the shooting although he talked freely and articulately today about other matters, police said.

According to Police Chief Thomas Reddin, the suspect's identity was traced through the .22 caliber pistol seized after the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel and through fingerprints

taken when he applied for a racetrack job.

Police investigators said they had not determined a motive for the shooting and had no evidence the suspect had been hired by anyone. In his pockets, they found a newspaper article critical of Kennedy and four \$100 bills. Reddin said he would not rule out the possibility of a

conspiracy involving other persons but he insisted there is no evidence now to suggest that one existed.

Reddin said an extensive check had been made of files of subversive organizations, including those representing foreign nationals living in this country. The suspect's name had not turned up in any of those files, the chief said.

Reddin said the case against Sirhan now appears to be so solid that his investigators plan no further interviews. He disclosed, however, that he and the district attorney have agreed that the suspect should be subjected to a psychological test.

[Sirhan was considered by acquaintances to be a "virulent anti-Semite," Jerry Cohen of the Los Angeles Times reported.

[John H. Wiedner, operator of Organic of Pasadena, a health food chain where Sirhan worked as a stock and delivery boy until April, called him "a good worker, an honest man."

["But he had a lot of complexes, mainly related to Israel," said Wiedner. "He claimed when he was young he had seen some people, maybe some relatives, killed by Israelis.

Kennedy Pledge Recalled

["Sen. Kennedy said the other day he wanted to help

Israel. So I was not surprised

..."]
[The same theme was echoed by Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, in New York City.

[The Associated Press quoted Mehdi as saying that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by Sen. Kennedy's backing of the Israeli cause during his TV debate with Sen. Eugene S. McCarthy (D-Minn.).

["It is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this kind of violence," Mehdi said. He added that Sirhan was active in the Organization of Arab Students while attending Pasadena State College.

[In a formal statement Mehdi said: "We condemn the fact that Senator Kennedy had kowtowed to the Zionist pressure to the detriment of American interest in the Middle East, as we condemn the act of Mr. Sirhan."]

A 'swarthy, slender man, Sirhan was arraigned in Los Angeles Municipal Court this morning and then held in the Los Angeles County jail.

According to Lt. Jack Eberhardt, an executive aide to Reddin, interrogators found Sirhan articulate but adamant in his refusal to discuss either the shooting or his political views.

"He's bantering with the investigators at this point," Eberhardt said. "He's flip."

But Eberhardt said that Sir-

han talked eagerly about one subject — a sensational local murder case last year in which a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney was convicted of killing his wife and her lover. Sirhan brought up the case several times and was interested in whether the convicted murderer, Jack Kirsche, would win freedom in his appeal.

Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem and entered the United States through New York City Jan. 12, 1957, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He was then classed as a permanent resident, the Service said, but never became an American citizen.

Both his first and last names mean "wanderer" in Arabic.

Sirhan and two brothers, Munir (Joe) and Adel, live with their mother, Mary. Sirhan, an employee of a Pasadena church nursery in Pasadena. There are unconfirmed reports that his father returned several years ago to an as yet undetermined Arab country.

Sirhan Sirhan graduated in 1963 from John Muir High School in Pasadena before going to Pasadena State. According to the Los Angeles Times, classmates considered him "polite, clean and an A-1 student."

Munir and Adel Sirhan were being questioned by police late in the day and were described as "cooperative."

Besides Munir and Adel, the suspect has two other brothers named Sharif and Saidallah. A fifth brother is believed to exist but has not been identified so far.

A sister has died since entering this country. Sirhan's father has returned to Jerusalem, police said.

The suspect had ham and eggs for breakfast and ate heartily, police said.

Identification of Sirhan Sirhan — who had refused throughout the night to tell police his name — was announced at a press conference this morning by Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty.

Mayor Yorty, in an off-the-cuff television interview, disclosed during the afternoon

that police had found two hand-written notebooks in the suspect's home and said they contained "generally pro-Communist writings."

Yorty said the notebook writings were in favor of Egyptian President Nasser and strongly anti-Israeli and anti-Kennedy.

Yorty also said an article found among Sirhan's belongings in Pasadena declared that Kennedy should not be allowed to live after June 5 (first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war).

Later, Reddin indicated that he thought Yorty should not have discussed the notebooks because they might prejudice the trial of Sirhan.

The Arab World Disavows Slaying

[WASHINGTON POST

June 7, 1968]

From News Dispatches

The Arab world yesterday generally denounced the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, although there was some bitterness and some embarrassment that the man charged with the crime is an Arab from Jordanian Jerusalem.

Some editorials in Beirut, Lebanon, published before the Senator's death, disowned Arab responsibility.

"The criminal may be someone carrying an Arab nationality, but he was only an instrument in carrying out the crime," Al Hayat said. "To know the perpetrators and executors of the crime, its exploiters should be sought."

One paper said at last the "murder of the Palestinian homeland" has been brought dramatically to the attention of the American people.

Al Kifah said, "Even if the motives were personal, the need calls for denouncing and exposing it quickly and declaring nonresponsibility of the Arab people for it." The paper called the assassination a Jew-

ish plot to keep Kennedy from the White House, where he would have discovered that "the Jews were behind" the murder of President John F. Kennedy.

Al Jarida lamented, "Everything may perhaps have been acceptable except that the man who shot Robert Kennedy had anything to do with the Arabs, even the name only. This is what causes big astonishment."

In Cairo, the Egyptian government's official spokesman said the assassination must be condemned whatever the nationality of the criminal.

The Algerian national radio, drawing a parallel to the assassination of John Kennedy, said, "The name of a killer and his links with foreigners are immediately made public. . . In the present case, it is the Arab world which is aimed at. . . It is rather in the past of the United States, in their history of violence — toward Indians as well as Negroes, toward Latin Americans as well as southeast Asians — that one should search to find the culprit."

The Algerian ambassador to the United Nations was the one who requested Wednesday night that the Security Council postpone its debate on the latest Israel-Jordanian battle, in deference to Senator Kennedy.

Yesterday at the United Nations, Jordanian Ambassador Muhammad El-Farra signed a book of condolence and issued a statement condemning the "criminal act committed against an outstanding American."

King Hussein of Jordan sent a cable to President Johnson expressing respect for Senator Kennedy, and the President of the Palestine Liberation Organization also condemned the murder.

A Lebanese workman may have summarized the Arab reaction when he said to a fellow worker: "If this Palestinian wanted to help his country, why didn't he go and join Al Fatah [the terrorist organization]?"

Israeli newspapers gave the Kennedy shooting prominence equal to that for the Arab-Israeli war a year ago.

The Jerusalem Post said in an editorial: "Such a grotesque conjunction of the tragedy of the Kennedy family and the political conflict in our region — a conjunction which an Arab spokesman in the United States had the unbelievable temerity to justify — drains any words of comment of meaning."

'I'm Stunned,' Sirhan's Father Says in Jordan

[WASHINGTON POST June 7, 1968]

Special to The Washington Post

TAIBETH, Israeli-Occupied Jordan, June 6—"I am stunned by what my son did," the 57-year-old father of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy told newsmen this morning.

Bishara Salma Sirhan, who heard of his son's role in the shooting only a few hours earlier, received reporters in his new two-story house in this village 20 miles northeast of Jerusalem. He was still in a state of shock, subdued but in control of his emotions.

But at one point, to repeated questions about his own reaction, he snapped, "What do you think a father must feel when he is told his son has committed such an act."

("If my son has done this dirty thing, then let them hang him," CBS News quoted the elder Sirhan as saying.)

A short, slight, clean-shaven man, the father was neatly dressed in a Western-style dark suit and matching tie. On his head he wore the traditional flowing Arab headdress.

The Senator's accused killer, 24-year-old Sirhan Sirhan, is the youngest of five sons. He grew up in Jerusalem where the family lived until they emigrated to the United States in 1957, when Sirhan was 13.

"My son was a talented boy, more than his four brothers. How he came to this is beyond me," Sirhan was an outstanding student and did not associate with street gangs, the father said. Teachers praised the youngster's diligence, he added.

After a quarrel with his wife, Mary, the elder Sirhan returned to Jordan in 1960. He said he last saw his son three years ago on a visit to the United States and knows nothing of his political beliefs.

He said the boy went to a Lutheran school in Jerusalem and the family belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church.

"I am a religious man and have been all my life," he said. "I still am a steady churchgoer and read the Bible every day. My son as a child used to go to the Orthodox Church with me in Jerusalem every Sunday. We studied the Bible together."

On the wall of his house there is an inscription in Arabic which reads:

"Jehovah the High, You gave me happiness in the world. Give me eternal life. You are the only God and nobody shall be worshipped before you."

The father, who chain-smoked cigarettes during his meeting with newsmen, said that during the British mandate in Palestine he was a senior inspector in the public works department. The family's financial situation deteriorated in the early '50s and this prompted the move to America.

The elder Sirhan said during his years in the United States he developed a "deep admiration" for the Kennedy family, expressing special regard for the late President Kennedy whom he considers an idealist who tried to lead humanity to progress and prosperity.

He said he likes the way the Kennedys help one another, this reminding him of the extended family structure of the Arab culture.

He said that since his return to Jordan he has lived off the income from property he had accumulated in previous years.

His house, where he lives alone, is situated in the northeast corner of Taibeh. The village is inhabited by about 4000 Arabs, most of them Christian. An Eastern Orthodox Church dominates the center of town.

Taibeh was completely unaffected by last year's Middle East war. The villagers continue to sell their fruit and vegetables across the Jordan River, 20 miles away, as they did before the fighting.

Bishara Sirhan's shocked and grieved reaction is typical of the Arab man-in-the street. While some of them do not hide their hope that the shooting will dramatize the Arab cause, the majority seem to have a sense of shame that one of them had been implicated in such an act.

The Accused

A Loner Who Hated Israel

[WASHINGTON POST June 7, 1968]

By Ward Just

Washington Post Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old accused assassin of Robert F. Kennedy, is a Jordanian by descent, a Greek Orthodox Christian by religion, a Palestinian by birth, and a resident of the United States by choice. He appears to be a man of no nationality.

Five feet five inches tall, 120 pounds in weight, curly-haired, swarthy, speaking with a slight continental accent, Sirhan was described today by a former employer as "opposed to the Vietnam war, in favor of riots—but not a member of any group. He was a very proud man. He wanted to be recognized by the world."

The employer, John H. Weidner, owner of the Organic Health Food Store in Pasadena, Calif. for whom Sirhan worked as a \$2-an-hour stockboy from Sept. 24, 1967, to March 7, described

Sirhan as "very ambitious and well-spoken." He said the young immigrant—whom whom he described as a friend, as well as an employer—appeared to have no close friends, either male or female.

None of the legions of journalists and policemen looking into the background of the accused has been able to unearth close friends or associates. Apart from Sirhan's immediate family, Weidner is—to date—the best disinterested witness.

He said Sirhan hated Jews, an apparent legacy from the 1948 Palestine war when Sirhan said he saw Arabs killed by Israelis. Weidner said Sirhan "liked the law—and the courts." He gave this account of a dispute with Sirhan, which ended in termination of employment:

The dispute arose over a delivery schedule. Weidner had one opinion, Sirhan another, and it ended when Sirhan called his boss a "liar." Then he quit. Shortly thereafter, Sirhan demanded \$300 severance pay, which Weidner refused.

Sirhan insisted on taking the matter before a California labor commissioner.

Weidner agreed, and on April 24 Los Angeles Labor Commissioner M. A. Myers heard the case. He found for Weidner.

Sirhan's supposed fascination for law and the courts is partially substantiated by his attitude with the Los Angeles police. When first arrested, he steadfastly refused a lawyer—apparently on the assumption that he would make his own defense. He spoke amicably—"very cool, very calm, very stable, and quite lucid," according to Police Chief Thomas Reddin—but would not speak of the shooting, nor of the events that led up to it.

According to Lt. Jack Eberhardt, an aide to Reddin, Sirhan spoke enthusiastically about a sensational local murder case last year, in which a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney was convicted of killing his wife and her lover. Sirhan brought up the matter several times, according to Eberhardt, and was interested in whether the convicted murderer, Jack Kirshke, would win freedom in his appeal.

Apparently at the urging of Al Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Southern

California, Sirhan has now agreed to retain a lawyer.

But the picture that has emerged of Sirhan is far from definitive. The known facts are meager enough:

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service give his birth date as March 19, 1944, in Jordan. He arrived in New York City, with his father, Bishara Salameh Ghatas Sirhan, and his mother, Mary Bishara Sirhan, three brothers and a sister, on Jan. 12, 1957.

The family apparently moved shortly thereafter to Pasadena, where Sirhan attended the John Muir High School. He is said to have been a good student, a member of both the junior and senior councils, and a mem-

ber of the ROTC. A classmate has described him as "polite, clean, and an A-1 student."

The classmate, Christian Ek, 23, a Swede, said in Stockholm that Sirhan "dreamed of being something big in Jordan." in Saigon, another classmate, Lt. William A. Spaniard, 24, of Pasadena, described Sirhana as "brilliant. He was studying Russian while everyone else was barely getting by in Spanish and English."

The charge of pro-Communism has been made, but not proved. Weidner said that Sirhan spoke of America as "not really the place of freedom." Was it better in Russia or China, Weidner asked? "One day, maybe," Weidner said Sirhan replied. Los Angeles police have said publicly and privately that there is no evidence to support a charge that Sirhan was a Communist.

That he hated Jewry there is little doubt. "He was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israel," said John Shear, who worked with Sirhan at Hollywood Park racetrack (where Sirhan was an exercise boy). "When there was trouble between Jordan and Israel, he would become inflamed." Shear's statement is confirmed by Weidner.

And there is the matter of the now-famous notebooks, quoted by the Los Angeles Mayor, Sam Yorty. Yorty said that Sirhan's diary contained an entry last month that "Kennedy has to be assassinated before June 5, 1968." That is the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Mary Sirhan, the mother, and Bishara Salameh Ghatas Sirhan, the father, are separated. The mother still lives in Pasadena, the father according to one newspaper

account—returned to Jordan almost immediately after arriving in the United States.

"My son—it can't be. No. Oh, no," Mrs. Sirhan was quoted as saying when she learned he had been arrested in the shooting of Senator Kennedy.

[WASHINGTON POST]

[June 7, 1968]

Sirhan Family Wires

Sympathy to Kennedys

PASADENA, Calif., June 6 (AP)—The family of the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy sent a telegram to the Kennedy family today, saying, "we pray that God will make peace, really peace, in the hearts of people."

The telegram was signed by Mary Sirhan, mother of Sirhan Bishari Sirhan, the alleged slayer, and her family, who reportedly are under police protection in another city.

"It hurt us very bad what has happened and we express our feelings with them and especially with the children and with Mrs. Kennedy, the telegram said.

"I want them to know that I am really crying for them all. And we pray that God will make peace, really peace in the hearts of the people," it added.

Yorty Claims Red Groups

[WASHINGTON POST

June 7, 1968]

Inflamed Assassin

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 6—Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, disregarding legal advice to cease talking publicly about the case, claimed today that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassin had been a Communist sympathizer and was inflamed by Communist and pro-Arab agitation.

"Evil Communist organizations played a part in inflaming the assassination of Kennedy," Yorty declared in a press conference.

His public statements today and yesterday provoked rising controversy and fears that his comments would damage the case against the 24-year-old suspect, Sirhan B. Sirhan.

California Attorney General Thomas Lynch cautioned Yorty to limit the information he divulges. He also praised the Los Angeles Police Department for its discretion in discussing the suspect.

Lynch warned that Yorty's comments could result in certain evidence being ruled inadmissible at Sirhan's trial.

Yorty acknowledged Lynch had criticized him during a telephone conversation, but added: "I told him that I'm in a situation where I have to make a judgment about the public's right to know."

Yorty stirred the controversy yesterday by disclosing some contents of two notebooks found by police in Sirhan's home. According to Yorty, one notation said that "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968"—the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Police and other law officials were visibly disturbed today at Yorty's comments, fearing they would raise a difficult and unnecessary legal

Sirhan, a native of Jordan, came to this country 11 years ago but never has applied for U.S. citizenship. He has been described by friends as bitterly opposed to the State of Israel, and was said to be critical of Mr. Kennedy's support of Israel's case against the Arab countries.

Yorty got Sirhan's notebooks from officers at the Rampart Police Station Wednesday before Police Chief Thomas Reddin had seen them. Reddin, who declined to appear with the Mayor at the press conference this morning, has said the release of such information could be prejudicial and could damage the case against Sirhan.

In another development, police put out a bulletin seeking information on a woman in a white polka dot dress who, according to a witness, left the scene of Wednesday's shooting shouting, "We shot him!"

One of Mr. Kennedy's campaign workers, Sandy Serrano, 20, said she heard the cry and asked who had been shot. "We shot Kennedy," she said the woman called back.

[Some other eyewitnesses at the hotel told of seeing the suspect with a girl in a white dress earlier in the evening, the Los Angeles Times reported. Some said there was a third person, a dark young man, with them.

[A spokesman at police headquarters stressed, however, that "we don't think it was a conspiracy at this time."

["I would calculate there must have been 20 women there with polka dot dresses," he said. But, he added "we are not going to throw anything into the wastebasket."] hurdle in what seemed to them an open-and-shut case.

After Yorty continued divulging information on the suspect, a police official declined to comment, saying, "We've got to save something—at least something—for the jury."

The national legal profession has displayed mounting concern over the pre-trial release of information on a criminal suspect, and Los Angeles police have been careful to limit their comments to a few bare facts on Sirhan.

The American Bar Association's new rules now warn prosecutors to release only such essential information as a suspect's name, the charges

against him, and limited amount of identification material. Reddin generally has followed that rule.

The most celebrated case involving pretrial publicity was when the Supreme Court ordered a retrial for Dr. Samuel Sheppard, the Cleveland physician convicted of murdering his wife. The publicity in Cleveland newspapers prejudiced the Sheppard jury, the Court held. Sheppard was acquitted in his retrial.

Attorney General Lynch cited a California case today in which the State Supreme Court warned that prosecutors "should avoid the danger of prejudicing jurors and prospective jurors by giving material to news-disseminating agencies which may be inflammatory or may improperly prejudice the defendant's rights."

Under questioning at his press conference, Yorty claimed the notebooks showed that Sirhan was a "Communist sympathizer." But the Mayor acknowledged he had no proof the suspect had been affiliated with any sort of subversive organization.

Al Wirin, chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California, said today that Sirhan has denied affiliation with any Communist-oriented organizations. Wirin has interviewed him twice in the Los Angeles County jail while offering him legal aid.

Police said Sirhan has not been traced to any subversive organization.

Yorty also revived a prominent local rumor in saying that Sirhan's car once was spotted parked near a building where the local W.E.B. DuBois Club was holding a meeting. The DuBois clubs have been cited as subversive by the U.S. Attorney General's office.

Yesterday, Chief Reddin said that a car to which Sirhan once "had access" was spotted near the building on a night when the club was meeting.

Yorty, under questioning by reporters, agreed that it is not known whether the car was Sirhan's. The Mayor had no evidence that the suspect was using the car that night or whether he was in the building. "We have no evidence placing him at the meeting," Yorty said.

Yorty contended that the

notebooks contained writings showing that Sirhan was sympathetic to communism, "whether Russian or Chinese."

Asked how he thought Sirhan could have been "inflamed" by both Arab nationalism and communism, Yorty replied, "Both the Communists and Arabs are anti-Israel." He also cited reports of Union.

With the exception of Yorty's remarks, civil libertarians here have been generally complimentary of the police work in Sirhan's case. He was carefully advised of his legal rights and was permitted to be interviewed by the ACLU although he had said he did not want a lawyer, ACLU attorneys said today.

However, the ACLU has raised a question about the procedure used by police in searching the Pasadena home where Sirhan lived with his mother and two brothers. No search warrant was obtained, the ACLU maintained.

Police officials said no warrant is needed if someone in the family gave permission for the search and said permission had been received from the suspect's brother, Abel.

Reddin has said yesterday that a warrant would be obtained in this extraordinary case, regardless of whether permission was obtained in advance.

Sirhan remained in the Los Angeles County jail today. He has been scheduled to appear at a pre-trial hearing Monday morning.

However, the County grand jury has agreed to hear evidence in the case Friday morning. District Attorney Evelle J.

Younger said he will seek a murder indictment. He will call 17 witnesses and present "every bit of evidence on the autopsy," he said.

The suspect is being held under \$250,000 bond and is being represented by a County public defender, Richard Buckley. The ACLU was making arrangements to retain a private attorney. The ACLU also arranged police protection for Sirhan's family.

When Sirhan was arrested he had \$400 in his pocket and a key to a Chrysler automobile. Yorty has speculated this suggests the suspect may have been "thinking of leaving" the Los Angeles area after the shooting. There also was speculation the \$400 may have been a payment by someone else for the shooting.

Later it was confirmed Sirhan had recently won a court judgment from Hollywood Park race track in connection with a suit filed after he fell

from a horse while working as an exercise boy.

Police said the automobile key fit the ignition of a car that belonged to an employee in the Ambassador Hotel kitchen. But, police said, the employee was at a hospital with his wife when the shooting took place. Chief Reddin said the employee had been eliminated as a suspect. Another police official said the key may actually belong to another automobile.

Arab Students Deny Sirhan Was Member

The Organization of Arab Students in the U.S.A. and Canada denied yesterday reports that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was ever a member of the organization.

The group was established in 1952 to further Arab-American friendship and to help Arab students adjust to academic life away from home.

[WASHINGTON POST]
**Jury Indicts
 Sirhan for
 RFK Murder**
 [June 8, 1968]

By William Chapman
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — Sirhan B. Sirhan was indicted for the murder of Robert F. Kennedy today and then arraigned in a jail chapel under maximum security arranged to protect his life.

The slight, curly-haired Jordanian, 24, was wheeled into the jail chapel in a wheel chair and sat throughout a 35-minute session in silence except for an occasional, polite "yes sir" for Judge Arthur L. Alarcon.

Only once did he interrupt. He told the Judge courteously that he preferred to have his name pronounced "Sir-HAN," with the accent on the last syllable. Judge Alarcon agreed.

He was virtually surrounded at the County Jail Chapel's altar by four beefy sheriff's deputies. They screened him from the sight of about 75 reporters who had been frisked on the way in during an elaborate security check for concealed weapons. Even sharp-pointed pipe-cleaning tools were taken from reporters' pockets.

On view for the first time since his arraignment Wednesday morning, Sirhan appeared healthy, and his brief comments were spoken crisply. One finger—broken during the struggle early Wednesday at the Ambassador Hotel—was bandaged and he seemed to move with difficulty from the wheelchair onto the altar area.

A public defender, Wilbur Littlefield, was appointed to represent Sirhan. Judge Alarcon continued the case until June 28 when Sirhan will enter a plea.

Alarcon also issued an unusually stiff order to curb out-of-court comments by anyone connected with the case. His order extends to "any public official" and seemed intended to curb the comments of Mayor Samuel W. Yorty, who has discussed publicly some notebooks said to have been taken from Sirhan's Pasadena home.

The order limits public comment on the case to factual statements such as the suspect's name, age, residence, and occupation and certain court records always available.

Both that order and the elaborate security precautions tonight were taken in view of the slaying of President Kennedy's assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, in 1963. Oswald was shot by Jack Ruby while being removed from a Dallas jail in public view. Out-of-court comments deemed prejudicial to Ruby's trial prompted widespread criticism by the American Bar Association.

Observing the arraignment was A. L. Wirin, chief counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. Wirin, who has held several conferences with Sirhan, praised the proceedings and complimented the judge on arranging the security precautions.

The Los Angeles County Grand Jury spent about seven and a half hours hearing 22 witnesses and deliberating today in the County's Hall of

Justice. The indictment was presented to Alarcon who then moved the court to the jail, about two miles away.

Sirhan was also indicted on five counts alleging assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. The counts referred to five persons wounded during the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel passageway early Wednesday.

At the request of the public defender, Alarcon agreed to appoint two psychiatrists to conduct an examination to determine the defendant's mental condition at the time of the shooting.

The psychiatrists' findings are not to be made public and are to be used by his attorney only in determining what plea he should file, Alarcon said.

Wirin informed the court that Sirhan would like to have a private attorney. The Judge said the court will consider arranging a private lawyer for the defendant but Sirhan said he didn't have any money.

Speedy Trial

He was dressed in a clean white shirt, open at the collar, and blue trousers. He exchanged a few words with Wirin just as the proceedings started.

The Judge, who moved cautiously and deliberately throughout the proceedings, read him a statement advising

him of his Constitutional rights to have a lawyer, a jury trial and a "speedy, public trial."

As the hearing began, Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger told reporters he was "uneasy" about all aspects of the case in view of the impact it would have on world opinion.

"It will be scrutinized by politicians all over the world," Younger said. "Some will want to make our system of justice look as bad as they can make it look."

He was also concerned about reported threats to the suspect's safety.

"If someone steps on his toe, it could be blown up in headlines all around the world," the District Attorney said.

One grand jury witness, hotel porter Jesus Perez, told reporters he had seen Sirhan near the Ambassador Hotel passageway where Sen. Kennedy was shot.

Perez said that Sirhan was shuffling papers in his hand, appeared worried, and at one point asked him if Sen. Ken-

nedy would be leaving the hotel ballroom by that passageway.

Witnesses were instructed not to tell reporters what they had disclosed to the grand jury, but they were free to talk about themselves before entering the witness room.

It was also disclosed by police today that a 1956 white and pink DeSota automobile, found parked near the Ambassador Hotel, belonged to the suspect. It had a traffic ticket for overtime parking on its windshield.

Among the witnesses scheduled to be called were Roosevelt Grier, the football player, and Rafer Johnson, the Olympic athlete, both of whom had campaigned for Sen. Kennedy and had helped capture Sirhan after the shooting.

One witness was identified by a court official as Henry Carreon, who was said to have seen Sirhan at a San Gabriel shooting range.

The other witnesses were seven ambulance drivers, four hotel employees, six police officers, two physicians, a ballistics expert, the County coroner, two shooting victims—Irwin Stroll and Ira Goldstein—and a friend of Stroll's.

The 14 women and eight men, most of them middle-aged, sat behind the two rows of tables, facing the jury foreman, L. E. McKee, a garage owner. At least 14 votes were needed for the indictment.

On each juror's desk was a copy of the six counts against Sirhan—one charging him with murder and five charging him with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. The five injured persons are Stroll, Goldstein, Paul Schrade, William Weisel, and Elizabeth Evans.

Stroll, 17, who was shot in the left leg as he stood near Sen. Kennedy entered the witness room in a rolling chair, an "RFK" button pinned to his sweater.

3 Arabic-Speaking Men Sought in Case

[WASHINGTON POST]

June 8, 1968]

By a Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — Los Angeles detectives are searching for three Arabic-speaking men who reportedly were seen in Robert F. Kennedy's political headquarters two days before he was assassinated, it was disclosed today.

Police also said that a pretty 19-year-old brunette, who claims she was the woman in the polka dot dress wanted in connection with Sen. Kennedy's assassination, had been questioned and released three hours later.

The girl Kathy Fulmer of Los Angeles, told police her grief stricken cries after witnessing the slaying had been misunderstood by observers.

The three men being sought were overheard by a Kennedy campaign worker who happens to speak Arabic. He told police he heard one man say:

Earlier today it was disclosed that Los Angeles detectives were searching for three Arabic-speaking men who reportedly were seen in Kennedy's political headquarters two days before he was assassinated.

The men were overheard by a Kennedy campaign worker who happens to speak Arabic and who told police he heard one man say:

"If we can't catch him today (Monday) we can catch him tonight."

The witness was identified as W. J. Wood, 43, a geologist who had spent five and a half years in Saudi Arabia and who had been working in the Ken-

nedy campaign at the Wilshire Boulevard headquarters.

According to Inspector Peter Hagan of the Los Angeles Police Department, Wood said none of the three appeared to be Sirhan B. Sirhan, the Arabic-speaking Jordanian nationalist accused of murdering Sen. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday morning.

Police spokesmen would acknowledge only that they regarded Wood's story as "interesting."

They were quick to point out that Sirhan was not identified as one of the three men and that there was no more than the cryptic comment to suggest any complicity in the shooting.

Hagan said today that police would continue to regard the assassination as the act of one man until more solid evidence turned up. He said that the Police Department is checking out literally hundreds of rumors and stories that the assassin may have had accomplices.

Wood, who could not be reached for comment today, gave the police a description of the three men yesterday and detectives began a search for them this morning.

According to police, Wood did not attribute much importance to the conversation he overheard until he learned that the suspect seized was a Jordanian who spoke both English and Arabic. Sirhan has been in this country since 1957.

One-Sided Talks

Sirhan Silent, Well Guarded

[WASHINGTON POST June 8, 1968]

From News Dispatches

LOS ANGELES, June 7—"It is like talking to someone on the moon!"

That's how District Attorney Evelle Younger today described conversation with Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24-year-old accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Younger, a former FBI agent, said all conversation between his assistants and Sirhan had been one-sided. Younger himself had not talked to Sirhan.

Extensive security measures were under way at the Los Angeles County Jail as a result of telephoned threats against Sirhan, but Younger expressed concern for future court proceedings.

Officials disclosed that Sirhan received at his request—but barely read—two theosophical books, "The Secret Doctrine" by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, and "Talks On 'At the Feet of the Master'" by C. W. Leadbeater.

The books are the works of leaders in the theosophical movement—a body of thought claiming special knowledge of divine wisdom. Some theosophists looked on India as the source of all wisdom and most espoused the Indian doctrine of reincarnation.

In Flagstaff, Ariz., police Capt. Jean Slayton said a Sirhan Munir Bishara Sirhan, 18, of Pasadena, Calif., pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge May 16, 1966 and served 15 days in jail.

When arrested, Sirhan was accompanied by another man. They were driving a 1957 automobile with Indiana license plates. At the time he was penniless.

In Teibeh, a village in Israeli-occupied Jordan, Arab elders painted a picture of a boy who grew up in a poor family that lived on church charity and who "was always kept in close line by the father."

The father, Bishara Sirhan, has lived in Teibeh since leaving his wife and five children in Pasadena after family quarrels. Before emigrating to America the Christian Arab family lived in Jerusalem with little money to spend, the elders said.

The elders said the family became connected with the Jehovah's Witnesses sect "many years ago" and it was that religious group which paid the way for the Sirhan family to go to the United States in 1957.

Bishara Sirhan has told reporters the family belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church and that Little Sirhan went to a Lutheran Church school in Jerusalem.

The Teibeh notables said they were convinced the father still received money from the Jehovah's Witnesses in addition to money sent him by one of his sons, Saadi. Sirhan has told reporters he supported himself on a small pension and by part-time farming.

The Jehovah's Witnesses sect was banned in Jordan in 1959. It is known to continue to operate secretly, particularly in the Arab old sector of Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem Salmin Awad, principal of the Lutheran grammar school where young Sirhan went to school from 1951 to 1956, said Sirhan was a "very gentle, polite, quiet, humble boy, interested mainly in books."

The boy was seventh in a class of 16 during his final year. Awad said this was a less impressive showing than his earlier grades.

Immigration authorities in Los Angeles say Sirhan was admitted to this country as a permanent resident, which means he can stay indefinitely, without applying for citizenship, which is considered a privilege rather than a requirement.

More Light Shed on Sirhan's Childhood

[WASHINGTON POST June 8, 1968]

By Yuval Elizur

Special to The Washington Post.

JERUSALEM, June 7 —

The Israeli police today transferred to the FBI, through Interpol, a dossier on the Sirhan family that describes the environment and childhood experiences of Sirhan Beshara Sirhan, the accused killer of Robert F. Kennedy. From the dossier it appears that Sirhan never visited Jerusalem since he emigrated to the United States in 1957 and that he is completely estranged from his father and other member of his family here.

In the meantime, friends and members of the family denied American newspaper reports that Sirhan witnessed Israeli atrocities in his childhood.

His mother's sister told reporters that Sirhan had

never encountered Israelis.

And, although the family moved because of economic circumstances after the 1948 war into a different house in the former Jewish quarter of the walled Old City, his aunt said they were not refugees like so many other Palestinians.

Additional information obtained also shows that, under a facade of politeness and meekness, Beshara Salameh Sirhan, the father of Sirhan, is a complex individual given to fits of temperament, neighbors remember that he used to beat his children.

Friction in the family may have influenced Mrs. Sirhan to leave for the United States in 1957. She was reportedly assisted in this act by the Jehovah Witnesses sect, with which the family has some association al-

though they are members of the Greek Orthodox Church.

When the children went with Mrs. Sirhan, her husband filed a divorce suit in the Greek Orthodox religious court. He withdrew it after deciding to go to the United States himself the next year. But Beshara Salameh Sirhan actually never joined his family in California and lived most of the time in New Jersey. He and his wife were later divorced and he now lives in Taibeh, village, 20 miles from Jerusalem.

The reaction of Beshara Salameh Sirhan in the last two days, ever since he was told of his son's involvement in the murder of Senator Kennedy, seems to betray his sudden changes of mood. At first he was most cooperative with the reporters who

flocked to his newly built two-story stone house.

Then he refused to let in to his house the NBC crew that came to interview him. But when the CBS men arrived he was again friendly and talkative. He later bodily threw out the representative of the German Television Service.

The principal of the Lutheran school in the Old City, where Sirhan Sirhan studied said that his record showed him to be an above-average student.

Salim Awad, the principal, remembered him as a quiet boy who diligently attended Sunday school. "I do not believe he was the kind of a boy who could have initiated such a crime," he said. Sirhan and his brothers, Adel and Munir, went to the Lutheran school because it was located near their home.

Elder Sirhan: Arab

[WASHINGTON POST June 9, 1968]

Feelings Endure

By Elizur Yuval

Special to The Washington Post

TAIBEH, Occupied Jordan, June 8—The father of the accused assassin of Robert F. Kennedy said today the Senator "should have had more justice in his speeches. You cannot kill Arab feelings deep inside."

"Justice is above everything," Bishara Salameh Sirhan said repeatedly in an interview.

Two days ago, the father of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is under indictment in Los Angeles for Sen. Kennedy's murder, expressed his admiration for the Kennedy family, including the Senator as well as the late President John F. Kennedy. He said at that time that he could not understand how his son could be driven to such an act of violence.

Today, he explained that at first he could see no possible connection between his son and Robert Kennedy. But since he first received the news he has learned about the Senator's sympathies for Israel, he continued, and now he understands things more clearly.

The elder Sirhan repeatedly asked the following question of his interviewers: "Tell me, do you think it possible to kill the good feelings you have for your country?"

A short, slight man who lives in this village 20 miles northeast of Jerusalem, Sirhan appeared more relaxed today than he has on some previous occasions since the shooting. Information here has revealed him to be given to fits of temper and sudden changes of mood. Neighbors remember that he used to beat his children. He has by turns been most cooperative with reporters and then refused to see them. On Friday, he bodily ejected from his house a reporter for the West German television network.

Today he was eager to talk about everything, especially his youngest son, Sirhan, whom he has not seen for more than eight years.

His English is fluent, although from time to time he stops in order to search for a word. He also does not hesitate to stop interviewers from time to time when he does not understand a word.

Sirhan was meticulously dressed in a dark gray woolen suit despite the almost 90-degree heat. He wore a white shirt with thin blue stripes and a gray and blue tie. He also wore an Arab headdress. His dark, thin face was clean-shaven.

There was much less traffic into Taibeh today. Everybody in the clean, mostly Christian village—which lies in the foothills of the mountains of Judea just before the desert and the Jordan Valley begin—is eager to help you find the celebrity among them.

One elderly gentleman in Arab headdress offered to direct us. Addressing us in fairly good Yiddish, he said: "Have you ever seen an Arab who speaks Yiddish? I also speak Turkish, French, English and Hebrew."

No Israeli soldiers or policemen were to be seen in the village. From the veranda of Sirhan's new white stone house one gets a beautiful view of the Dead Sea, 15 miles away and about 2000 feet below Taibeh.

As we came in, a delivery boy brought cold beer and soft drinks which Sirhan apparently had ordered from the nearby grocery store. On the doorbell it said "Beshara" in English and Arabic.

Talking about his son Sirhan's experience with Israelis, Sirhan admitted that his son had actually never seen any Israeli soldiers. He was less than four years old

when the family moved from their house in St. Paul's Street in the Musrara quarter to the walled Old City of Jerusalem.

They had moved out at the advice of the British mandate authorities who feared that they might be hurt in the battle that was raging near the Musrara quarter.

"For two days before that we did not go out of the house," Sirhan recalled. "The Jews were bombing us all the time. Cannon and mortar shells fell everywhere. All the time little Sirhan was leaning against the wall, afraid."

"Later he often said to me: 'Father, do you remember when there was shelling and we were in the house and could not go out?'" The boy also kept remembering the toys he left behind in their Musrara apartment, the father told us.

"Jewish families who had lived next to us ran away earlier when the Arabs were in control of Musrara," Sirhan added. The father said he kept up with his family in America through his second son, Saidallah, with whom he corresponds regularly.

He had not had any mail from young Sirhan for many years and did not write to him. He heard about him through the letters of Saidallah.

In reply to another question, he said that he might go to the United States. He had discussed this and other matters with U.S. consular officials who had visited him.

At the conclusion of the interview, Sirhan said thoughtfully, as if trying to correct the impression made by some of his earlier statements:

"So Sen. Kennedy is dead and my son may go to the electric chair or be in prison forever. What good does it do? Why must there always be trouble?"

[WASHINGTON POST]
The Intricate
 [June 9, 1968]
Puzzle of
Sirhan Sirhan

© 1968. London Sunday Times

The indictment against him is the more shattering for its formality: that he did murder "Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being," and attempt to murder the five other victims in that hotel kitchen.

Case No A233421, the people of the State of California vs. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, "is a very special case," said the district attorney.

But is Sirhan a very special person? Was it private anguish that moved him; and, if so, what fed his hatred? Or is he linked with the numberless groups of extremists and fanatics in America or the Middle East?

Since the news reached Israel at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday that the man accused of the assassination was Jerusalem-born, the Israeli Secret Service has been trying to discover if any fanatical Arab underground movement was behind the killing. So far, agents have drawn a complete blank.

Their main lead was Sirhan's father, Bishara Salameh Sirhan, who lives in a modest home at the village of Taibeh, near Jerusalem. When the father opened up, he was asked first to identify himself and then to answer questions on his family and particularly his son Sirhan.

"Why are you asking me about my son?" he asked.

"You've heard the news about Senator Kennedy?"

"Yes."

"Well, the man who is accused of shooting him is your son Sirhan."

Mr. Sirhan collapsed. "He is such a good boy; he was always a good boy, all his teachers praised him," he kept on repeating when he recovered.

It is true. The family has an unblemished record. The father was, he proudly tells everyone, a "chief inspector" in the old British Public Works Department in Jerusalem. He was, in fact, a senior mechanic. Under both the Jordan administration and for the past year under Israeli rule, the family has

had "no trouble, no blacklisting for anything, no political or extreme views, completely harmless," according to a security source.

The security checkup then turned to possible associates in Israeli-controlled territories. Here again a blank was drawn. The name Sirhan simply does not appear on any blacklist.

There have been reports of the existence of an ultra-secret and fanatical Arab murder gang—modelled on the old Jewish "Stern Gang"—with cells abroad, particularly among extremist Arab students. This hypothetical organization apparently aims to exterminate foreign politicians friendly with Israel.

No Evidence Found

But there is no evidence for this, and a high-ranking Israeli security source responsible for uncovering Arab underground activities anywhere in the world said simply: "We would have known of it, but we don't."

Straightforward political conspiracy organized from the Middle East seems unlikely then. So authorities have delved back into the family's past, seeking some sort of clue to the inner turmoil of Sirhan. What emerges is a portrait that in many respects fits the historical image of the lone, unbalanced assassin.

Sirhan's parents married about 1945, while the father was working for the British in the old mandate of Palestine. Sirhan is the fourth of five brothers and there is

a sister. After the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 the family found a cheap flat in a Jewish quarter in the walled Old City of Jerusalem, part of which had become the Jordanian sector. One of Sirhan's teachers once visited the flat and found it "very poor indeed."

Both parents were very religious; the mother more intense. The father—a small, round-shouldered man with a high-pitched, slightly whining voice—is said to have been strict with his children. Friends say he gave them very little pocket money. He had very little to give: He was out of work for long periods.

The parents were Christians—Greek Orthodox—but they sent Sirhan to the Lutheran school in the Old

City. It was near their flat. A teacher who remembers Sirhan, Salim Awad, now the headmaster, produced records showing that at least until he left for America at the age of 12 the boy was of above-average ability.

His report for 1955-56, his last year at the school, reads: "Religion very good; Arabic very good; English, good; arithmetic, very satisfactory; geometry (a new subject), good; history, satisfactory; geography, satisfactory; science, good; natural history (a new subject), satisfactory; drawing, satisfactory; singing, good; conduct, good; diligence, good; cleanliness, good; general comment, satisfactory."

Sirhan never succeeded in getting to the top of his class: When he left he was seventh out of 16. Yet he was convinced of his own brilliance.

His father recalls the boy coming home, puffed with pride, after his teachers had praised him. "Papa, my teachers say I'm going to be a great man," the father quotes him as saying. Or

"Tell me, Papa, am I cleverer than my brothers?"

His father would reply that if all went well the boy would go to a university in England. "You should have seen him walking around the house after I said that—so happy, so big."

A psychologist might find in these early intimations of greatness, followed by the crushing life of a delivery boy for a Los Angeles food dealer, some hint of what drove him.

Admirer of Hitler

There was always a streak of latent fanaticism in Sirhan—specifically, a certain single-mindedness unusual in a child, a willingness to consider extension. He often said he admired Hitler. His father quotes him as saying more than once: "Hitler was a big man, a great man, and he had good ideas. In the end he was wrong only because his policies failed."

This does not make Sirhan a fascist, or even right-wing. Indeed, even at the age of 11 or 12 he was "investigated" by the Jordanian Security Services on suspicion of left-wing leanings. Later, just before emigrating to America, he was "warned." And of course Sirhan was, naturally and vehemently, anti-Zionist, though—so far as they can be separated—

not anti-Jewish. A 12 year-old's politics are hardly immutable, but Sirhan's do point to a combination of precocity and determination.

Religion provided another, and perhaps more potent, strain of fanaticism. Sirhan was fonder of his mother than of his father and un-faillingly obedient to her. From her he learned his religion. It became steadily more obsessive, seemingly one of the props of his belief in his future greatness. Read Bible Nightly

Sirhan always went straight home after school. Every evening he would read the Bible—his favorite reading—then kneel by his bed for long prayers. Then he would kiss the hands of his father and mother before going to bed. On Sundays, going to church, he would stand in front of mirror, carefully smoothing his cheap clothes.

He made friends easily. Yet sometimes Sirhan would take a strong dislike to another child—and usually it was for using foul language.

It was religion that finally split the family. And here the mystery about one possibly vital aspect of Sirhan's life begins.

Around 1956, Sirhan's parents started to break up. The Mukhtar (head man) of Taibeh says the split began

when the mother became strongly drawn to the Jehovah's Witnesses. A version of events, given by people who know the family, is that after the breakup, the sect helped the mother to go to America in 1957 with Sirhan, two of his brothers and his sister.

The father apparently started divorce proceedings through a Greek Orthodox court, but stopped them some months later and decided to join his family in America. Other friends claim that the passage, also, was assisted by the Jehovah's Witnesses.

The father's present relationship with the sect is unclear. The Jehovah's Witnesses have been banned in Jordan for nine years, but they still proselytize fiercely. According to the Mukhtar of Taibeh, the father is supported by the sect—though why, is unknown.

According to Mukhtar Mu'addi, it was money from the sect that helped the father

build his new ten-room stone villa in Taibeh overlooking groves of almond and olive trees—a house that must have cost around \$12,000.

All this, the father denies. But on the table in his sitting room, he has a religious tract in Arabic, "Solving the International Crisis," and this is believed locally to be published by the Jehovah's Witnesses. And in his Bible he has marked in blue pencil a passage in Exodus, Chapter 3, which the Jehovah's Witnesses consider crucial. He says he did this so that, when talking to other villagers, he can quickly find the passage giving "God's real name, the name he wants to be called by."

Background of Tension

So Sirhan comes from a background of tension, a home broken largely by disagreements over the doctrine of a somewhat fanatical sect. The Jehovah's Witnesses may not themselves be relevant; but the air of adamant and even intolerant righteousness inseparable from the sect probably is significant to understanding of Sirhan.

But America took the young Sirhan. From the backstreets of Jerusalem, he was hurled into the maelstrom of Los Angeles. What happened to him? What might have warped the bright, introspective, mother-dominated boy of 12?

Menninger's classic description of paranoia says:

"A feeling of being slighted . . . favors the secret nurturing of ideas of great power . . . Such an individual may come into conflict with the law, either as a direct actionist (e.g. murder) or a petitioner (law suits), a development which he regards as the natural outcome of his great but unrecognized importance, and of the envy and malice of an indifferent world . . . An impressive facade of reasonableness, earnestness and 'normality' may cloak this psychopathology to a disarming degree . . ."

The Pasadena police kept a "red flag file" on Sirhan. All it meant was that if he ever got into trouble, they had a file they could pull out which listed every contact he had with the law. We have seen the file, and all it proves is that Sirhan was a boy who was quarrelsome and had been on the edge of trouble a few times without

really getting into hot water.

There are no criminal charges, only a dreary catalogue of trivial entries. Twice he reported a bicycle stolen: once when he was 14 and once when he was 18. Twice there were complaints that he was causing a disturbance—the last time on March 7 this year, the day he was sacked from his last job. Once he lodged a complaint himself.

Pulled out at random, it could be the file of a million young men—or the dossier of a case of incipient paranoia.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan landed in New York on Jan. 12, 1957, with his mother, his sister Aida—who died of cancer last year—and three brothers: Sharif, Adel and Munier (the fourth, Said Allah, arrived in 1960).

The father, who joined them a few months later, stayed in New York, where he found work as a plumber, and the mother took the children to California, where she got a job as a children's nurse.

But the father stayed in America for only three years, and lived with his family in Los Angeles for only a short part of that time. He says he came back to Jordan to look after his mother, aged as far as anyone can tell about 90, who had fallen ill but refused to go to America.

According to the Mukhtar, the parents' plans for a divorce were abandoned under the children's influence and they decided on separation. That was when the father returned, first to Jerusalem and later to Taibeh. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, Mary Sirhan, the mother, settled her family. She rented a white wooden bungalow in the only mixed neighborhood in Pasadena, an aging suburb of Los Angeles.

A-Grades in High School

Sirhan went to the John Muir High School, an excellent school, and did well. He had A grades, he was on the student council for his last two years—he even joined the Officer Cadet Corps. Then he went on to Pasadena City College, a distinctly second-rate institution. By all accounts he was a serious student. Here is what his contemporaries say about him: