

"A taciturn individual who did not say very much . . . Friendly, really pleasant, but hard to get to know . . . He was so weak and scrawny, but always so neat. The other kids came to school in sweat shirts and jeans, but Sirhan always had a clean shirt . . . He was brilliant. He was studying Russian when everyone else was studying English and Spanish . . . He was calm and well-mannered, nothing evil about him . . . He dreamed of being something big in Jordan after his studies in the university . . ."

Somehow, something went wrong with the neat dark boy with his white shirts and his big dreams.

The details are missing, but one senses a situation where the boy who wants to make good is dragged back by bad company. For Sirhan, the bad company seems to have included at least two of his brothers—the brothers the 7-year-old Sirhan had so desperately wanted to beat.

The brother with whom Sirhan bought the gun, Munir, was well-known as "Joe" in half-a-dozen seedy Hollywood night clubs frequented by Arabs and other immigrants from the Eastern Mediterranean.

This world of the Hollywood night spots exercised its pull on Joe early: several times he ran away from school. Police thought he had been "shacking up with older chicks" and he has subsequently been up on a narcotics charge involving marijuana.

Another brother, Sharif, got into more serious trouble, according to Pasadena police. He got a year on probation for attempted murder: a lenient sentence, considering he is said to have sawed through the brakes of his girl friend's car.

Even before he left the City College, Sirhan was earning a few dollars as a groom and exercise boy at the race track at Hollywood Park. After he left, he went to work there as an exercise boy, walking horses to cool them off after training. Apparently he wanted to be a jockey, a despairing dream, for at 126 pounds and 5-foot six he was a little big.

On Sept. 25, 1966, he was thrown from a horse and injured. Later Sirhan claimed

that this fall had damaged his eyesight. His suit was settled out of court for \$2000.

Almost a year after that, he seems to have been out of work. Finally, last September he got a job as delivery boy at a health food store in Pasadena. He was paid \$2 an hour. His boss, a Dutch former resistance fighter, trusted him with large amounts of money, but ultimately found him impossible to employ.

"He was a man of principle. He didn't drink," said the employer. "He didn't smoke. He always said he wouldn't lie. But he was emotional. He resented authority. He didn't like to take orders." In the end, on March 7 this year, Sirhan

was fired. It was the end of the line.

One of Los Angeles' leading psychiatrists suggested that Sirhan was an interesting case because his latent hatred of authority—a Freudian might say this had something to do with his support of his mother against his father in the long marital struggle—was reinforced by his ideological attitudes.

What are Sirhan's attitudes? How did America crystalize the emotions of the young Arab immigrant? Mayor Sam Yorty of Los Angeles, a vehement anti-Communist, claims that Sirhan was pro-Communist, and specifically asserts that his car, an elderly pink De

Soto, had been parked outside meetings of the DuBois Club on several occasions.

The DuBois Club has been identified by the FBI as a Communist front, but there is some doubt whether it has actually held any meetings in Los Angeles in the last three years. Mrs. Dorothy Healey, the very forthright secretary of the Communist Party here, dismisses Yorty's suggestion as "typical of an opportunist politician who wants to get his name in the news."

She said she had personally checked Sirhan's name with several of her young left-wing friends, none of whom had heard it. She then checked with his high school

contemporaries, all of whom said that he was strongly anti-Communist and anti-Semitic.

At every stage of his life in America, in fact, those who knew Sirhan remember virulent outbreaks of anti-Semitism—at school, at the race track, at the health food store.

That appears to have been America's main contribution to Sirhan's development. In America—in a world where Arabs keep their heads above the black ghetto with difficulty, while Jews are among the wealthiest communities in the world—any Arab with the faintest tendency to paranoia might have a feeling that the enemy was closing in.

Mayor Yorty blurted out, and the police have confirmed, that when they searched the Sirhan family's house in Pasadena they found two ring-back loose-leaf notebooks, each with about 18 to 20 pages.

In one of these Sirhan wrote—about May 17 and 18, the police think—"Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5." By May 17, Robert F. Kennedy had come out strongly for the supply of arms to Israel in his primary campaign. And June 5 was the first anniversary of the humiliating six-day war, which put Sirhan's family home into the power of Israel.

What happened in those last decisive days to Sirhan

Bishara Sirhan is now the task of American justice to discover.

Top Attorney Sought For Sirhan by ACLU

[WASHINGTON POST June 9, 1968]

LOS ANGELES, June 8 (UPI)—A. L. Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union in Los Angeles, said the ACLU will seek a prominent attorney to defend Sirhan B. Sirhan at his murder trial.

Wirin emphasized that neither he nor the ACLU was representing the accused slayer of Sen. Robert Kennedy.

The lawyer has visited Sirhan daily in his jail cell, he disclosed, and has sent messages from Sirhan to his mother and other members of the family. Wirin made arrangements through a Pasadena church for the family to be moved to an undisclosed place and to have police protection.

A member of the public Defender's Office will represent Sirhan in preliminary hearings but Sirhan has asked Wirin to secure services of a top attorney for the trial.

Wirin said the ACLU would ask Richard Schauer, presiding judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, to issue an order seeking attorneys prominent in the state or the Nation to represent Sirhan.

Wirin declined to say whether any member of the family had expressed the wish to see Sirhan or whether the accused man had asked to see his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, or any other relatives.

He said that as of today he and the Public Defenders' representatives were the only ones who had visited Sirhan.

Sirhan is not scheduled to appear in public until June 28 when a plea is to be entered on his behalf by the Public Defender's office.

Sirhan Defense Lawyer To Be Chosen by Bar

[WASHINGTON POST, June 11, 1968]

LOS ANGELES, June 10 (AP)—A lawyer chosen by the Los Angeles County Bar Association and approved by the defendant will represent Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

A. L. Wirin, Southern California chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union, made that announcement today before visiting the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant who is held under close guard at the County Central Jail.

Wirin said he would not discuss what Sirhan tells him and is limiting all statements to comply with a sweeping security court order against discussion of the case issued Friday when Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon arraigned Sirhan.

Wirin said many attorneys have offered to represent Sirhan, but he would not name them. So far Sirhan has been represented by the public defenders office.

Whoever is chosen, "big or small," will serve without fee,

Wirin said. He added that Sirhan has no complaints about the way his case has been handled so far.

Wirin said the bar association will recommend counsel for Sirhan and the name will be submitted to Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer for approval. Then Sirhan will have the final say on who his lawyer will be. The American Civil Liberties Union will not recommend a defense attorney, he said.

Meanwhile, Donald R. Wright, presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, said he is opposed to holding Sirhan's trial in the new County Courthouse. He said it "has no security facilities at all, except one lockup" and suggested the old Hall of Justice has better facilities.

There, said Judge Wright the defendant could be taken to and from court virtually without public notice.

Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess has reported that numerous threats have been made against Sirhan's life since the defendant was jailed.

The Sirhans: A Lonely Family

[WASH. POST. June 13, 1968]

MIAMI, Fla., June 12 (AP) —An exiled former Fidel Castro army officer said today that Sirhan Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, told him before Kennedy's death, "What we need in the United States is another Fidel Castro."

The exile, Jose Duarte, said he had argued with Sirhan and scuffled with him.

Duarte told a news conference the incident occurred about three weeks ago in a house in Hollywood, Calif. He said he recognized Sirhan as the man he scuffled with when Sirhan's picture appeared in newspapers after Sen. Kennedy's death.

He said he reported the incident to Hollywood authorities and identified a police photo of Sirhan.

Duarte said the man he fought with told him he was an Arab.

"He said what we (Cuban exiles) are doing is just what the Israelites are doing and that we are getting the same help from the CIA that Israel is getting," Duarte said.

The scuffling began, Duarte said, "When he accused me of being an agent of the CIA."

Duarte said he made some derogatory remarks about Cuba and about me and we came to blows. Somebody separated us. He left."

[WASH. POST.
**Cuban Exile Reports
Scuffling With Sirhan**
June 13, 1968]

By YUVAPELIZAR
Special to The Washington Post

JERUSALEM—The family of Sirhan. Sirhan, the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was a lonely one with few intimate friends, according to Anton Jasir, a family friend.

In an interview, Jasir, a prominent East Jerusalem attorney, said he had handled several legal actions that the father, Beahara Salameh Sirhan, brought against his neighbors. These mainly concerned property in the village of Taibeh, where the elder Sirhan lives.

Beahara Sirhan is a man always ready to fight for his

rights, the lawyer said. He was the sole heir of his father and now owns two houses in the village and some large olive groves. The house he lives in now was built only recently, when Sirhan came back from America the second time. The rest of the family has lived in the United States since 1957.

Jasir recalled that the Sirhan family was secretive, and that visitors to their home were not welcome unless invited.

Sirhan Sirhan, the suspect in the Kennedy slaying, was a quiet boy, according to Jasir. The elder Sirhan also is gentle and courteous, the lawyer said, but he can fly into a rage when he feels his rights are being violated.

Meanwhile, the elder Sirhan has asked Israeli authorities to help him prepare for his forthcoming trip to the United States. No difficulties are expected.

However, some Israeli officials have expressed apprehension lest Sirhan's trip be exploited by Arab groups for propaganda purposes.

How RFK Died: Grand Jury Told Of Sirhan's Role

[WASHINGTON POST. June 14, 1968]

Senator Was Hit by 3 Bullets

By Ron Einstoss
and Dial Torgenson
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13 — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan practiced, plotted and lay in wait to shoot Robert F. Kennedy, witnesses told a grand jury in testimony kept secret until today.

And when he fired, he hit the Senator with three bullets—not two, as reported earlier—the grand jury transcript disclosed.

One shot fatally wounded Sen. Kennedy in the brain. Two others struck a half-inch apart in his right armpit—apparently as his hands flew up, instinctively, across his face.

Assailant Fired Rapidly

Sirhan stepped from the side of a "very good-looking girl" in a polka dot dress and fired rapidly, "a very sick-looking smile on his face," from about three feet away, witnesses told the grand jury.

Twelve hours before, one man testified, he had seen the same man practicing rapid firing with the same gun on a San Gabriel Valley pistol range.

A half-hour before the crime, another said, Sirhan had been waiting in the Ambassador

Hotel kitchen—asking a kitchen porter nervously, three or four times, if Kennedy was expected to pass through the room.

Kennedy, followed by a throng of supporters and newsmen, left the Embassy Room stage where he had claimed victory in the June 4 California presidential primary—and, testimony revealed, was led by the hand by a hotel employe right to the spot where Sirhan was waiting.

Put on Public Record

Details of the testimony at last Friday's grand jury hearing became public record today when it was filed in the County Clerk's office.

Henry Adrian Carreon, a college student and playground director, said when he saw a man he identified as Sirhan about noon June 4 at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, Sirhan had already fired three or four hundred practice shots. He was standing amid empty shell casings, Carreon said.

His testimony indicated Sirhan was practicing getting off his shots very rapidly.

Carreon said he was at the range firing with a friend, David Montellano.

"To the left of us," he said, "five feet away, there was an individual shooting very rapidly on the range with a revolver. On the range you are supposed to shoot and pause, etc., etc. Usually the range officer goes up to the individual shooting in this manner and he will inform them that it's not supposed to be done..."

He said he and Montellano spoke to Sirhan. Asked twice, Sirhan identified his pistol as "an Iver-Johnson," Carreon said.

Montellano, noticing that Sirhan had one box of bullets set aside from the others he was using, asked Sirhan if he

were using "a special type bullet," Carreon said.

The bullets, Carreon said, are called "the minimagnum."

"This type of bullet," Carreon said, "when it penetrates an object usually tears and splits out into different directions, where the regular bullet of a .22-caliber goes in a hole, and when it goes into an object, it will come out the same size."

Sirhan was noncommittal about the bullets, he said.

The testimony relating to how many times Sen. Kennedy was shot began when Coroner Thomas Noguchi was asked:

"And would you tell us how many wounds there were?"

The Coroner replied:

"A total of three gunshot wounds, sir."

Dr. Noguchi said the wound that killed the Senator entered the right mastoid (behind the right ear), while the two others hit in the back of the right armpit.

The latter two shots, according to Dr. Noguchi, would not have been fatal.

Q—"Doctor, as a result of your examination, did you come to an opinion as to the cause of death of Sen. Kennedy?"

A—"Yes. The cause of death was gunshot wound of the right mastoid, penetrating the brain."

Dr. Noguchi said powder burns on the surface of the edge of the right ear showed the wound to the head was inflicted at a "very, very close" range.

Q—"... Do you have an opinion as to the maximum distance the gun could have been from the Senator and still have left powder burns?"

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

Karl Uecker, assistant maitre d' at the hotel, said plans for Kennedy to visit a crowd in another ballroom were changed "at the last minute" to enable him to go to a news conference in the Colonial Room, by way of the kitchen.

Uecker was guiding Kennedy by the hand—the Senator's right hand in Uecker's.

left—when, he said, "something rushed on my right side ... then I heard the first shot, and Mr. Kennedy fell out of my hand. I lost his hand. I looked for him, and I saw him falling down."

Uecker then grabbed the man he identified as Sirhan, and wrestled with him as other shots blasted into the corridor of the kitchen pantry, hitting five other persons. All survived.

Vincent Di Pierro, a student and parttime waiter at the Ambassador, gave the grand jury that indicted Sirhan for murder an account of the shooting, of Sirhan's struggle to escape afterward—and of the girl he saw talking with Sirhan earlier.

She was wearing a polka dot dress, he said. It was on the basis of his testimony—and of a woman who told of seeing a woman in a dress of similar description run from the hotel—that police based an all-points bulletin for a young woman possibly involved in the case.

Di Pierro, speaking softly, told the 22-member panel that he was walking with Kennedy through the kitchen and was five feet away when they reached the pantry's ice-making machine. Said Di Pierro:

"It was there that I noticed there was a girl and the accused person standing on what is—what we call a tray stacker, where we had all the trays ..."

He was asked what he noticed about Sirhan.

"The only reason I noticed him," he said, "there was a very good-looking girl next to him. That was the only reason I looked over there. I looked at the girl and I noticed him—the reason I took note of him

... he was grabbing on (to a pipe on the tray holder) with his left hand.

"I could not see his right hand; he looked as though he was clutching his stomach, as though somebody had elbowed him."

The next time he looked at Sirhan he was holding the gun, Di Pierro said.

"He kind of moved around Mr. Uecker," he said. "He kind of motioned around him and stuck the gun straight out. And nobody could move. It was—you were just frozen. You didn't know what to do."

On the first shot Kennedy "kind of reared back" and began to fall, he said. "And when he stuck the gun (out)," he said of Sirhan, "he looked like he was on his tiptoes because he wasn't that tall."

What happened next?

"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 and Mr. (Roosevelt) Grier and Mr. Uecker were all holding him against 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."

Pressed for details of the girl in the polka dot dress, Di Pierro said:

"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 like it was a white dress and it had either black or dark-purple dots on it.

"As the girl and Sirhan stood together on the tray rack, before the shooting, 'he looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her, because she smiled,' Di Pierro said. "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."

What did the girl look like?

"She had dark hair that was cut, I would say, just above the shoulders, just around in here. And it just kind of looked like it was messed up ... she had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too

—facially, she wasn't too pretty. She was not that pretty.

"And, like I say, figure—she had a very good figure."

Authorities have questioned

at least three young women who have stepped forward to identify themselves as having worn polka dot costumes to the Kennedy affair the night of the shooting. All were released after questioning.

It was Jesus Perez, a kitchen porter, who told the grand jury of having seen Sirhan a half-hour before the shooting. "He asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy, coming that way, coming through that way. And I answered, 'I don't know,' because, really, I don't know what way he comes."

Policeman Arthur Placencia, the first officer to reach the kitchen after the shooting, said he went there answering a call that there was "some kind of difficulty or police problem" at the Ambassador. "When we got to this area where we got the suspect, there were people holding this suspect down on top of this sheet metal table," he said.

He said they pulled Grier and several others off him and then "just started pushing" to force their way out of the room with the suspect. The crowd kept shouting, "He did it."

But, said Placencia, "We didn't know who he had shot. We just knew he had shot somebody."

He said as they were taking Sirhan from the scene, a man he later learned was Jesse Unruh, California Assembly Speaker and Kennedy's California campaign manager, kept shouting, "We don't want another Oswald."

En route to the Rampart Division Police Station, Unruh rode with them, the officer said. He said he asked Unruh "By the way, who did he shoot?"

He said Unruh replied: "Bobby Kennedy."

Special Task Force Set for RFK Trial

[WASHINGTON POST. June 14, 1968]

Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13—Justice Department "is 100 per cent satisfied with the way the Los Angeles Police Department has handled the case."

Formation of a special task force of investigators and prosecutors to handle the Robert F. Kennedy assassination trial was jointly announced today by the police, district attorney and U.S. Justice Department.

Deputy Chief Robert Houghton, commander of the detective bureau, said "23 hand-picked" detectives have been assigned to the case.

At a news conference, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger said, "We have formed a special legal team which will act as advisers to the officers during the investigation and will handle the prosecution during the trial."

U.S. Atty. Matt Byrne, only said the Justice Department and the FBI is "cooperating fully" with the police and the district attorney and that the

Younger indicated there will not be a change of venue, that the accused slayer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, will plead not guilty and that the trial will begin within three months.

Other Sirhan Trips

[WASHINGTON POST, June 14, 1968]

Reuters

Reported

The State Department said yesterday it had no information that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, made two trips to the Middle East after he emigrated to the U.S. in 1957.

A story in the London Evening Standard yesterday said Sirhan had traveled to the Middle East in 1964 and 1966. This information varies from that obtained during the investigation into Sirhan's past after the Kennedy assassination.

"The information we presently have is that he came to the United States in 1957 with his family. So far as we have been able to check, there is no information he left or returned," a Department spokesman said.

[A spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service seconded this by declaring: "Our records show Sirhan came here in 1957 and has been here ever since."

[However, resident aliens, such as Sirhan, are given the form 151 "green card" for identification and can use it to leave the United States for periods up to a year without need of a re-entry permit.

[The Immigration Service says returning resident aliens are listed on ship and plane passenger manifests and they are asked to fill out re-entry slips on returning. Those familiar with the Immigration Service's paper work say the files often leave something to be desired.]

The Standard's story said an Arab government, which it did not name, had uncovered "startling new evidence" on the background of Sirhan.

The story said the Arab government records showed that Sirhan came to the U.S. in 1948 when he was four and returned to Jordan in 1957 where he was married at the age of 13.

He returned to the U.S. in 1957 and his wife followed him three months later, the story said.

In 1964 he spent seven months in the Middle East, four of them in Damascus, Syria. The records do not show where he was for the remaining time, it was said.

He was reported to have spent even longer in the Middle East in 1966, including five months in Cairo, according to the story.

The story said the Arab government is convinced of the accuracy of its records and is sending its information to the FBI.

[The Los Angeles Times said the London paper story is refuted by personnel files at Granja Vista del Rio Ranch in Corona, Calif., where Sirhan was employed from June 2, 1966 to the week ending Dec. 10, 1966.

[On Sept. 25, 1966, the Times reported, he fell from a horse he was exercising and sustained a head injury which later was the subject of court litigation in which he was awarded \$2000. Sirhan first sought medical treatment for the injury in early February, 1967.

[All these developments occurred during the time when the London report places Sirhan in the Middle East, the Times said.

[The Associated Press reported Mrs. John H. Weidner, wife of the owner of a health food store where Sirhan worked from September, 1967 to March, 1968, as saying Sirhan had told her he came to the United States as a baby.]

2 Reported With Sirhan When He Bought Bullets

[WASHINGTON POST June 16, 1968]

By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 15—

The Saturday before the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, his alleged killer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, walked into the Lock, Stock 'N Barrel Shop in suburban San Gabriel.

The proprietors of the gun shop, Ben and Dona Herrick, say there were two men with him.

"There were three guys, all dark and small," Herrick, 42, declared yesterday.

Clerk Larry Arnot said he waited on them.

The receipt from the sale that afternoon—\$3.99 including tax, for four boxes of .22 caliber bullets—was found in Sirhan's car near the Ambassador Hotel after the shooting.

The recollections at the gun shop built up after that.

"When I saw the (Sirhan's) picture in the paper, I had the feeling that I had seen him somewhere, but it didn't dawn on me at the time that he was the one I had sold the bullets to," Arnot said.

"A day later—or maybe it was a couple of days later, I can't remember—the owners got the information that we had sold the ammunition.

"I said then, to my employer's wife, Dona, and Ben, "By

golly, I waited on that guy." The bell rang just like that. Before that, I had halfway discharged it from my mind that I had seen this guy somewhere before."

What police make of all this is not clear. They have, inevitably, received hundreds of tips, rumors and reports that a conspiracy may have been involved. Yet days have passed and no one appears to have unearthed any close friends or associates of the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant indicted for the slaying.

If any are found, it remains to be seen what, if anything, Sirhan told them of his interest in guns or Sen. Kennedy.

It may take months, perhaps years to sort out the facts.

At the gun shop, nestled in a shopping center with a Wild West motif, the Herricks, who said they have talked to police

twice, and Arnot, who said he has not been questioned at all, were quite firm about Sirhan being accompanied by two other men.

Mrs. Herrick declared that she also remembered an earlier visit to the store, about a month and a half ago, by Sirhan—again, she said, with the same two men.

There was no sale on the first trip, she said. Mrs. Herrick said the men asked whether the shop carried armor-piercing .357 magnum ammunition such as California Highway patrolmen use for their .38-caliber revolvers.

Her husband said they asked the same question that Saturday, June 1, before buying the .22s.

"We carry it," Herrick said, "but I told them we didn't have it because I don't want to sell that kind of stuff to guys like that." Herrick said he

stocks the ammunition for police officers and makes it a practice not to sell it to anyone else. "I figure they had no business having that stuff," he said.

According to the receipt that was found in Sirhan's car, two of the boxes of .22s were "mini-mags." Some gun buffs call them hollow points. They usually split off on impact.

Three days later, Sirhan was seen practicing rapid-fire shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club in Fish Canyon about 10 miles from the gun shop.

One witness, Henry A. Carreon, told the Los Angeles County Grand Jury that he and a companion, David Montellano, both noticed Sirhan "shooting very rapidly on the range with a revolver"—a .22-caliber Iver Johnson.

Sirhan, the grand jury was told, also had with him a box of "mini-mag" bullets set aside from the rest of his ammunition. A similar box was found in his car after the assassination.

In still other testimony, the Grand Jury heard Vincent Di-pierro, a 19-year-old college freshman, tell of seeing a shapely girl in a polka-dot

dress standing next to Sirhan and apparently chatting, and smiling at each other, just before Kennedy was gunned down.

And at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club yesterday, one of the habitués insisted that he, too, had seen Sirhan there—with a girl, and "another guy." He did not say when.

[A national police bulletin is still out for "the girl in the polka dot dress" in the assassination, Los Angeles authorities asserted today, according to United Press International.] try for a dd one

Asked at first by a reporter

if he remembered seeing Sirhan at the practice range, he loudly professed a determination to keep his mouth shut.

But as customers and spectators moved away, he said: "If you ask me who was here talking to me, the police or the FBI, I guess I'd have to tell you: Both of them."

He said he'd been warned that if he said anything about the case, he could get six months in jail (presumably for violating a court order restricting comment). But then he turned more loquacious.

"I know a lot more than I'm telling you—a dozen times more than you think I do," he said, adding softly:

"I saw them all together."

"You mean Sirhan?"

"Yes, him, a woman and another guy. Remember, I said t-h-e-m."

He refused to elaborate. A customer drew near and the gun club member said noisily, "I told you I can't say anything."

Lloyd Hager, manager of the National Rifle Association-sponsored gun club, said he knew of no girl or any other companions with Sirhan. As far as he could tell, he said Sirhan had been at the range only once, alone, in the early afternoon before the assassination.

"I can't even recall him being here that day," Hager said. "But he must have been because his name is on the log." Generally those who use the practice range are supposed to sign in.

Asked if there were any indications Sirhan had been at the gun club before his appearance on the eve of the assassination Hager replied: "None whatsoever."

Los Angeles police and FBI agents, however, are said to be

checking out every lead they get.

"You can imagine how many irrelevant contacts will be made," said District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, "but we're not going to ignore any of them. We know there will be people in the next 50 years who'll be saying: 'Why didn't the police do this? Why didn't the police do that?'"

Among these other reports, investigators have reportedly been told that Sirhan and several male companions were seen, within a few days before the assassination, at some of the topless nightclubs with which Los Angeles is well endowed.

At a press conference June 6 after the autopsy, Los Angeles County Coroner Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi was widely understood as saying only two bullets had struck Sen. Kennedy. The next day, he told the Los Angeles County Grand Jury that the Senator had been struck three times, once behind the right ear and twice in the right armpit.

Asked about the discrepancy, Dr. Noguchi said he never actually said only "two" bullets hit Kennedy. But added that the information supplied him "by the hospital" apparently failed to take account of a final armpit wound where the bullet passed through the body completely.

Dr. Noguchi said the autopsy turned up the three wounds. But when someone at the press conference asked him about "a back wound," he said, he replied in the singular.

"At the time of the press

conference," the doctor explained. "I definitely knew there were three bullets. But I did not refer to three because I was not asked that question."

Sirhan Offered Aid

By Arab Lawyers

Los Angeles Times

BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 15

—Two Lebanese attorneys have cabled Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, Sen. Robert F. Ken-

nedy's alleged assassin, offering to help in his defense after receiving a noncommittal response from the U.S. Embassy here.

The lawyers, Moussa Prince and Abdel Hamid Ahdab, sent a telegram Friday to Sirhan's appointed legal counsel, Wilbur Littlefield. They took this course on the advice of the American Embassy here after failing in what appeared to be an attempt to use Embassy channels.

[WASHINGTON POST June 17, 1968]

L.A. Arabs Go Into Hiding

The Los Angeles Arab community "has gone into hiding" since it was learned that the suspected slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was a Jordanian immigrant. Sirhan B. Sirhan's own family is being kept under heavy police guard and one of his brothers—about to be sworn in as a U.S. citizen—had his appointment canceled by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Sirhan's Arab Community

[WASHINGTON POST

June 17, 1968]

Fears Retaliation

By George Larduer

Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 16—

Adnan Deen is keeping his gun loaded.

Manager of an Export-Import store on Hollywood Boulevard, he doesn't want to follow the Jordanian merchant shot in Chicago last week in apparent reprisal for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The Arabic community here has been unnerved from the moment it was disclosed that the slight, swarthy suspect arrested for the killing was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant.

There have been only a few minor incidents. At Deen's shop, one crank started a fire in the awning and another set a lizard loose in the store.

But the apprehension remains.

Anonymity is being sought by Los Angeles area's 25,000 Arab-Americans these days. "The community's gone into hiding," says Henry Awad, president of the Lebanese-Syrian-American Society and editor of a monthly English-language newspaper here for Arab-Americans.

Sirhan's family—his mother and four brothers—have been taken into hiding, under police protection. Moved from their small frame house shortly after the shooting, they are living in a tightly guarded private home.

The family has also felt the sting of Sirhan's arrest in other ways.

Sirhan's 29-year-old brother, Adel, had been playing an Arab musical instrument on weekends at a belly dance club, Shaker's Oasis, before the shooting. The management doesn't want to see him again. "He might get shot," reasons Club Manager Harry Shaker.

Another brother, Saidallah, 36, was to have been sworn in as a U. S. citizen the day after Kennedy's death. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization

Service canceled the appointment. District Director George Rosenberg claimed that reports of "motor vehicle violations" conflicted with the requirement of "good moral character" for naturalized citizens.

The Arab-American community here is closely knit. Yet few will admit to knowing Sirhan. Those who do usually claim to have met him only once or twice, just in passing.

Yet at the same time there is widespread rationalization, even sympathy, for the murder for which Sirhan stands indicted. His "anti-Zionism" is widely shared. Time and again, it is argued that the real villain is "international Zionism" and, secondarily, Kennedy's support of jet fighters for Israel.

Sirhan does not appear to have been a member of any of the Arabic organizations in the city. In any event, 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 far American right and white racists.

The groups include the United American Arab Congress, the American-Arab Citizens Council, the Americans (of Lebanese Syrian Ancestry) for American, and the Arabic Society of Americanists.

Formed after the lightning Israeli victory last year in the June war, the United American Arab Congress has its \$50-a-month headquarters in what the community calls "the White House" on Hollywood Boulevard.

Its general counsel, George E. Shibley, said it was formed to help raise funds for Arab refugees and to combat "support of Zionism by the American press."

Israel, in turn, is likened by the UAAC to "Nazi Germany" and "Fascist Japan." "All three claimed to be superman or God's chosen people," one UAAC broadside has proclaimed. "All three terrorized civilian populations and

claimed the lands they overran 'by right of conquest.'"

According to one report, Sirhan and several of his brothers attended meetings of the so-called "American Arabs" which was allegedly a youth auxiliary of the UAAC.

Officials of the Congress, however, say they had no youth organization and never heard of any group called the "American Arabs." Neither have other community leaders.

UAAC headquarters, in any event, are deserted these days. An official of the Lebanese-Syrian-American Society, which manages the building, said it was six months behind in its rent.

The American Arab Citizens Council was also apparently formed last year to promote "better understanding of Middle Eastern problems." It had a newsletter called "The Prophet" that devoted one is-

sue to pictures of burned Arab children over a caption, "Auschwitz—1967 style." Council Chairman Phil Zogaib, however, says the organization is now defunct.

Zogaib has also served as chairman of the Americans (of Lebanese-Syrian Ancestry) for America, an organization headed by Dr. T. J. Toma, dentist who is also president of the Arabic Society of Americanists.

How successful the various groups have been in resisting racist and right-wing overtures is open to question. 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 "hate mongers."

Dr. Toma, has also been a prominent spokesman for John Birch Society causes. He once got into a hassle with postal officials over stamping his mail with the slogan "Save America—Impeach J.F.K.—General Walker, truth and freedom, yes—one world, Godless UN Govt. & Tyranny No."

How much, if any, of this climate filtered down to Sirhan is unknown. According to some reports, he may have been active in the organization of Arab students while attending Pasadena City College, but college officials maintain there is no OAS chapter there.

Officials of the other organizations say they never noticed Sirhan at any of their meetings. He was not, it seems plain, a joiner. "I never heard of him until this incident," said Dr. Toma, "I guess he's a loner, really."

[WASHINGTON POST]

Jordan Bar Picks 4 to Aid Sirhan Case

[June 18, 1968]

AMMAN, Jordan, June 17 (AP)—Four Jordanian lawyers have been chosen to take part in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and will be joined by lawyers from other Arab countries, a Jordanian Bar Association source said today.

The source said the four—Fouad Atallah, Ahmad El Khalil, Mohamed Barade'h and Hassan Hawwa—were chosen at a bar association meeting attended by Bishara Sirhan, father of the defendant.

In Los Angeles, public defender Richard S. Buckley said he had received a wire from two Jordanian lawyers offering to assist in Sirhan's defense.

"We will not object to their trying the case if they are qualified to do so. But under California law we cannot share responsibility for the case. We either control the case or we get out. This offer was to assist us and that we cannot accept."

[Meanwhile, Sirhan's mother into their Pasadena home today under police protection but refused to talk about the case. The family had been under guard in a nearby apartment since Kennedy was fatally wounded.]

[WASHINGTON POST]

Sirhan Rage Over RFK Is Reported

[June 17, 1968]

NEW YORK, June 16 (UPI)

—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, flew into a rage and shouted that Kennedy "should never be President" only hours before the assassination, it was reported today.

The report, published in Life magazine, came from a Mexican and a Puerto Rican who said they had encountered Sirhan on the night of June 4 in the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

The magazine said the two, Enrique Rabago, 35, an unemployed mechanic, and a second unidentified witness, came forward voluntarily to tell about the encounter at 9:15 p.m. PDT, four and a half hours before Kennedy was shot.

Sirhan, wearing white pants and a white shirt without a tie, had just been thrown out of a victory party for Republican senatorial candidate Max Rafferty because, refused a drink by a waitress, he had made a fuss and contemptuously tipped her \$20 "for nothing," the magazine report said.

Describing the incident to Rabago and his companion, Sirhan went into a tirade against "the rich Rafferty people who step all over the poor," the magazine said.

But when Rabago nodded toward the embassy room on the other side of the lobby where Kennedy's victory celebration was beginning and said, "Robert Kennedy might help the poor," Sirhan flew into a rage, the article said.

"Kennedy, Kennedy, he should never be President. You think he really wants to help the poor," Sirhan reportedly shouted, his voice quavering. "Kennedy helps himself. He's just using the poor. Can't you see that?"

Elder Sirhan Appeals to World For a 'Fair Trial' for His Son

[WASHINGTON POST June 19, 1968]

From News Dispatches

AMMAN, Jordan, June 18—Bishara Sirhan, father of the alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, appealed to Pope Paul VI and the conscience of the world today to secure a fair trial for his son, Sirhan Sirhan.

At a press conference here, Bishara Sirhan said he is convinced that his son had not been told by any group to kill Kennedy, but had been provoked by the Senator's "anti-Arab" speeches.

Sirhan, 55, came here from his home in Israeli-occupied territory north of Jerusalem to draw money from his Jordanian bank account. He may go to the United States for his son's trial.

Sirhan said he regrets the death of "Kennedy the human being," but added that "Bob Kennedy had a double personality . . ."

"I can say that I do not regret his death as Kennedy the American politician," the father said. He charged 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."

He said his son had been

born in Jerusalem and had painful memories of the 1948 Palestine war. As a child, he said, his son had seen Arabs killed by Israeli terrorists and had seen a woman neighbor stabbed by an Israeli.

From Jerusalem, Yuval Elizur gave this report on the Sirhan family in a special dispatch to The Washington Post:

Sirhan used to discipline his sons with punishment bordering on torture, according to Mrs. Laila Said, who remembers the Sirhans as an unhappy family. Other former neighbors corroborated her account.

Mrs. Said said the father once beat one of his sons until the boy was unconscious, and chased away neighbors who sought to intervene.

She said the Sirhan daughter, who has since died in the United States, was often locked in her room, and friends would bring food to her. At one time, the elder Sirhan chained his daughter to the window bars.

The Sirhans received rations from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency as refugees from the time they left their home during the war in 1948 until the family

emigrated to America in 1957. Although they owned property and olive groves in their village of Tiabeh, the Sirhans lived during this time in a small apartment in the Jewish quarter of the Old City.

Jordanian Lawyers Offer to Aid Sirhan

LOS ANGELES, June 18 (UPI)—The Public Defender's Office acknowledged receiving a communication from Jordanian lawyers offering to assist in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Richard S. Buckley said his office would not object to Jordanian lawyers trying the case, if they qualified legally to practice in California. But Buckley said the Public Defender would not share the defense responsibility.

"We either control the case or we get out. This offer was to assist us, and we cannot accept," he said. "It's all up to Sirhan."

The defendant's mother, Mary Sirhan, moved back into her home in Pasadena yesterday under police protection. She and a brother of the accused had been under heavy guard in a nearby apartment.

Mrs. Sirhan said she had talked with Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield about seeing her son. Thus far she has not visited him, she said.

Sirhan Signs a Criminal Lawyer

[WASHINGTON POST June 20, 1968]

LOS ANGELES, June 19 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan today acquired a prominent criminal attorney to defend him against a charge of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Russell Parsons, an attorney who won a landmark California Supreme Court ruling against use of illegally seized

evidence, has agreed to represent Sirhan without fee.

Immediately afterward, Public Defender Richard S. Buckley and Parsons conferred with Sirhan in county jail, where the defendant is held without bail under tight security.

The Jordanian Lawyers' Association has selected four of its members to help defend Sirhan and two Lebanese attorneys also have volunteered their services. Similar plans were reported under way in Iraq and Cairo.

RFK 'Plots' Crumble, But Rumors Persist

[WASHINGTON POST June 23, 1968]

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 22—Hemmed in by the mountains, the smog hovers over Los Angeles like a giant poison bubble. The rumors hinting of a conspiracy in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are even thicker.

One by one, they are proving to be false.

But those who originate and spread the stories remain apparently unaware of the real facts that show them to be spurious.

Investigators are squelching the rumors largely under the enforced silence of a court order, designed to insure Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old accused assassin a fair trial.

At the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, where Sirhan was seen practicing with a .22-caliber revolver less than 12 hours before the assassination, Cashier David Buckner has told investigators, and presumably others, that he saw "a woman and another guy" with Sirhan at the gun range that day.

In suburban Alhambra not far away, at a neighborhood bar decorated with prints of rear-view nudes, the two brothers who own the place have talked to FBI agents and Los Angeles detectives at length.

They have been told to keep quiet, but the customers at the Golden Garter have not. Sirhan, it is said, was at the watering spot several times with a friend named "Jim" and perhaps Jim's girl friend, "Karen."

Jim, it is added darkly, has dropped out of sight.

The whispered talk is honest believed. But The Washington Post has learned that at the gun club, a woman who turned up at the practice range did talk with Sirhan. The man she came with her husband, was farther away, practicing by himself. She was left a couple of spaces away from Sirhan with a pistol she didn't know how to shoot.

So she asked him.

Always polite, Sirhan obliged. He even let her fire a couple of rounds on his Iver-Johnson .22. But neither the woman nor her husband would have known him if he were King Hussein.

Cashier Buckner, however, remains apparently unenlightened. The rumor spreads.

Fanning out from the Golden Garter, investigators have also found "Jim" and his swarthy friends. It is not Sirhan.

But no one has told the bar's proprietors, Carl and J. Andy Martigani, much less the customers. The talk goes on. Some embellish it. By now, in some minds, the phantom Sirhan associated with "Jim" has acquired a phantom girl friend, "with the sexiest figure you ever saw."

Visions of "polka dot girls" spring up in response.

Police still believe there is a "polka dot girl" to be found—though not the one initially reported to them.

Miss Sandy Serrano, a 20-year-old Youth for Kennedy volunteer from Altadena, had told newsmen that she had seen a dark-haired girl

in a white dress with polka dots run from the Ambassador Hotel shortly after the shooting and shout shot him."

With her, Miss Serrano had said, was a man who appeared to be of Latin extraction.

Police Friday canceled the all-points bulletin for Miss Serrano's "polka dot" girl, concluding that she had been "overwrought." It was learned that Miss Serrano had been invited to take a lie detector test, but a least initially, she declined.

Not all reports of "polka dot" girls have been discarded, however. Vincent DiPierre, who testified before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury, told of seeing Sirhan exchanging smiles with such a girl moments before the shooting.

Detectives and presumably FBI agents believe him.

Asked how this could be squared with the cancellation of the all-points bulletin based on Miss Serrano's initial report, one source replied simply that "it isn't the same girl."

Investigators have also yet to confirm or discount reports that two men were with Sirhan when he bought ammunition at a San Gabriel gun shop the Friday before the June 5 shooting.

Calif. Group Scores Secrecy In RFK Case

STANFORD, Calif. June 22 (AP)—The California Freedom of Information Committee took sweeping exception today to a court secrecy order issued in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Such an order, the Committee said, "puts unreasonable emphasis on the rights of the defendant at the expense of other equally important public rights."

In a report to the annual meeting here of the California Newspaper Publishers Association, the Committee representing all news media in the state—said the secrecy order issued June 7 by Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon could deprive the public of its right to know the facts and could promote the spread of false rumors while blacking out official denials.

Even so, they point out that it takes more than a smile to make a conspiracy. Other sources add that the proprietors of the gun shop were somewhat "less positive" in talking to the police than they were with the press about seeing Sirhan with two men.

Other allegations have been squelched, but again in a secrecy that fails to counter their circulation and the currency that rumors gain with widespread repetition. Los Angeles has enough to feed every sort of preconceived notion.

Mayor Sam Yorty, never known for his reticence in public speaking, has loudly charged that communism was behind the assassination.

Across town, near Hollywood and Vine, one Arab-American businessman whispers to another that he has "the real story." Sirhan, he

confides darkly was a secret agent, "paid by the Zionists" to blacken the name of the Arab world.

The "Zionist plot," story appears to have its origins in the self-defense mechanisms in the Middle East where it first surfaced.

Yorty's charge appears to have been simply a wild swing from right field.

Alleging that "evil Communist organizations" inflamed Sirhan, Yorty declared that the suspected assassin's car had been spotted near a building where the radical left-wing W. E. B. DuBois Club was holding a meeting.

What Yorty did not disclose was that the meeting had been held more than two years ago—March 4, 1966. Sirhan was never seen inside the DuBois Club. The car was his brother Adel's.

Beyond that, probably most Arabs and Arab-Americans in Los Angeles have parked near the building at one time or another. The Fez—a Middle Eastern belly-dance palace (for the whole family)—is right down the street. Sirhan's brother Adel used to play a guitar-like instrument called the oud there every night.

Yorty's charge, however, was made before Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon handed down the court order aimed at banning most out-of-court statements to the media about the case. By then, many of the rumors were already afloat. The facts have been harder to come by.

Beneath the surface, however, investigators—while still not ruling out the possibility of a conspiracy—have yet to find any genuine evidence of one. Sirhan himself, and what drove him to the Ambassador Hotel, still pose the biggest enigma.

[WASHINGTON POST]

[June 23, 1968]

Arab Agency Orders Aid Offer to Sirhan

BEIRUT, Lebanon, June 22 (AP)—The Arab Higher Committee for Palestine reported today it has instructed its New York office to offer "all possible assistance" to the alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

The Committee's representative the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Haji Amin el Hussein, said it has instructed its U.S. representative to legally defend Sirhan as far as American law permits.

The Committee in New York goes by the name of Palestine Arab Delegation.

The Committee's representatives in New York are Issa Nakhleh and Omar Azzouni, both attorneys.

But Resenting Authority

Neighbors Recall Sirhan as Shy, Polite

[WASHINGTON POST

June 24, 1968]

By George Lardner, Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — To his neighbors in Pasadena, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was simply the shy but bright boy, next door who lived with his mother and two of his brothers.

He has been indicted for first-degree murder in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. What stands out in Miss Ann Sylvan's mind are Sirhan's "wonderful manners."

On East Howard street, a polyglot stretch of low-income homes, Sirhan was always like that, impeccably polite, speaking when spoken to, smiling when smiled at.

The most daring thing he seems to have done was to toss sticks and stones at Bert, the household collie next door.

"I think it was Bert's barking," a neighbor said, sympathetically.

Other than that, Sirhan outwardly contented himself with frequent visits to the library and occasionally a game of Chinese checkers with the elderly women a house away. Within a fortnight of the assassination, he asked Mrs. Martin Pulite across the street how to plant a garden for his mother.

Yet jotted down in a loose-leaf notebook in his house—apparently around the same time, or perhaps several days earlier—was the injunction: "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5"—the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Mrs. Pulite summed up one view of the dichotomy, this way:

The Monday evening before the assassination, she had been on her way to give a plant from her well-manicured garden to another neighbor. Mrs. Pulite decided to visit Sirhan's mother, Mary, first.

Sirhan, she said, was home. He asked her all about the flower.

Mrs. Pulite put her hands to her head. One night, a flower, she sighed. The next night, "pazzo" (crazy).

The contradictions show up, too, at the health food

store a few blocks away where Sirhan worked diligently last fall and winter before quitting March 7 in an argument over delivery schedules that ended when owner John H. Weidner called police.

As a \$2 an hour stock clerk and delivery boy, Sirhan chatted often with customers and fellow workers. Generous with the hard-earned pay, he secretly used to pay the bills of one elderly customer who couldn't afford all the health food he liked to buy.

But the young Jordanian immigrant, says Weidner, also resented authority, a tendency that perhaps had its roots in the strict discipli-

pline of his father who once reportedly held a hot iron to the boy's feet.

At the health food store, says customer Art Bean, "when the boss came around, he'd drop the conversation just like he'd been whipped."

"He had this attitude of rebellion against society," says Weidner. "Most of all, he was anti-Israel."

Weidner's wife, Naomi, recalls one conversation earlier this year vividly. Sirhan was bitter about last year's June war. Mrs. Weidner recalled the Nazi atrocities against the Jews in World War II.

Suddenly, she says, Sirhan blurted out: "Don't you think the Jews can be cruel? I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone else, not even my parents."

Sirhan claimed, as a little boy, to have seen an Israeli soldier mutilate an Arab woman.

But in Taibeh, in occupied Jordan, his father, Bishara (the name means "good news"), has said his son had never even seen any Israeli soldiers in the long-ago fighting when Sirhan was just about four.

Real or imagined, the repressions seem to have had no outlet.

Sirhan kept to himself. He neither smoked nor drank, according to neighbors and acquaintances. If he had any close friends, boy or girl, they have yet to be found. He used to go to the race-tracks, but usually with his brothers. Occasionally, he

dropped in at the Fez nightclub, but its owners say, "with his mother or brothers."

Classmates at Pasadena's John Muir High School recall Sirhan as generally quiet and introspective, but relatively outspoken on ethnic issues and individual rights.

A member of the junior and senior student class councils, Sirhan helped draft a proposed constitution for the junior class that school officials thought went too far.

Authority won out. The constitution was voted down, quite possibly by the upper middle-class white youngsters from La Canada who looked down on the growing numbers of Negroes, Orientals and Mexican-Americans at the school.

To John McGrain, a 22-year-old social worker who was president of the junior class council that included Sirhan, he was "definitely the kind of guy who would make a model citizen. This is the puzzle. What happened?"

Sirhan's mother, Mary, a \$195-a-month housekeeper at a nearby church nursery school, has been asking herself the same question.

Those who have seen her since the initial shock of the assassination say that she has been grasping at Sirhan's fall from a horse 20 months ago as the explanation.

Sirhan, who wanted to be a jockey, took the spill Sept. 25, 1966, while he was "breezing a filly" at a race horse ranch near Corona where he was working. His

mother has been reported as saying he was never quite the same after that.

Sirhan claimed an injury that affected his eyesight. A neurosurgeon who examined him a year later, Dr. Forrest L. Johnson, found "no evidence of a neurological problem at this time."

But less than two months before the assassination, Sirhan collected \$1705 of a \$2000 compromise settlement (the rest went for costs such as doctor's bills and attorney's fees).

The same reported pattern—accident, personality change, then attempted violence—curiously seems to have afflicted his brother, Sharif, 34.

Until an auto accident in

May of 1963, Sharif was a gregarious, hard-working bookkeeper in Los Angeles with the Southern California State Baptist Convention.

After the accident, where he sustained whiplash injuries to his back, neck and head, Sharif seemed to "withdraw from the group and from society," says his former supervisor, George Matas. "He complained of headaches, said his eyes hurt. His work deteriorated. We finally had to let him go."

For Sharif, the climax came when he was arrested in December 1963—the same month he was dismissed—after breaking up with his girl friend. It was said he cut the brake lines of her car and put gunpower in the manifold. Convicted of tampering with an auto, Sharif drew a year's probation.

That Sirhan's accident may have affected his behavior can be counted at this point only as maternal conjecture. It may even be questioned whether Mary Sirhan really knew her children. She was apparently unaware her only daughter was married until the girl's funeral several years ago.

But it seems apparent that resentment of Israel and Robert F. Kennedy's support of military aid for the country is hardly enough to explain the assassination of which he stands indicted. Virtually every Arab and Arab-American waxes bitter about Israel. There is only one Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Sirhan Granted 3 Weeks More to

[WASHINGTON POST

June 29, 1968]

Enter Plea

By Joseph A. St. Amant
LOS ANGELES, June 28 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, surrounded by guards in a jail chapel turned into a courtroom, today was granted an additional three weeks to enter his plea on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The 24-year-old defendant displayed an icy calm when he appeared before Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer and spoke only a half-dozen words in response to questions from the court.

He showed a moment of nervousness when he entered the makeshift courtroom, flanked by five deputy sheriffs who towered over him. As he walked up a step to the counsel table Sirhan nervously stroked his upper lip with his right forefinger.

At the end of the nine-minute hearing he arose from the table and started to leave. He stumbled over the first step but recovered himself.

The motion for a continuance was made by Defense Counsel Russell E. Parsons, who pointed out that he was just recently named as attorney for Sirhan and had had only a limited time to study the case.

The Judge granted the continuance until July 19 at 9 A.M. and the District Attorney's office, represented by John Howard and David Fitts made no objection.

Sirhan was clad in a long-sleeved light blue shirt, open at the neck, black slacks and black shoes. His hair appeared to have been freshly cut.

After he sat down Judge Schauer asked, "Are you the defendant Sirhan B. Sirhan?"

"Yes, sir," Sirhan replied in precise English.

Later in the proceedings, Judge Schauer explained

that time was running out on a 60-day time limit for bringing a defendant to trial after the date of indictment.

Parsons said he would waive the time limit and the Judge asked Sirhan if he agreed.

"Yes, sir, I do," said Sirhan after a whispered conference with Parsons.

The proceedings were witnessed by about 125 newsmen and a few members of the public. There were 12 uniformed deputies spaced about the chapel courtroom.

Sirhan's brother Adel, was also there, escorted by a half-dozen plainclothes sheriffs detectives.

No one was permitted to leave the courtroom until Sheriff Peter Pitchess returned to the room, indicating that Sirhan was back in his maximum security cell.

Newsmen and all other spectators were "frisked" on the way in. Their names were taken on a register at the ground floor waiting room.

Then they were escorted to the third floor and given another and more severe frisking in a mess hall near the chapel. Pen knives, fingernail clippers and any other potential weapons were held by deputies.

No cameras or recording equipment were allowed in the courtroom.

Other United States Papers:

ANTI-ISRAEL IMMIGRANT

A Contradictory Picture of Sirhan

[EVENING STAR - Washington

June 6, 1968]

By ROBERT WALTERS
Star Staff Writer

His family immigrated to the United States in 1957 from the Middle East—that part of the world where the word "assassin" originated centuries ago.

One of his brothers says "all I know is he is a nice kid." His mother says "it can't be true. My son is a good boy. He has caused no trouble."

Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin describes him as "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

But a woman who worked with him in a California health food store says he was "a fanatic when it came to discussion of religion and politics."

And a co-worker at the Hollywood Park Race Track says he was "violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israeli."

Slowly, a picture has started to emerge of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old Jordanian held in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Now under maximum security guard in a hospital ward at Los Angeles County Central Jail, he is charged with six counts of assault with attempt to commit murder.

Those charges were filed early yesterday morning, in the wake of the shooting spree which left Kennedy and five other persons wounded. Los Angeles officials were meeting today to determine what new charges should be filed as a result of the senator's death.

William L. Ritz, a Los Angeles assistant district attorney, said the grand jury which will hear the case against Sirhan tomorrow will be asked by officials to return a murder indictment.

The record shows Sirhan is 5 feet, 4 inches tall, weighs about 120 pounds, has a swarthy complexion and wiry or bushy hair. He was born March 19, 1944, in a small village in Palestine.

At the time, the area was ruled by Britain under the League of Nations mandate. With Britain's blessing, Jordan became a kingdom in 1946. Two years later the British mandate ended and the first Arab-Israeli war was fought.

After the Jordan-Israeli armistice was signed on April 3, 1949, Jordan kept an enclave of Palestinian territory, including Old Jerusalem and the village where Sirhan lived. Israeli forces took the territory last year in the six-day war that began June 5, a year to the day before Kennedy was shot.

Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service show that Sirhan and six other members of his family arrived in this country shortly after another of the seemingly endless string of Middle East military and political crises.

That was the Suez crisis of 1956. Several months later, on Jan. 12, 1957, Sirhan and six other members of his family arrived in New York City and were admitted to the United States as "permanent residents."

Including Sirhan, these were the father, mother, four sons and one daughter. Another son came to the U.S. later. The father has since returned to

the Middle East and the daughter is dead. None of the others has ever been naturalized.

Permanent resident status is currently held by approximately 3.5 million persons, many of them refugees, who have immigrated to this country.

Those who enter the country as permanent residents enjoy all of the legal protection granted to full citizens and are required to pay taxes.

They cannot vote, but depending on immigration quotas, length of time spent in this country and other factors, they may be allowed to seek the status of naturalized citizen.

Sirhan's family traces its roots back to a small village called Silwan on the outskirts

of Old Jerusalem, located in the West Bank sector seized by Israel from Jordan last June.

Arab sources say there are about 250 persons named Sirhan in the village, all members of branches of the same family.

Origin of "Assassins"

It was in that same part of the world, hundreds of years ago, that a secret order of Ismaili Moslems terrorized non-believers. They often were under the influence of hashish, and came to be known as "assassins" in a corruption of the word "hashish."

Over the past two decades, Middle East political assassinations have claimed the lives of numerous government leaders, monarchs and others, including the father of the current king of Jordan, who attempted to seek an accommodation with Israel.

Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty yesterday said that when police searched Sirhan following his arrest they found in one of his pockets an article by newspaper columnist David Lawrence on "Kennedy's dove position on Vietnam and his hawk position on the Middle East."

Yorty's press secretary, Tom Jordine, said the column attempted "to show Kennedy's inconsistencies in trying to win votes of all types of people." Also in Sirhan's possession, according to police, was a list of Kennedy's scheduled public appearances in California.

In his televised debate with Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy last Saturday night, Kennedy said "we have a commitment to

Israel" and specifically urged the Johnson administration to send 50 supersonic Phantom jet planes to Israel.

Kennedy, perhaps more than any of the other declared candidates seeking the nomination for the presidency, had been an outspoken supporter of Israeli independence, but virtually all of the candidates have been in general agreement on a pro-Israeli position.

Acting with the permission of Sirhan's family, police yesterday searched the Pasadena home and found two 9-by-12-inch spiral-bound notebooks similar to those used by students.

The notebooks, which Yorty said apparently belonged to Sirhan, contained 18 to 20 pages of handwritten notes and some doodling. Most of the notes were in English, but some were in Arabic, the mayor said.

He said the notebooks contained "many statements about assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy" other comments of a pro-Arab and anti-Israeli nature and some references "saying the suspect is sympathetic to communism, whether it be Russian, Chinese and so forth."

Finally, said the mayor, there was a notation made in one of the notebooks on either May 17 or 18 which was "a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1968."

Those remarks by Yorty, made at a press conference, drew rebukes from both Reddin and A. L. Wirin, chief counsel of the Southern California chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, both of whom implied that such disclosures might be prejudicial to Sirhan's legal rights.

Sirhan was 12 years old when his family entered this country. He attended Longfellow Elementary School and John Muir High School in Pasadena and attended Pasadena City College. Several of his high school classmates described him as a good and polite student.

But Frank Celis Jr., who was in the sixth grade with Sirhan, recalled yesterday that "kids picked on him, telling him dirty words. He'd repeat them without knowing what they meant."

Still another classmate, a girl who attended high school with Sirhan but asked not to be identified, recalled yesterday that he was shy and fastidious about always wearing a white shirt. "He wouldn't hurt a fly," she said.

He worked at Organic Pasadena, an organic health food store located about 1½ blocks from the middle-income, tree-shaded street where the Sirhan family lives.

"He was a hard worker, honest and good-hearted—but nevertheless a fanatic when it came to discussions about religion and politics," recalled

Mrs. Elsie Boyko, a former co-worker at the store. "But never would I think there was any violence in him."

Quit After Argument

John H. Weidner Jr., owner of the store, said Sirhan worked for him about seven months but quit last April in an argument over money. "We called him Sol around the store; everyone did," said Weidner.

"He was a good worker, an honest man, but he had a lot of complexes, mainly relating to Israel," added Weidner. "I

think he did it (shot Kennedy) because he thought he was doing something for his country, but not necessarily the United States," added Weidner.

The store owner recalled that Sirhan "told me that when he was a child, he saw members of his family killed by Jews, and he had to flee Jordan when he was a child."

"He was not a citizen and didn't like the United States. You had to be careful not to walk on his feet. He wanted you to respect him intellectually. He was a man who said, 'I'm going to have my rights.'"

Licensed for Track Work

Sirhan was licensed in 1966 by the California Racing Commission as a "hot walker" and "exercise boy" to cool off horses which had become heated by running at Hollywood Park. He did not renew that license in 1967 or 1968, but apparently retained a strong interest in horse racing.

"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," said John Shear, a co-worker at Hollywood Park.

"When there was trouble between Jordan and Israel, he would become inflamed," Shear added. "Since I wasn't interested in politics, I wouldn't discuss it, but he was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israeli."

Thrown From Horse

Sirhan suffered head and back injuries when he was thrown from a horse on Sept. 25, 1966. He filed a claim with the Argonaut Insurance Co., which had earlier issued a policy in his name.

He was awarded \$2,000 on April 5 in settlement of a court suit stemming from that accident, but legal fees and other expenses reduced the size of the award to \$1,705.

Recalling that incident, Sirhan's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, yesterday pointed to her right temple and said her son "hurt his head right here."

Mrs. Sirhan, a housekeeper at Westminster Presbyterian Nursery School in Pasadena, cried in shock when she learned of her son's arrest. "My son — it can't be. No. Oh, no."

Later she recalled that "ever since he had a fall about a year ago, he hasn't been the same. I can't talk to him."

Money in Possession

When Sirhan was taken into custody yesterday, he had in his possession four \$100 bills and about \$10 in small bills and change. Police believe the large bills may have been part of the award from the horse accident.

Also found in Sirhan's pocket was a key to a 1959 automobile parked near the Ambassador Hotel, where the assassination occurred.

Reddin said the car belonged to a hotel employee who worked in the kitchen where Kennedy was shot. The employee was quoted by police as saying he did not know Sirhan and did not know how Sirhan got the key.

Reddin discounted speculation that others were involved in the shooting. "We are now

reasonably sure that there's only one suspect," he said yesterday.

Conspiracy Discounted

The police chief also said he did not read any "sinister international aspects into the case — we still do not feel we are in a conspiratorial situation."

He said a check of official files showed no memberships on Sirhan's part in any subversive organizations "that we know of."

Immigration and Naturalization Service records list Sirhan's four brothers living in this country as Adel, Munir, Saidallah and Sharif.

Reddin said Munir and Adel came to police voluntarily yesterday after seeing a picture of their brother on television

following his arrest. They were cleared of any implication in the crime and released after questioning, police said.

Sirhan, Adel and Munir lived with their mother, Reddin said. Sharif lives in Highland Park, Calif., and Saidallah lives in New York, according to Reddin.

Marijuana Conviction

Munir was convicted on Oct. 12, 1966, in Superior Court of California on a state charge of possession of marijuana. He was sentenced to five years' probation.

As a result of that incident, the Immigration and Naturalization Service initiated deportation proceedings against him in January 1967, and in July of that year a special inquiry officer ordered that Munir be deported.

However, Munir appealed the case to the Board of Immigration Appeals, which on May 27 remanded the case back to the special inquiry officer for further investigation because the California court had set aside Munir's guilty plea and ordered that jurisdiction be assumed by juvenile authorities.

As a result of that transfer of authority, the case has not yet been closed, thus holding up the deportation proceedings.

Booked Previously

An investigator with the Los Angeles district attorney's office today said he was told by Pasadena police that Sirhan Sirhan had been taken into custody last December, but he declined to provide the season or charge.

Pasadena police said they had a "red flag" file on Sirhan, indicating he had been booked previously, but they said they could not confirm if he had been formally arrested.

Russell Stone, a Pasadena policeman, said the file was in the possession of detectives and was not immediately available for inspection. He said the file dated from March 1961, when Sirhan reported a bicycle stolen.

There also was a notation that Sirhan complained he was the victim of a disturbance in 1963, and other notations indicated that in 1962 and again last March Sirhan was a suspect in disturbance of the peace cases, Stone said.

RFK case tied to Mideast

[CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

8 June 1968]

By John K. Cooley
Staff correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

unrest

Amman, Jordan

The tragedy of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has precipitated the Middle East conflict squarely on to the American domestic scene.

Arabs view his assassination as one more dire episode in their long conflict with Zionism, which Senator Kennedy had verbally supported.

King Hussein of Jordan sent messages of condolence to President Johnson and Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy. King Hussein said it was "an irreplaceable loss to the noble American people" and the world.

Jordanian Premier Bahjat Talhouni said: "Neither the government nor the people of Jordan have anything to do with this act of terrorism."

President Nasser of the United Arab Republic condemned the assassination "irrespective of the author."

Circumstantial evidence here suggests that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused as Senator Kennedy's killer, was an instrument of extreme Palestinian Arab nationalist feeling.

Benefit may come

Sirhan's father, who lives in the Christian Arab village of Taybeh, near Ramallah, on the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan River is reported to have condemned the assassination.

"The only good result of this," said one Palestinian who was visibly sorrowful, "is that the case of the Palestine Arabs may just possibly get some kind of hearing in the United States at last, though this is not the kind of hearing we would want."

One part of the mesh of circumstantial evidence noted here is the reported discovery in Los Angeles of Sirhan's diary reference to acting against Senator Kennedy before the June 5 anniversary of last year's war with Israel.

Before arriving in the United States in 1957 Sirhan as a child lived through the flight of a million of his people from Israel.

History of assassinations

In 1957 political assassination had been long established in the zone of conflict between Arab and Jew. In Cairo on Nov. 2, 1944, Jewish terrorists of the Stern Gang had slain Lord Moyne, British Minister of State for the Middle East, because of his sympathy for the Arab cause.

On Sept. 17, 1948, a few months after Israel's birth, Count Folke Bernadotte of Sweden was struck down with the deed attributed to Jewish terrorists. Count Bernadotte had been named United Nations negotiator for Palestine. On the day before his shooting he had recommended assigning the Negev Desert to an Arab Palestinian state.

Next it became the turn of King Abdullah of Jordan, King Hussein's grandfather. He was murdered on July 20, 1951.

This time the shots were fired by an Arab Palestinian terrorist, Mustafa Asho.

He was a partisan of the exiled Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. The Mufti opposed Abdullah's Hashemite family. He headed a rival "government of all Palestine."

Separate state proposed

Ironically a similar idea of a separate Palestinian state is being revived today by Israelis who seek a compromise with the Arabs as well as by Arab guerrilla organizations seeking to end Israeli rule.

Their motives are, of course, totally opposed. Israel wants total security for a Zionist state ruled by Jews. The Arab guerrillas say they want a nation where Arabs and Jews share the land and the power.

Abdullah was killed both because he had secretly negotiated with Israel and because he had annexed the Palestinian territory of the West Bank.

A young Jordanian, who lived for years in Los Angeles, summed up the feelings of many people here: "Violence and crime are unfortunately strong features of both the Los Angeles and the larger American scene. The killer or killers of President John Kennedy set an example."

"Robert Kennedy was liked and respected in Jordan as elsewhere," he continued. "But some of his esteem began to fade when Kennedy attended pro-Israel rallies during the six-day war last year. It is easy to imagine how Sirhan or someone like him might become enflamed by the combined political passions of the Middle East and the climate of violence in the United States."

Killing deplored

Another scrap of circumstantial evidence might be in several personal letters received by Jordanians here from Los Angeles. They mention that the main Palestinian guerrilla organization, Al Fatah, has recently been collecting funds from the Arab community in Los Angeles and has found "much sympathy and support" there.

The Palestinian nationalist organizations disavowed the killing. A radio broadcast of Al Assifa (The Storm), military arm of Al Fatah, said June 6: "The very principle of political assassination is odious and unacceptable to the human conscience."

The Algiers bureau of Al Fatah said: "All hypotheses about the identity of the criminal are only Machiavellian maneuvers. The murderer can only be an instrument of world Zionism, of capitalism, of the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) aimed at the most abject political goals."

The Al Fatah statement said that the organization attacked only "Zionist military forces occupying our territory."

"It is impossible that a single individual could carry out such a dangerous and criminal mission," it added.

In Amman, Yahia Hammouda, chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), said the Kennedy tragedy had "no connection" with the Arab-Israeli conflict but resulted from Senator Kennedy's support for the poor, underprivileged, and Negroes.

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, June 17, 1968

A BOY'S DEEP HATE, A SENATOR SLAIN

LOS ANGELES

The man accused of the murder of Robert Kennedy is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian.

In a notebook found in Sirhan's home were written these words:

"Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968."

The date was the first anniversary of the start of the Arab-Israeli war, in which Arab armies, including Jordan's, went down to humiliating defeat.

Robert Kennedy spoke out strongly for sending U.S. arms to Israel. He called repeatedly for an end to Jordanian raids against Israel.

Sirhan Sirhan was born in Jerusalem when it was an all-Arab city. His name means "wanderer" in Arabic. He came to this country as a "permanent resident" 11 years ago, and made no secret of his hatred of Israel and its supporters. He was outspoken about this to his friends in nearby Pasadena, where he lived with his mother and two brothers.

Fallen candidate. Early on June 5, Sirhan was seized with a smoking Iver Johnson 22-caliber pistol in his hands, a few feet from the fallen body of Senator Kennedy in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel.

In Sirhan's pocket were a schedule of Mr. Kennedy's June speaking engagements, four \$100 bills and an article describing the Senator as a "hawk" in the Middle East situation.

As Sirhan was being dragged away, he was heard to shout:

"I can explain. I did it to save my country."

John H. Wiedner, operator of a health-food chain where Sirhan worked as a stock boy until April, called him "a good worker, an honest man." He added:

"But he had a lot of complexes. He claimed when he was young he had seen some people, maybe some relatives,

killed by Israelis. Senator Kennedy said the other day he wanted to help Israel. So I was not surprised...."

The same theme was voiced by Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations in New York. Dr. Mehdi said Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by Senator Kennedy's support for Israel during his television debate on June 1 with Senator Eugene McCarthy.

Red sympathizer? Los Angeles city officials said much of the writing in Sirhan's notebook was critical of the U.S. and sympathetic to Communism. At one point in his writings, Sirhan expressed the desire to go down in history as starting World War III.

Two thirds of one page was filled with the same two words, repeated time and again: "Kill Kennedy."

Sirhan's chance, according to eyewitnesses, came at 12:15 a.m., on June 5 as the Senator was leaving a celebration of the Kennedy victory in California's presidential primary. Mr. Kennedy started from the ballroom of the hotel, moving through the kitchen passageway on a short cut to a news conference.

Death-dealing burst. The assailant, lurking in this corridor, swiftly pumped all eight shots of the pistol at point-blank range at the Senator. Three bullets struck Mr. Kennedy. Five other bystanders were wounded.

Mr. Kennedy fell to the floor. Blood gushed from his head. The shots brought pandemonium. There were shrieks of "God, God, not again!"

A doctor administered emergency treatment. A priest held a rosary toward Mr. Kennedy and the Senator clutched it, but then a crush of people came between.

Mrs. Ethel Kennedy was literally lifted over the milling people to her husband's side shortly before he was placed on a stretcher.

Mr. Kennedy managed to stammer: "Oh, no, don't lift me," just before the ambulance door closed, his wife at his side.

Roosevelt Grier, giant Negro tackle of the Los Angeles Rams, grabbed the assailant, smashed his hand against a steel serving table, forcing the gun loose. A man shouted: "Kill him!"

Police moved in, hustled the accused man—he is 5 feet, 5 inches tall and weighs 120 pounds—at gunpoint through the lobby of the hotel. People in the crowd shouted: "Lynch him, lynch him!"

The suspect was sullen and silent through the early hours of questioning. He was identified through the gun, which belonged to a brother, and through fingerprints.

For hours, Sirhan refused to speak at all. He was "skin searched" to remove any possible means of suicide. Later, Sirhan was put under a 24-hour guard in a hospital ward at Los Angeles County central jail. There he was treated for a broken finger.

Police Chief Thomas Reddin, remembering the publicity circus surrounding the arrest and murder of Lee Harvey Oswald 4½ years ago, said Sirhan would not be "exposed to the public."

Of Sirhan's treatment, Mayor Samuel Yorty made this announcement:

"In accordance with recent decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court, he has been told many times he does not have to say anything, that he can remain silent if he chooses."

Thousands of miles from here, in Israeli-occupied Jordan, Sirhan Sirhan's father told American newsmen:

"This news made me sick when I heard it. If my son has done this dirty thing, then let them hang him."

Editorials and Commentaries:NEW YORK TIMES, June 6, 1968

IN THE NATION: 'AWFUL EVENT'

By Tom Wicker

WASHINGTON, June 5--In the dark night of the soul, Scott Fitzgerald wrote, it is always three o'clock in the morning; and when the news came to the East at that melancholy hour it truly seemed darker within than beyond the frightening windows.

Some sought compulsively for a collective response, a sort of national soul within which to weep, and Gene McCarthy spoke well for these.

"It is not enough, in my judgment," he said, "to say that this was the act of one deranged man, if that is the case. The nation, I think, bears too great a burden of guilt, really, for the kind of neglect which has allowed the disposition to grow here in one's own land, in part a reflection of violence which we have visited upon the rest of the world"

ELIMINATING YOUNG LEADERS

Later, in Resurrection City, Ralph Abernathy saw it as something worse than neglect of social needs. There was bound to be a conspiracy, he said in bitterness and sorrow, to eliminate the young leaders who sought justice for the downtrodden, when in a short time Medgar Evers, John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy had been struck down.

Out in Los Angeles, Charles Evers--who spent yesterday touring Watts for Bob Kennedy's Presidential campaign--put it a little more moderately, but no less bitterly. Anyone who spoke up for justice, he said, had to be prepared for death in a country like this.

When it became known that the young gunman was a Jordanian, the secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations immediately claimed this foul deed as a political act which--although deplorable--was nevertheless understandable.

In the Kennedy-McCarthy debate, Dr. Mohammad T. Mahdi said, Kennedy had supported the Israeli cause and "it is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this kind of violence."

Whether the responsibility for the shooting lay with some disposition toward violence in the American soul, or upon a conspiracy against justice, or within a seething nationalist fervor, there was at least one obvious response, and Representative Gerald Ford of Michigan offered it:

"Surely there can be no further quibbling about the urgent need for tougher law enforcement legislation."

It remains to be seen whether those who agree with this will be willing to include some practical limitation on the purchase and possession of the kind of handgun with which Robert Kennedy was assassinated, or the cheap rifle that killed his brother.

Such limitations would not be necessary, of course, if there could be a favorable and universal response to President Johnson's prayer that "divisiveness and violence be driven from the hearts of men everywhere."

PURIFICATION RITE

Such a rite of purification may not be expected. No more than the death of John Kennedy eradicated the murderous instincts of mankind

will the killing of Robert Kennedy still the bubbling, demonic brew of life; and the hand that felled him, whether that of zealot, lunatic or criminal, was finally the hand of Cain.

"Awful event" said the headline of The New York Times above its story on the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. And in the dark night of the soul there are always awful events from which there is no escape in the collective soul, or anywhere else.

Meditating upon the fate of the Greeks at Thermopylae, the poet Cavafy peered through the blackness at the human condition:

Honor to those who in their lives
Are committed and guard their Thermopylae.
Never stirring from duty;
Just and upright in all their deeds,
But with pity and compassion too;
Generous whenever they are rich, and when
They are poor, again a little generous,
Again helping as much as they are able;
Always speaking the truth,
But without rancor for those who lie.
And they merit greater honor
When they foresee (and many do foresee)
That Ephialtes will finally appear
And in the end the Medes will go through.

NEW YORK TIMES, June 7, 1968

WASHINGTON: THE QUALITIES OF ROBERT KENNEDY

By James Reston

WASHINGTON, June 6--In many ways the personal characteristics of Robert Kennedy were very much like the dominant characteristics of the American people. We are an ambitious, strenuous, combative, youthful, inconsistent, abrupt, moralistic, sports-loving, non-intellectual breed, and he was all these things. Yet, paradoxically, he was running behind for the Presidency precisely because he exploited and personified these typical American traits of character.

The professional politicians, and much of Big Business and Big Labor, all of them ambitious, competitive and abrupt men of action themselves, opposed him actively. The young, the Negroes and much of the rest of the poor backed him, all in both categories for the same reason: He was a passionate and pugnacious man who confronted the inevitable and sometimes the avoidable contradictions of life, and inspired great loyalty and great fear in the process.

He was not going to make it in this election--there were too many powerful forces against him--but this does not prove that he was either wrong or right. It merely proves that he was more willing than his party and the rest of the country to throw all his passion and energy into ending the war in Vietnam and transforming the life of the cities. He was an all-or-nothing man and he lost everything in the end, but he was determined to face the terrible dilemma of the war and the cities. He was prepared to choose between defeat at home and defeat in Vietnam, and between Israel and the Arabs, as few politicians and few Americans are, and this cost him not only the leadership of his party but his life.

One of the many tragedies of his death is that it occurred just when he seemed to be regaining confidence in his own power. He lost it for a while during the agony of his brother's death. He went through

a couple of bad years, when he seemed stunned, and stumbled into a couple of silly and unnecessary conflicts.

SPIRITS REVIVED

Even in the early primaries, when he was winning, he sounded strident and even immature, but, typically, the defeat in Oregon revived his Irishness and he came out of the California struggle with a new sense of purpose and even serenity.

This was quite apparent in the last hours of his life. He had that fierce intensity under control. His voice was much calmer in the last week. He seemed, somehow, to regain both his sense of history and his sense of humor--and then he was gone.

TARGET OF IRRATIONALITY

Somehow the Kennedys draw the lightning. They seem to be able to save everything but themselves. Having all the attributes of life most men desire--good looks, money, power, success, love and even fame--they are the targets of envy and, to twisted minds, the symbols of the inequality of life.

Killing Robert Kennedy to avenge the hatred of the Arab states for Israel--if that was the assassin's motive--was a wholly irrational act. He had nothing to do with Israel's spectacular victory in last year's war. He had no influence on President Johnson or Secretary of State

Rusk on Middle Eastern policy--or any other policy for that matter. He was not on his way to the Presidency, where he might have directed American foreign policy, and he was certainly not the favorite political darling of the Jews in New York or anywhere else. Yet he is gone.

Many men succeed in politics by using their worst qualities, and this applied to Robert Kennedy at the beginning of his legislative career; but in the end he failed while using the best qualities. It is all very strange, and for the moment repulsive.

"Politics!" exclaimed Paul Valery, "At that word I am overcome with silence . . . I regard the political necessity of exploiting all that is lowest in man's psyche as the greatest danger of the present time . . . There[in politics], vibrant and buzzing, are the meddlers, the bores, the buffoons . . .

"Some roar, others whisper in your ear. Some know everything and are silent. Those who talk know nothing. By a trick of inverted lights, friends see each other as enemies, fools look impressive to the intelligent. . . I could lose myself at this fantastic Fair, where even arithmetic--in fact, arithmetic especially--is subject to strange upsets."

[NEW YORK TIMES. June 8, 1968]

Echo in the Middle East

The Security Council has postponed an urgent meeting this week out of respect for Senator Robert F. Kennedy. The Council might more effectively honor Mr. Kennedy's memory by moving expeditiously to deal with its business at hand—the continuing violent hostility between Israel and her Arab neighbors.

The failure of the world organization and of the Arabs and Israelis to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East appears to have been a primary factor in the Senator's murder. If the U.N. failure persists, that area's suicidal enmities may yet envelop the world. The man accused of assassinating Senator Kennedy, who had urged more arms aid for Israel, is an embittered young native of Jordan. The fatal shots were fired while efforts to achieve a just peace remained frustrated and both sides girded for further conflict. Jordan and Egypt have celebrated a year of imperfect peace with belligerent vows to renew the war. Israel's Foreign Minister has spelled out tougher terms in calculated to help Ambassador Gunnar Jarring in his patient search for a peaceful solution. And Jordan and Israel continue to exchange lethal fire across a much-abused armistice line. Meanwhile, some U.N. members seem more intent on exploiting the Middle East's anguish for their own purposes than on promoting a settlement that will offer justice to both sides and the prospects of lasting peace.

Senator Kennedy's murder is a harsh reminder that in the modern world when men resort to force anywhere all are threatened everywhere. In recognition of this reality, the United Nations was created to find rational alternatives to war between nations. This is a task that in their own self-interest requires and deserves the cooperation of all nations, especially those now actively caught up in the widening web of international violence.

EDITORIAL

TWO WHO ARE ACCUSED

[NEW YORK TIMES, June 9, 1968]

All last week, the three widows, their husbands shot down by assassins, were never far apart - Mrs. John F. Kennedy, Mrs. Robert F. Kennedy, Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. But what of the assassins?

Lee Harvey Oswald, the alleged murderer of President John Kennedy, was dead. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was being held under maximum security conditions in the Los Angeles County jail under indictment for the murder of Robert Kennedy. While the Kennedy funeral was still in progress yesterday morning, the Federal Bureau of Investigation announced that after a two-month world-wide manhunt, James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, under a murder indictment in Tennessee as the killer of Dr. King, had been arrested earlier as he tried to pass through customs in London.

Except for the capacity for assassination, no common thread seemed to link the killers. No one is ever likely to know Oswald's motive. Ray's motive, if indeed it was he who killed Dr. King, is still obscure, though there is speculation that he may have been a hired killer. Since his disappearance after the slaying, this escaped convict has traveled widely and he turned up in London yesterday with a loaded revolver and two Canadian passports, one issued in Ottawa late in April and the other in Lisbon three weeks ago.

As for Sirhan, Mayor Sara Yorty of Los Angeles, reading from diaries and letters taken from his home, suggested that he was a fanatic Arab terrorist. "There's a direct reference," Yorty said, "to the necessity to assassinate Senator Kennedy before June 5," the date a year ago when the Israeli-Arab war began.

Whether there was more to it than this may emerge by the time of Sirhan's trial. During the next few weeks he will undergo psychiatric examinations in an effort to probe the personality described by his pastor while he lived in Jordan as that of "a clever boy - very quick - but unstable and unhappy."

-RICHARD HAMMER

WASHINGTON POST, June 7, 1968

THE INTERNATIONAL ASPECT

[Editorial] That SENator Kennedy's suspected assassin was born in Jordan, belonged to the Organization of Arab Students and is evidently deeply stirred by pro-Arab anti-Israel sentiments, may lead some Americans to wonder whether there was an official Arab or other conspiratorial hand in his deed. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that there is not now the slightest shred of evidence to indicate so. On the contrary, the evidence suggests the murderer was a man acting only upon his own intense grievances and warped impulses. We say this in the expectation that all available information bearing on the question will in time become known.

Meanwhile, 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.

[WASHINGTON POST, June 8, 1968]
Tampering With Justice

Among the words uttered by those around Senator Kennedy just after that fatal moment in Los Angeles Tuesday night were, "We don't want another Oswald." These people were well aware of how the Dallas Police Department compounded the tragedy of President Kennedy's assassination with its casual handling of Lee Harvey Oswald. They did not wish the Nation to go through another similar assault on its system of justice and they took the first steps to make sure that it did not by providing physical protection for the suspect.

With one spectacular exception, everyone else connected with the tragedy in Los Angeles—friends, policemen, officials, newsmen—have kept that and the other lessons of Dallas clearly in mind. That one exception is the Mayor of Los Angeles, Sam Yorty, who seems to have learned from Dallas only how to get publicity for himself.

Despite reminders from his Chief of Police, his state's Attorney General, and the Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Yorty has already added substantial complications to the trial of Sirhan Sirhan. His statements about the certainty of Mr. Sirhan's guilt and about the motivation for the crime, add immeasurably to the argument, certain to be made at the trial, that an unprejudiced jury cannot be selected to judge Sirhan. As a lawyer, Mayor Yorty ought to have known better. As a public official, he had a responsibility to act more wisely.

Mr. Yorty has defended his actions on the ground that he has provided information the public has a right to know. But little he has said has been aimed at giving the public the information it needs and many of his comments fit peculiarly well with the political views he has long tried to advance.

The actions of the Los Angeles Police Department stand in sharp contrast with those of Mayor Yorty. It has protected the suspect carefully and kept him out of sight. It has provided the basic information the public needed to know but it has refused to divulge additional evidence. It has refrained from discussing Mr. Sirhan in terms more specific than "suspect." It has apparently made sure that his rights under the Constitution were fully protected. Chief Reddin and his men, intent upon doing their job without worrying about a public demonstration of their excellence, have learned the lessons of Dallas.

It is vitally important that those lessons be followed. Mr. Sirhan is entitled to the same fair trial before an impartial jury that every person accused of crime in this country is entitled to. He is entitled to be regarded only as a suspect until that trial occurs, regardless of the evidence against him. Above all, of course, he must receive whatever protection is necessary to ensure that he stands trial. In a time of lawlessness, it is all the more vital for a Nation to live within its laws.

[WASHINGTON POST]

Mideast Stance**Is Not Affected**

[June 15, 1968]

By Chalmers M. Roberts

Washington Post Staff Writer

Last Saturday, as the Kennedy funeral train was proceeding to Washington, an official of the Israeli Embassy here mailed out a mimeographed "background" sheet which begins with the statement that "political assassination has become an established method in the Arab countries."

This apparent effort to take political advantage of the fact that a Jordanian-born man is accused of killing Senator Kennedy goes on to document the argument by listing ten leaders in six Arab nations who have been murdered in the past 20 years. It notes that "this year alone, attempts were made on the lives of President Boumedienne of Algeria, President Nasser of Egypt, and former President Camille Chamoun of Lebanon."

"In the absence of any evidence of an Arab government conspiracy to assassinate Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, this effort by an Israeli diplomat to add to anti-Arab feeling in this country may strike some people as a bit extreme. But it is not all that surprising, when you consider the facts of American and Israeli political life. Israel remains heavily dependent on American moral support in its continuing confrontation with the Arab world. And in election years there is all the more incentive for the Israelis and their more passionate American supporters to try to nail down a policy of firm American support."

American political candidates, for their part, are never unaware that support for Israel is a popular stance.

BEFORE THE Senator's assassination the American Israel Public Affairs Committee had assembled, and published in the May issue of *The Near East Report*, statements on American policy toward Israel by the then five leading presidential candidates. In alphabetical order there are statements by Hubert H. Humphrey, Robert F. Kennedy, Eugene J. McCarthy, Richard M. Nixon and Nelson A. Rockefeller.

The five essentially agreed, as the *Report* noted, that "there is a U.S. commitment to the preservation of Israel" and that "Israel should receive military assistance from the United States."

Cynical American politicians 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.

This reporter can recall Secretary of State Dulles saying he once checked with Republican politicians before issuing what might have been construed as a pro-Arab statement. He was assured, he said, that the then Republican candidate for mayor of New York had no chance of election and thus what the Secretary might say would make no difference.

IT IS A FACT that Israeli leaders freely come as official visitors to the United States but that no American President has felt able to invite Nasser to this country though he is the most important Arab leader. President Kennedy tried to strike a dialogue with Nasser with an extensive exchange of letters. President Eisenhower did see Nasser but only under cover of the Egyptian leader's visit to the United Nations.

The State Department long has been charged by pro-Israeli Americans with being pro-Arab. The Arabists at State contend they want only an even-handed policy and that only the interests of American oil companies provide them with any real support.

There now is an obvious danger that because Senator Kennedy's alleged assassin came from an Arab family the imbalance in American attitudes will tip even further on the Israeli side.

SENATOR KENNEDY'S views, as given in *The Near East Report*, not only backed Israel's "right to live" and the sale of jet aircraft to Israel to create "a balance of forces." He also said the United States "should not be rigid or dogmatic with even the most recalcitrant Arab nations. For they too can be encouraged to seek a peaceful coexistence with their Arab neighbors and with Israel."

The extent to which American attitudes on the Arab-Israel conflict, or Senator Kennedy's public statements about Israel, affected the accused assassin is for the courts to discover. The fact that the accused is an Arab by birth is no reason, however, for further inflaming American attitudes or attempting to influence the policy of the United States Government.

[WASHINGTON POST June 17, 1968]

Bung and Faucet

Release of the testimony submitted before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy raises two important issues.

On the one hand, it must be conceded that the information divulged by the Grand Jury report, given to the press as a matter of routine in California, supplied the public with answers to many aspects of the crime. Some of them involved details likely to put the public mind more at rest and to satisfy the citizenry that authorities are pursuing the case with great diligence and skill. In the case of public crimes of this character this involves more than the mere gratification of morbid curiosity and relates to the tranquillity of the country. These facts, of course, would have been forthcoming in the court room later and the question of whether or not delay would have allowed a dangerous disquiet to persist in the country is not readily answered. There is no doubt that the accounts furnished by the press and the television and radio have been followed with the utmost interest by the people generally.

On the other hand, the disclosures of the Grand Jury testimony make a mockery of the measures taken by police officials to withhold information that might be prejudicial to the man accused of the crime. To stop up the mouths of policemen, lawyers and officials and to permit the dissemination of the Grand Jury report, is busting out the bung and boggling at the drip of the faucet.

This mass of information, conjecture and estimates, elicited from every available source, extracted from every known witness to the event itself and from persons with the most peripheral knowledge, presented without the precaution of cross examination or defense objection, must strike a serious blow at the aim of the Reardon restrictions.

The Grand Jury's action may convince some people that what has been done will seriously diminish the presumption of innocence with which accused persons are supposed to go into court and compound the difficulty of finding a jury without knowledge of the case tending to impair its impartiality.

It may convince others that in a world of rapid communication it is not possible to maintain a universal ignorance of major cases by silencing police, lawyers, public men, court officials and the press without taking risks a free society should not be asked to take. And this conviction, in turn, raises new doubts about the validity of the legal fiction that a fair trial cannot take place except in a vacuum of public information.

EDITORIAL

SENATOR KENNEDY

[CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. June 7, 1968]

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's passing is a distinct loss to the United States. Like his assassinated brother, the late President John F. Kennedy, the Senator had an intense preoccupation with the major problems facing his country and a high degree of ability to arouse such interest in others.

Apart from the profound personal loss felt by his family, and to whom this newspaper sends its deepest sympathy, all Americans sorrow at the abrupt and brutal ending of one of the most interesting and successful political careers in many years. The loss will seem particularly pungent to large numbers of young people who had come to feel that in Senator Kennedy they had found a politician sharply attuned to their new and evolving outlook on national and world problems.

The feeling of shock will far transcend the national borders of his homeland. For Senator Kennedy, both because of the affection in which his brother was held abroad and because of the breadth of his own activities, was in some lands the most popular American political figure. His assassination, like that of his brother, will cause large numbers of Asians, Africans, and Europeans to feel that they have lost a man who, they felt, had shown more than a merely passing interest in their own problems.

Senator Kennedy's short but brilliant career was, of course, also a highly controversial one. Just as he aroused intense support, so he brought forth an equally intense opposition. Seldom have the mental characteristics of a candidate for the presidency been more heatedly debated than have Senator Kennedy's. What some called a passionate desire to serve, others termed overweening ambition. What some saw as intense dedication to ideals, others viewed as ruthlessness.

It is unfortunate that the Senator's assassination should have so close a connection with the continued tragedy of the Middle East. That situation, even before this latest event, aroused the deepest bitterness and produced the most acrid recriminations. It would compound the tragedy, not help solve it, if the assassin's origin were allowed to weaken American determination to push for a just and lasting solution to the Middle Eastern crisis.

Although no longer here to push for them himself, Senator Kennedy's efforts to bring new thought and new vigor to the solution of great national problems will continue to be felt.

VIGILANTE JURIES

[CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. June 20, 1968]

EDITORIAL

"They caught him with the gun in his hand, what more do they want?"

This remark, overheard in a neighborhood store, points up an all too widespread impatience with the formal legal processes for determining the guilt or innocence of suspects in highly publicized crimes. The specific object of the above remark was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assailant of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

There have been similar but more damaging public statements made assuming Sirhan's guilt. These can, on the one hand, interfere with giving the accused a fair trial. On the other, they can undermine confidence in our court system which is vitally needed at this moment of national change and unrest.

The first such statement, by Los Angeles' Mayor Yorty, was carried by major TV networks only hours after the tragic event. The Mayor crudely spoke out about the suspect without regard for the likelihood he might prejudice future jurors. The presence of mind of newscasters, NBV's Edwin Newman for one, in countering the Mayor's remarks was commendable.

Another unfortunate statement, also reaching millions of TV viewers, was aired on Johnny Carson's "Tonight" show. Novelist Truman Capote, no authority on crime despite the wide sales of his book "In Cold Blood", led his hosts through a labyrinth of speculation about the assassinations of President Kennedy, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and Senator Kennedy. He said the acts may have been intended to disrupt the nation—the so-called "Manchurian Candidate" theory, not original with him. He said flatly that Sirhan was the slayer of Senator Kennedy, but that James Earl Ray was not the assassin of Dr. King.

The entire discussion was utterly in bad taste. The New York Times TV critic was just in his charge: "If the country disapproves of individuals physically taking the law into their own hands, then it can no less frown on individuals intellectually doing the same."

Letters To The Editor:

[WASHINGTON POST]

[June 9, 1968]

In *The Washington Post* of June 7, we note that at page A8, column 6, you state that the Organization of Arab Students has denied reports that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was ever a member of the Organization. We appreciate very much this accurate report by your newspaper.

On the editorial page of the same issue, however, is an editorial which states as a fact that "Senator Kennedy's suspected assassin" was born in Jordan and "belongs to the Organization of Arab Students." The balance of the editorial accurately points out that there is not "the slightest shred of evidence" to indicate "official Arab or other conspiratorial hand" in the assassination. Your editorial, while apparently deploring any possible anti-Arab sentiment, in fact promotes such sentiment by including the misstatement of fact concerning the suspect's membership in our Organization.

WALID KHADDURI,

Vice President, Organization of
Arab Students in the USA and
Canada.

Washington!

[NEW YORK TIMES.
June 10, 1968]

Generalizing Blame

To the Editor:

Throughout your June 6 edition I read about the suspect being an Arab and Jordanian with the unfortunate implication that this beastly act had some connection with the Arab-Israeli conflict. Although it may be correct to assume that this tragic conflict and the Palestine problem which preceded it, together with the political discussion of it in our primaries, might have warped the assassin's mind, I was disturbed to hear on the streets of New York many statements against the Arabs which could have been prompted by your headline.

We have witnessed much madness and violence recently, but certainly we cannot, and should not, generalize the guilt, neither toward the people of Jordan and the Arabs because of this most recent tragedy nor to the people of Tennessee or Texas and of the South because of the equally mad events surrounding the assassinations of Dr. King and Presidents Kennedy and Lincoln.

This sort of generalization only generates more hatred which only breeds more violence. This is precisely what Senator Kennedy, like his brother and President Lincoln and Dr. King, devoted his life to prevent.

Certainly King Hussein of Jordan, having stood beside his grandfather, King Abdullah, when he was assassinated by the same sort of warped mind, and has been threatened since, perhaps due to the same his-

torical cause, knows how hate and suspicion can breed multiplied violence. The statements of the Jordan Government and of King Hussein on this most tragic event which you printed, I am sure, speak for the peoples of all the Arab countries.

As an American who served in the Kennedy Administration as a member of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. and has lived and worked in the Arab world, and who was a friend and supporter of Senator Kennedy and is a friend of King Hussein, I urge your paper and the people of the United States to refrain from implying or casting general blame. Only more malice, more harm and greater tragedy can result.

HUGH D. AUCHINCLOSS Jr.
President

The Holy Land Center, Inc.
New York, June 6, 1968

[NEW YORK TIMES]
[June 10, 1968]

Guilt Rejected

To the Editor:

The unreasoned hysteria of guilt and self-revulsion apparent in the many statements of our political leaders and editorial writers blaming the murder of Robert F. Kennedy upon the "sickness" in American society reveals more panic than thought.

The hard facts now known about the assassin (Times, June 6) leaves no room for doubt that the murder was purely the act of a Jordanian "patriot" in bringing to the soil of the United States the war which, through El Fatah and like organizations, Nasser and Hussein are conducting against Israel and all who speak for its right to exist.

The assassin's act was nothing more or less than the violent manifestation of what Dr. M. T. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, declared it to be—"his behavior reflects the frustration of many Arabs with American politicians."

It was totally unrelated to social unrest created by the grievances of minority groups in this country, and the assassin's motivation and act would have been the same even if no such unrest existed.

To blame the murder of Robert F. Kennedy, by a foreign "patriot," upon a sickness of the American people is without justification in fact and does to this country the gravest disservice here and abroad.

JEROME WEINSTEIN

New York, June 6, 1968

NEW YORK TIMES, June 13, 1968

SCREENING IMMIGRANTS

To the Editor:

We have enough blind, homegrown hatred in this country without importing more each month. I refer to immigrants from Arab countries such as Jordan and Egypt, where hatred is tantamount to a national policy, indeed almost a religion. The tragic killing of Senator Kennedy, allegedly by one consumed with such anti-Semitic hatred, should serve as a red flag for our immigration policies.

Let us cut off this immigration from Arab countries, which amounts to several thousand a year, making exceptions only for those in preference categories, involving the reuniting of families and the like. There are plenty of others from poor countries who would be glad to take their places.

No, the United States has no right to be holier-than-thou. But at least in this country hatred is not an article of faith, encouraged by the national government. At the very least, Arab immigrants should be thoroughly screened.

Rice Odell

Washington, June 6, 1968

[NEW YORK TIMES.
June 14, 1968]

Sirhan as Symbol

To the Editor:

The tragedy in Los Angeles brought Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, whose guilt or innocence rests in the hands of the court, into the news.

Regardless of any connection between the tragic event of June 5 and Sirhan's political views, the latter have been forced into the public arena.

Sirhan typifies another tragedy, the Arab tragedy. Born in Jerusalem in 1944, he witnessed the emergence of four Middle Eastern countries into indepen-

dence in as many years. His independence never came.

After five brethren Arab countries invaded his country in defiance of a U.N. resolution giving it its independence (as a binational federation), two of them, Egypt and Jordan, occupied part of it. The latter annexed its spoil of war unilaterally in 1950, but gave its inhabitants voting rights, partnership in the Government and integrated it economically.

Egypt, on the other hand, gave none of these, and maintained a suppressive rule over the land it occupied. Yet many young Palestinian Arabs worship the Egyptian oppressor and violently denounce the by far lesser of the two evils—the Jordanian monarch.

The Arabs' tragedy is their failure to distinguish true friends from false.

BOAZ AVITZUR

Bethlehem, Pa., June 8, 1968

[NEW YORK TIMES]
[June 16, 1968]

Mideast Link

To the Editor:

The festering conflict in the Middle East produces still another innocent victim, this one "by June 5th." How many more lives will be sacrificed in the struggle between two rights? Once again the cost of hatred exceeds the price of peace, heavy though it must weigh on both proud nations.

Arab and Israeli alike may yet relinquish pride for the sake of peace, even as they show lavish courage in the cause of war. The memory of Robert Kennedy will thereby be blessed.

JACOB NEUSNER

Professor of Religious Studies
Brown University
Providence, June 6, 1968

OUR READERS WRITE

[CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. June 15-17, 1968]

KENNEDY AND MIDEAST

To The Christian Science Monitor:

As we condemn the act of Senator Kennedy's accused assassin and mourn the death of the young Senator, we must not permit his death to become a tragic waste.

To paraphrase a statement by James Reston concerning the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination, it seems the nation is appalled by the death of Senator Kennedy. But the nation is not appalled at the causes which forced the young Palestinian refugee to shoot the Senator.

Sirhan Sirhan is a Christian Palestinian refugee whose people had been either killed, or expelled or subjugated by the Zionist Jews. It was morally wrong on the part of Senator Kennedy to submit to the pressure of the Zionists and promise sending 50 jet fighters to Israel so that more Israeli Jews might kill more of Sirhan's people and occupy more of Sirhan's homeland.

And so as we condemn Sirhan's act, we must condemn the Zionist pressures which forced Senator Kennedy to support Israel wrongly against the Arabs. Senator Kennedy is in a very real sense an indirect victim of Zionism.

The Senator was morally wrong; Sirhan was legally wrong.

This is not a justification of Sirhan's act; it is only an explanation. But Sirhan's act is not an ordinary case of murder: it is a political act and political assassination. Hence traditional legal devices and legal remedies cannot adequately provide proper defense for the accused.

One basic problem which is now very evident is the fact that Zionist Jews are very strong in America whereas the Christian and Moslem people of Palestine have no strength or any voice in American politics. The power and strength of the two parties being unequal, we suggest the application of equity as a device to meet the immediate problem.

To this end, the major presidential candidates should set a moratorium on the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict for the duration of the campaign. Under the terms of the moratorium, the candidates will refrain from injecting the Arab-Israeli conflict in the debate in order to bid for the existing Jewish vote at the expense of the nonexistent Palestinian Arab vote.

The moratorium will not abridge freedom of speech. The moratorium is a voluntarily imposed self-restraint and a temporary injunction to prevent greater evil. The greater evil is the threat to the future of America in the Middle East which is more important than the fortunes of any political party or presidential candidate.

New York

M. T. Mehdal, Secretary-General,
The Action Committee on American-
Arab Relations

[NEW YORK TIMES]
[June 18, 1968]

Sirhan's Act

To the Editor:

As we condemn the act of Senator Kennedy's accused assassin and mourn the death of the young Senator, we must not permit his death to become a tragic waste.

To paraphrase a statement by James Reston concerning the aftermath of Dr. King's assassination, it seems the nation is appalled by the death of Senator Kennedy. But the nation is not appalled at the causes which forced the young Palestinian refugee to shoot the Senator. Only by examining the causes that led to the assassination shall we have given proper homage to the victim of those forces.

Sirhan Sirhan is a Christian Palestinian refugee whose people have either been killed or expelled or subjugated by the Zionist Jews. It was morally wrong on the part of Senator Kennedy to submit to the pressure of the Zionists and promise sending fifty jet fighters to Israel so that more Israeli Jews might kill more of Sirhan's people and occupy more of Sirhan's homeland.

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One basic problem which is now very evident is the fact that Zionist Jews are very strong in America, whereas the Christian and Moslem people of Palestine have no strength nor any voice in American politics. The power and strength of the two parties being unequal, we suggest the application of equity as a device to meet the immediate problem.

Equity will be served if the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict is kept out the Presidential campaign debates. This will not abridge the First Amendment and it will be a case of temporary self-imposed injunction. The Supreme Court has sanctioned many such temporary limitations of freedom.

M. T. MEHDI
Secretary General
The Action Committee on
American-Arab Relations
New York, June 11, 1968

[NEW YORK TIMES]
[June 19, 1968]

Source of Sirhan's Hatred

To the Editor:

Hugh D. Auchincloss Jr.'s June 10 letter tries to exonerate the Arabs from any responsibility or connection with the assassination of Senator Kennedy. He ignores the malicious falsehoods of Arab leaders, the Arab press and radio, which have been planting implacable hatred for Israel and her friends in the hearts of the Arab people.

There seems to be no limit to the fantasy of their inventions. They cooked up the idea that the assassination was a Zionist plot to injure the Arab reputation. And during last year's war the Arab people were told that the United States had intervened to give victory to Israel.

Sirhan was impelled to do his foul deed by his hatred for anyone who was friendly to Israel. Can there be any doubt where this hatred came from?

JACOB J. LEIBSON
Halcott Center, N. Y.
June 11, 1968

NEW YORK TIMES, June 21, 1968

TO PROMOTE DIALOGUES

To the Editor:

The June 18 letter of M.T. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, appears to be the beginning of a campaign to convert the discussion of the assassination of Senator Kennedy into an anti-Israel diatribe.

Mr. Mehdi makes the outrageous assertion that "Senator Kennedy is in a very real sense an indirect victim of Zionism." Sirhan's act is seen as the result of the alleged misdeeds of "Zionist Jews" and therefore "political." This is not the place to go into the rights and wrongs of the Middle East. Readers of The Times, I am sure, know who is responsible for initiating the war.

What is so disturbing is that if we follow Mr. Mehdi's logic no candidate for high office could speak out on a controversial foreign-policy issue--such as the war in Vietnam, the coup in Greece or the Nigerian civil strife--without risking assassination by the partisans of those whom he opposes. This means the end of civilized dialogue.

It is a massive disservice to the memory of Senator Kennedy to assert that his views on Israel resulted from the "pressure of Zionists." From personal experience I know how sincerely the late Senator was concerned for the future safety of Israel. These feelings were the result of deeply held convictions. To say, as does Mr. Mehdi, that the Senator's views were a submission to pressure is insulting to the memory of an unusual public servant.

Mr. Mehdi's letter illustrates the tremendous obstacles facing those who seek peace in the Middle East. The Israelis know from first hand that the Arabs' irrationalism and implacable hostility make negotiations and dialogue apparently impossible. What is so painful and heart-breaking is that these hatreds have now been imported into the United States and directed against our political leaders. They have done enough harm in the Middle East. We do not need them here.

SEYMOUR SIEGEL
Professor of Theology
Jewish Theological Seminary
New York, June 18, 1968

[NEW YORK TIMES.
June 24, 1968]
Arabs' Stance Decried.

To the Editor:

I write as one who has lived in Arab countries and who is sympathetic to their cause vis-à-vis Israel. I therefore feel constrained to answer M. T. Mehdi's ill-considered and muddled letter [Times, June 18].

Senator Kennedy was murdered, and only twisted logic turns the murder into a primarily "political act and political assassination." The accused's "defense" is in the same traditional processes and "legal remedies" he tragically bypassed.

Mr. Mehdi's distinction between Senator Kennedy's being "morally wrong" and Sirhan being "legally wrong," with its unfortunate implication that the accused may not have been primarily morally wrong, is another example of warped logic. To place the indirect blame for a disturbed individual's act of murder on "Zionism" is a delusion—a poor attempt to rationalize the irrational.

The letter's confusing request that "equity" would be served if discussion of the Arab-Israeli problem was kept out of the Presidential campaign is ridiculous because objective discussion might ultimately lead toward a solution of the conflict.

Mr. Mehdi's letter is also ill-timed during a period when

communications media are curtailing speculation on the accused in order to insure him a fair trial.

Neither Mr. Mehdi nor I speaks for the Arab world, which held President Kennedy and his family in the highest esteem, and I hope Americans will realize this.

DIRCK WESTERVELT
Schenectady, June 19, 1968

[WASH. POST.
June 25, 1968]

Defense of a People

I would like to protest the statement by Philip G. Kay that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was an Arab in thought, word and deed as well. It is unfair, unjust and unintelligent to condemn an entire group of people for an action of one of its members, no matter how heinous the crime.

MARGARET E. WARNER
Washington.

OUR READERS WRITE

[CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR. June 26, 1968]

'KENNEDY AND MIDEAST'

To The Christian Science Monitor:

M. T. Mehdi writes in a recent Monitor that Sen. Robert Kennedy was "morally wrong" to urge that 50 jet fighters be sent to Israel, and that Sirhan Sirhan was "legally wrong" (Mr. Sirhan is the accused assassin of the Senator).

Senator Kennedy was neither legally nor morally wrong in voicing his opinion about an aspect of the Middle East conflict. He was merely exercising his right as a senator and candidate to state his views. If American political leaders must refrain from any comment which might irk expatriates from other lands - and possibly even provoke them to the crime of assassination - then the political dilemma for American office-holders and seekers will be dire indeed.

Mr. Mehdi's remarks echo sentiments which have been expressed by certain other Arab apologists (?) since the Kennedy assassination. It should be noted, however, that King Hussein's statesmanly message of condolence was not marred by recriminations of any kind.

As Secretary-General of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, Mr. Mehdi has done his cause a very poor service indeed - unless worsening of such ties is his aim.

Boston

David Jay

To The Christian Science Monitor:

M. T. Mehdi's letter of anti-Jewish twisted thoughts is a new low in decades of a hate campaign by demagogues in the Middle East. An Arab killed Senator Kennedy, after hearing all his life that he was supposed to hate Israel and any one who had a kind word for it.

God Almighty set aside the Holy Land for Abraham and his heirs and Mehdi's rantings in the spirit of Hitler cannot unwrite the Bible or the destiny of mankind to see Israel bloom. His ugly letter brings shame on his propaganda outfit, the Action-Committee on American-Arab relations.

As a Christian American, I repudiate Mehdi and his workers.

Tempe, Ariz.

Howard Dean

To The Christian Science Monitor:

Dr. M. T. Mehdi, head of the Arab propaganda organization in New York, displays unprecedented presumption when he calls on the four major presidential candidates "to set a moratorium for the duration of the campaign on the discussion of the Arab-Israeli conflict so that there would be no need for any candidate to bid for the Jewish vote." He also besmirches the name of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy by accusing him of having bowed to the Jewish vote.

Understandably Sirhan's Jordanian origin has severely discomfited the Arab world, and the hoary canard of a "Zionist plot" already has been trotted out. But, perhaps just this once, out of respect to the Kennedy family, even Arab propagandists could call a moratorium on their desperate absurdities.

Brookline, Mass.

Abraham Frank

To The Christian Science Monitor:

I believe Dr. Mehdi (Secretary-General, Action Committee on American Arab Relations in his recent letter) is wrong in ascribing anti-Arab feelings in the United States to Zionist political pressure. By his own rhetoric he shows that acceptance of violence, that willingness to destroy that has so alienated the American people from the Arab cause. Can Dr. Mehdi believe that the American people could support leaders who every day promise to annihilate Israel and "kill every last Jew?" Can Dr. Mehdi believe that any American political leader will acquiesce to the threat of murder?

If Dr. Mehdi believes that the killing of Senator Kennedy was a political crime, then he should expect political consequences.

Dr. Mehdi's letter is horrifying to me because he treats Senator Kennedy's death in the same tone as we might treat equal time for presidential candidates. If annihilation of the Jews is necessary for a "political solution," then it must be. If Senator Kennedy is an Israeli by sympathy, then he too should be destroyed. In speaking of the American interest in the Middle East, Dr. Mehdi seems as unable to distinguish between the importance of oil and human life as were the Nazis unable to value people over soap.

Storrs, Conn.

Joseph Shannon

[NEW YORK TIMES.
June 27, 1968]

Sirhan's Cause

To the Editor:

M. T. Mehdi, Secretary General of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, makes everything clear. The wanton murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was an Arab nationalist's understandable reaction to the late Senator's pro-Israel stance, a stance, in Mr. Mehdi's lights, wrongly forced on him by Zionist Jews. Ergo, "Senator Kennedy is in a very real sense an indirect victim of Zionism."

If winning adherents to the Arab cause is his objective, Mr. Mehdi's bad manners, his abominable taste, his carelessness with the truth and his presumptuousness in lecturing us on our political behavior can only repel rather than attract.

Self-deception and placing non-heroes on pedestals may well be the crux of the Arab world's succession of disasters. A loser like Nasser can win adulation in the Middle East. Mr. Mehdi can offer an "explanation" for Sirhan Sirhan. With friends like these three, the Arab cause needs no enemies.

CHARLES R. SCHATTEN
Leominster, Mass.,
June 18, 1968

[LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.
NEW YORK TIMES.
July 1, 1968]

Arab Resentment

To the Editor:

I hope that many readers saw the June 19 letter of M. T. Mehdi, secretary general, the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, in The Times.

It seems to be difficult for Americans to understand what deep and powerful emotions have been generated in the

Arab peoples by the Zionist Jewish take-over of the Arab homeland. There are still many who believe that the seething trouble in the Middle East can be settled by mere words spoken over a conference table.

Mr. Mehdi has performed a service by pointing out that Senator Kennedy's support of the Zionist position—which many but not all Americans also uphold—played its part as one of the causes of his sad and untimely death. Other causes were: the unstable, over-emotional, paranoid temperament of Sirhan, the killer; the lack of adequate police protection; and possibly to some small degree the atmosphere of violence and toleration of violence abroad in the land.

Sirhan will be punished for his illegal, immoral act. But the fact that he was expressing Arab resentment—rightful resentment—must be taken into account, both for the sake of justice for Sirhan and for the clarification of the American attitude toward the acts of aggressive powers.

JULIA B. CARSON
Oneonta, N. Y., June 19, 1968

AFRICA

MRS KENNEDY TO RECEIVE AHIDJO CONDOLENCES

Yaounde Cameroon Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 6 Jun 68 N

[Text] In a message sent this morning to Mrs Kennedy, the Cameroon President said: We have learned with great emotion of the death of Sen Robert Kennedy. Under these painful and sad circumstances, the Cameroon people, their government, and myself send you our sincere condolences.

BRAZZAVILLE PAPER DEPLORES KENNEDY'S DEATH

Brazzaville Congo LA SEMAINE 16 Jun 68 X

[Article by A.D.: "The Two Faces of Violence"]

[Excerpts] Two months after the tragic death of Luther King, a new assassination has again occurred to traumatize the wretched United States, which is conscious of a dreadful humiliation at becoming the bloody nation par excellence in the world. World opinion is horrified in the face of this odious crime. Once more it was necessary that the victim be deservedly among those who arouse instinctive liking. Robert Kennedy, a dynamic man, who was the personification of an ardent and upright youth, eager to transform our rotting humanity into a "new world," [was] an intelligent, obstinate man, with clear-sighted and generous ideas.

Moreover, there is the vision of the tragic destiny of a family which has successively seen its two leaders killed by a stupid hatred when they seemed destined to give their country and perhaps the world this additional soul which they both lack to become really human.

The frontiers between opposing camps are no longer those of the maps of political geography but those more meandering and unexpected frontiers which divide a people in the same country or the same city and separate the world of opulence [on the one hand] and the world of poverty and hunger [on the other]. On the one side, there are those who by class reflex and the habit of having power and wealth who wish by no matter what means to preserve their advantages even if they live on the flesh of the poor. On the other side, there is the desperate camp of those hungry for bread and justice, who are becoming increasingly convinced that it is useless to ask, that it is ineffective to demand and that, therefore, only violence is productive. Most certainly we understand them. We understand a Guevara, a Rap Brown, or a Camilo Torres. We understand them, but is this really the solution?

Two faces of violence? The one that can only be hated and the one which must be loved? Is this really certain? In any event men have believed that any violence is pernicious and that it is necessary to find another solution, really worthy of man, for our evils. Men like Luther King, like Gandhi, in fact like Jesus Christ also!

MOBUTU SENDS CONDOLENCES TO KENNEDY FAMILY

Kinshasa Congo Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 7 Jun 68 K/L

[Summary] President Mobutu, who is currently in Rome, has sent a telegram of condolences to the family of Senator Kennedy. Foreign Minister Bomboko yesterday made a statement in Kinshasa in which he voiced the sorrow felt by the Congolese people, the government, and party over the assassination.

Bomboko Statement

Kinshasa Congo Domestic Service in French 1130 GMT 7 Jun 68 N

[Excerpt] It is with emotion and dismay that the Congolese people, their government and party received the news of the outrage perpetrated against the presidential candidate of the United States of America, Sen Robert Kennedy. On the announcement of this sad and painful happening it was believed that this illustrious personality would survive because of the competent team of surgeons working on him. But alas, Robert Kennedy is no more. The Congolese people appreciate greatly the senator's political courage and have followed with particular attention the successes that he achieved in his campaign for nomination.

The Congolese people's sympathy for him is not only founded on the fact that his assassinated elder brother, the late President John Kennedy, had done to help the Congo crush the Katanga secession and the financial aid the late President gave to Congo, but also and particularly because of his struggle for the uplift of the American blacks in particular and those of the world in general. To this end I must also underline that Senator Kennedy struggled courageously against the policy of apartheid and to crown his condemnation of apartheid he went to South Africa, where he gave a series of lectures in favor of the oppressed. The Congolese people believe and are convinced that with the assassination of Senator Kennedy the judicial authorities will take measures to put an end to the assassinations which are so rampant in that part of the world.

CABINET MEETING SHOCKED AT KENNEDY DEATH

Cotonou Dahomey Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 6 Jun 68 N

[Text] The cabinet held its weekly meeting in Cotonou today with Lt Col Alphonse Alley presiding. The meeting was in progress when it received the news of the death of Senator Kennedy. The tragic disappearance of this American senator plunged the entire cabinet into great consternation, and a 1-minute silence was observed in memory of this man, whose work for peace and social justice is known to all.

The meeting discussed the recent Entente Council summit conference. The finance minister will later explain the outcome of this meeting to the public.

The cabinet examined at length the problems posed by the repatriation of our students from Dakar University. The government was particularly concerned as to how these students will sit for their yearend examinations. A government delegation will soon go to Dakar to meet with Senegalese authorities.

Finally, the meeting adopted two decrees concerning capital expenditure and investment for the current year.

ALLEY'S MESSAGE TO JOHNSON ON KENNEDY DEATH

Cotonou Dahomey Domestic Service in French 0625 GMT 7 Jun 68 N

[Excerpt] In his message of condolence to President Lyndon Johnson, Lieutenant Colonel Alley declared: The Dahomean people share in the cruel bereavement that has befallen the American people in tragically taking from them the senator from New York State.

EMPEROR CONVEYS SYMPATHY TO KENNEDY FAMILY

Addis Ababa Ethiopia Domestic Service in English 1630 GMT 5 Jun 68 K/L

[Summary] Haile Selassie has sent messages of sympathy to the wife and father of Senator Kennedy.

In his message to Mrs Kennedy, the Emperor said: "It is with deep grief that we have learned the shocking news of the mishap that befell your husband, who has faithfully followed the exemplary path of his brother, the late John F. Kennedy, and his struggle for freedom and justice." His Imperial Majesty added that he was praying to God to spare the life of Senator Kennedy in order that he can accomplish the work he has begun for the cause of human understanding and the great cause of world peace.

In his message to Mr Josephy Kennedy, father of the senator, the Emperor said he was dismayed at the very sad and shocking news of the assassination attempt.

JOSEPH, ETHEL KENNEDY RECEIVE EMPEROR'S MESSAGE

Addis Ababa Ethiopia Domestic Service in Amharic 1100 GMT 6 Jun 68 K/L

[Summary] Haile Selassie has sent the following messages to the father and wife of the late Senator Kennedy:

To Joseph Kennedy: It is with great sorrow that we have learned of the sudden death of Sen Robert Kennedy.

To Mrs Ethel Kennedy: Our entire family shares with you the grief that has befallen you at the death of your husband, Sen Robert Kennedy. His country and the world have lost a courageous, far-sighted, and great man. May the Almighty give you courage in your bereavement.

KENNEDY SLAYING MEANS RULE OF BULLETS IN U.S.

Addis Ababa Ethiopia THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD 8 Jun 68 X

[Editorial: "Bullets Veto Ballots"]

[Excerpts] The ballots said yes; the bullets said no. The bullets won. It was not only Senator Robert Kennedy but also the democratic process that was gunned down in Los Angeles this week. In America assassination is becoming a way of life--and of death. Violence has become a national psychosis. A criminal act is committed every 2 minutes in the United States. The American style of democracy is suddenly at the mercy of the gunman. The bullet is nullifying the ballot.

Many Ethiopians received the news of the shooting of Bobby Kennedy with shock and the announcement of his death with sorrow and anger. It is sad, very sad, that a good man who had much to offer is dead. But it is important for America and its friends to see the Kennedy tragedy not only with tears but with reason, so that the American malady can be better diagnosed and cured. It is becoming increasingly difficult for some countries to put the hope of their people into the hands of a group widely being regarded as a bunch of assassins, both at home and abroad.

ATTEMPT ON KENNEDY'S LIFE DISMAYS GOVERNMENT

Accra Ghana Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 5 Jun 68 N

[Text] External Affairs Commissioner Patrick B. Anin, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, has expressed shock and dismay at the brutal assassination attempt on the life of Senator Kennedy. The message prayed for his speedy recovery.

ANKRAH SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO JOHNSON

Accra Ghana Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 6 Jun 68 N

[Text] National Liberation Council Chairman Lieutenant General Ankrah has, on behalf of the government and people of Ghana, sent a message of condolence to President Johnson. The message wished that the noble ideals for which the late Sen. Robert Kennedy stood will not die with him but rather his untimely death will inspire mankind to greater efforts toward the realization of those ideals.

PRESS: KENNEDY MURDER SHAKES FAITH IN U.S.

Accra Ghana Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Jun 68 N

[Text] All morning newspapers write on the death of Sen Robert Kennedy from an assassin's bullet, and join millions of people the world over in expressing their deepest condolences to the American nation and to the Kennedy family, which is facing yet another tragedy.

While expressing its deepest condolence, the PIONEER wants to know what is wrong with American society. The paper says America claims to be in the forefront of the great nations that champion the cause of democratic freedom and civilization in the world today. Yet America continues to be the one great nation in the Western hemisphere that persists in shocking the world with the rudest of violence to human dignity. The PIONEER writes: The history of the United States contains many senseless political assassinations. The paper says it is deeply saddened by the strange lessons America has been offering the world, even in this 20th century.

The GHANAIAN TIMES says the death of the senator is without question one of the most tragic and disconcerting events of the past few years. The paper says the sad death of this man, who had already shown ample evidence of becoming one of the great personalities of the century, is an immense loss not only to the United States of America but also to the whole world. The GHANAIAN TIMES says that, in all his service to the American nation, Robert Kennedy showed a noble dedication to humanity. He was a champion of the rights of man, of minority groups, especially the poor and the Afro-Americans. He was also a fierce critic of the Vietnam war.

The paper says the death of Robert Kennedy, coming at the time when he was celebrating his election victory in the California primary, has cut short a career full of promise and hope for the whole of mankind. The GHANAIAN TIMES, while joining all decent-minded liberal people throughout the world in condemning this brutal slaying, also expresses the hope that the proposed American legislation for controlling the sale of firearms will become law, thus reducing them to the barest minimum the possibility of firearms falling into the wrong hands.

The DAILY GRAPHIC says: Once more an assassin's bullet has cut short the life of an eminent American, Robert Kennedy, who was an outspoken critic of the American society. This is wicked. The paper says Robert Kennedy, who was the younger brother of President John Kennedy--who was also assassinated--was the one hope many people saw for the sick American society. The DAILY GRAPHIC says there is something obviously and seriously wrong with a society in which you can buy pistols as easily as ice cream. As one prominent American after another is gunned down, there is a general outcry against the

almost [word indistinct] way in which irresponsible people can get guns in this supposedly God's own land. But nothing is ever done about this kind of situation.

The paper says the people of Ghana can only express shock and indignation at this insane act. It writes that America is gradually, but surely, destroying our faith in it. The GRAPHIC says it cannot help but have a very uneasy feeling that America always kills its citizens who advocate sanity and civilization. It writes that it is a sick society in which a leading presidential candidate of the most powerful nation in the world could be eliminated in this way, a society that believes and preaches individual liberty.

The GRAPHIC says it cannot help but agree with the tearful Afro-American who is reported to have said after the brutal act: "What is the use of trying? What is the use?" The paper writes: What is the use indeed when the lives of great men are at the mercy of halfwits who are incapable of appreciating good?

ASSASSINATION SHOWS U.S. IN SERIOUS CRISIS

Conakry Guinea Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 6 Jun 68 N

[Commentary]

[Summary] After Dallas, where John Kennedy fell victim to a perfidious attack, after Memphis, where the apostle of nonviolence fell under the bullets of an unknown murderer barely 2 months ago, it is now the turn of Los Angeles to add itself to the list, following an odious and tragic assassination that is liable to accelerate the machinery of violence and the explosion of hatred so characteristic of political life in the United States. "The United States has witnessed nine important political assassinations within 4 and a half years. How can one explain this phenomenon? What is the cause of this wave of violence, of this uncontrollable outburst of passion and hatred?"

Historians will look for an explanation by going to the very sources of the history of the United States which was built to the detriment of annihilated Indians and Negro slaves transplanted from across the ocean. Right from the beginning there was one morality--that of the mightier; one rule--that of the jungle; one law--that of violence.

"It has been rightly said that the United States is sick. The United States is experiencing one of the most serious crises in its history. It is precisely for this reason that some good-hearted and generous men have risen to save their country and with it perhaps the world from a great catastrophe that threatens to compromise what the Americans consider most essential--their freedom."

PRESIDENT CONDOLES WIDOW ON DEATH OF KENNEDY

Ivory Coast Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 7 Jun 68 N

[Summary] Ivory Coast President Houphouet-Boigny, on hearing of the odious death of Sen Robert Kennedy, has sent the following message of condolence to Mrs Kennedy: Madame, the announcement of the death of your dear husband has upset me. I very much regret the loss of one of the noble sons of American democracy, the loss of a friend whose courage I very much appreciated. On this day of mourning of yourself, your family, and all peace-loving people, the Ivory Coast will not forget the man who always showed his friendship and who has died for a cause which is also that of our people. Accept on behalf of my wife, the Ivory Coast people, and myself our sad condolence. The Ivory Coast will be represented at the funeral of Robert Kennedy by [word indistinct] and the Ivory Coast ambassador in Washington and the United Nations.

PRESIDENT KENYATTA NOTES LOSS OF R. KENNEDY

Nairobi Kenya Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Jun 68 K/L

[Summary] President Kenyatta has sent the following message to Mrs Ethel Kennedy: "It is with profound regret that I have learned that Senator Kennedy is dead. America, and indeed the world, has lost a courageous, liberal, and far-sighted personality. The ideas for which he strived will move on and inspire people the world over to live in understanding, respect, and love. At this moment of grave personal tragedy, I wish to convey to you and to your entire family my heartfelt condolences."

DEFENSE MINISTER SHOCKED BY KENNEDY DEATH

Nairobi Kenya Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 7 Jun 68 K/L

[Text] The minister for defense, Dr Mungai, has expressed profound shock over the concentration of killings on the Kennedy family. Dr Mungai, deeply upset by the recent assassination of Sen Robert Kennedy, described the Kennedy family as having "very high ideals for mankind, both in America and the world at large."

TUBMAN SENDS MESSAGE TO FAMILY, JOHNSON

Monrovia Liberia ELWA in English 0710 GMT 7 Jun 68 N

[Text] President Tubman yesterday sent messages of condolence to the Kennedy family and President Johnson on the death of Sen Robert Kennedy. In a joint message to Mrs Kennedy and the family, President Tubman said: The government, the people of Liberia, Mrs Tubman, and myself share your sorrow in a horrible crime that ended the life of your dear husband and our brother who was a lover of mankind, [who was] broadminded, and who lived aboveboard. May God grant you and members of your family grace and strength to endure this with resignation. To Joseph Kennedy, father of the late senator, the President said: The Government of Liberia, Mrs Tubman, and myself share your grief on the (?despicable) crime that ended the life of your dear son, who was a lover of man, [who was] broddminded, and who lived aboveboard. May God grant you and members of your family grace, faith, and strength to endure this with resignation. To President Lyndon B. Johnson, he said: The despicable trend of violence and murder throughout the world in this era of civilization has been made manifold in the great United States again. One of your foremost statesmen, a humanitarian and politician, has been flattened by the wicked hands of an assassin. I have heard your comment on this vicious act. That is why it is inadequate to express more horror of the crime. We in Liberia share your views, embarrassment, and [words indistinct] and wish to be associated with you in your sorrow.