

Despair after the roar of victory

Continued from page one

blink. And the blurred, whirling scene we had watched in the flesh came wobbling in as a movie.

Then all the "facts" were fired or intoned from the screen Roosevelt Grier, a 300lb coloured football player and a Kennedy man, had grabbed the man with the gun and overwhelmed him. A Kennedy bodyguard had taken the gun, a .22 calibre. The maniac had fired straight at Kennedy and sprayed the other bullets around the narrow pantry.

Kennedy was now at the receiving hospital and soon transferred to the Good Samaritan. Three neurologists were on their way. He had been hit in the hip, perhaps, but surely in the shoulder and "the mastoid area." There was the first sinister note about a bullet in the brain.

In the timelessness of nausea and dumb disbelief we stood and sat and stood again and sighed at each other and went into the pantry again and looked at the rack of plates and the smears of blood on the floor and the furious guards and the jumping-jack photographers.

It was too much to take. The only thing to do was to touch the shoulder of the Kennedy man who had let you in and get out on to the street and drive home to the top of the silent Santa Monica Hills, where pandemonium is rebroadcast in tranquility and where a little unshaven guy amuck in a pantry is slowly brought into focus as a bleak and shoddy villain of history.

Telephone threat

Los Angeles, June 5
Three weeks ago

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/12/68

WILLIAM J. COX, 3974 West Ingraham, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information:

He was a volunteer for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and at 7:30 PM on June 4, 1968, he went to the Ambassador Hotel to await the results of the California primary election. On arrival at the Ambassador Hotel, he went immediately to the Embassy Room and remained there the entire evening.

He was in the Embassy Room at the time of Senator KENNEDY's victory speech and shortly after KENNEDY left the podium he heard several loud bangs which he assumed were breaking balloons. There was a great deal of shouting and pushing by the crowd, but at first he assumed this was just part of the victory celebration. As he was attempting to leave the Embassy Room, ANN FERGUSON asked him to help ERWIN STROLL because STROLL had been shot in the leg. At first he thought FERGUSON was joking, but then he saw STROLL's leg had blood on it.

He, along with DAVID ESQUITH and another white male, unknown to him, helped carry STROLL from the Embassy Room to the entrance of the Ambassador Hotel where they placed him in a taxicab. DAVID ESQUITH accompanied STROLL to the Central Receiving Hospital while he attempted to return to the Embassy Room.

While attempting to reenter the Embassy Room, he met Mrs. TIFFANY JONAS and ANN FERGUSON. Mrs. JONAS suggested that they go to the Central Receiving Hospital and stay with ERWIN STROLL until STROLL's parents could be contacted. All three of them then went to the Central Receiving Hospital in ANN FERGUSON's car and waited for the arrival of STROLL's parents. After STROLL's parents arrived at the receiving hospital, he and ANN FERGUSON returned to the Ambassador Hotel for a few minutes and then went home.

On 7/9/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

- 219 -

by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/jmb Date dictated 7/12/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
LA 56-156

COX observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and advised that he does not recall seeing this man at the Ambassador Hotel. COX did advise, however, that in the course of conversation with a woman, whose first name was INGER, last name unrecalled, he had been advised that she, INGER, had observed SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN standing in the crowd during Senator KENNEDY's victory speech. COX stated that INGER had been a volunteer for KENNEDY and furnished her address as 1190 South Kensington, Los Angeles, telephone No. 931-0067. If INGER could not be located at this address, COX felt that additional information might be gained through Mrs. TIFFANY JONAS, who is also acquainted with INGER.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/26/68

FRANCIS CRITCHELEY was located and interviewed at his boarding house, 677 South New Hampshire Avenue, Los Angeles, California. CRITCHELEY advised he was born October 2, 1938, at Newark, New Jersey, and since December 1967, has been on special leave from his former employment as fireman with the Newark, New Jersey, Fire Department. He is now employed for the Gordon Bread Company on Santa Barbara Avenue in Los Angeles. He intends to return to Newark, New Jersey, in two weeks and resume his former employment as a fireman.

CRITCHELEY stated that on the evening of June 4, 1968, he was with several other young men who live at this boarding house watching television coverage of the primary election results. He became aware that the KENNEDY campaign headquarters was located in the Ambassador Hotel located only one half block from his boarding house. Out of curiosity, he agreed to accompany PAUL GRIECO who was present with him then to the Ambassador in an effort to try to see Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and possibly shake his hand. At about 10:45 p.m., he and GRIECO walked to the Ambassador but were turned away from entering the Embassy Room where KENNEDY was to appear. A fire warden advised them that this room already contained the maximum number of persons allowed. He and GRIECO then proceeded to another room in this hotel and mingled among the supporters of candidate RAFFERTY. At about 11:45 p.m., he and GRIECO came back to the main lobby of the Ambassador and learned from people standing in the lobby that Senator KENNEDY was about to make a speech in the Embassy Room and would depart after the speech through the kitchen area behind the Embassy Room. He and GRIECO then found a corridor and went to the kitchen area. They both stood in a group of people on each side of an exit behind the Embassy Room and the kitchen, where they were told by "KENNEDY girls" that Senator KENNEDY would pass after finishing his speech.

On 6/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA HARRY H. WHIDBEE/eb Date dictated 6/20/68
- 221 -

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
LA 56-156

After KENNEDY had completed his speech, he appeared in the kitchen area surrounded by several of his aides. There was a sizable group of people there to shake KENNEDY's hand, between 50 and 75. In the rush of persons to get to KENNEDY, CRITCHELEY found himself pushed through a small door in an adjourning area after KENNEDY had passed. CRITCHELEY recalled hearing sounds like the popping of balloons but did not realize they were pistol shots. He said he was not close enough to KENNEDY to observe him at this time. There was an immediate rush of panic stricken people backed up upon him, during which time, it was all he could do to maintain his footing. Through the screaming and pandemonium which existed, he became aware that Senator KENNEDY had been shot. After the panic subsided, he went to the area where KENNEDY was lying on the floor and then was instructed by some man, seemingly with authority, to help keep curious bystanders out of the kitchen area. He therefore stood at the door leading from the corridor to the main lobby and held people back.

He remained in the area of the kitchen until KENNEDY was removed by police attendants and then he went to a small room in an adjourning area and was interviewed by police detectives and admitted to them that he was present but did not see the shooting.

CRITCHELEY said he did not see SIRHAN before the shooting nor did he see him after the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/8/68

VICKY CUCCIA, 730 South Kingsley, Apartment 315, furnished the following information:

She was a volunteer for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and on June 4, 1968, she went to the Ambassador Hotel, to await the results of the California primary election. DAVID ESQUITH picked her and her mother up at approximately 6:30 pm and they went to the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, where they met ERWIN STROLL. At about 10:15 pm, JIM LOWE asked STROLL to watch the entrance to the kitchen, which was next to the podium.

At about midnight, Senator KENNEDY came to the podium to give his victory speech. At this point, Miss CUCCIA's mother became ill because of the stuffiness of the Embassy Room, and it was necessary for her to leave the hotel. Miss CUCCIA accompanied her mother to the elevator outside of the Embassy Room. After getting her mother on the elevator, Miss CUCCIA went to the Ballroom where she met TIFFANY JONAS. After meeting Mrs. JONAS, they both attempted to return to the Embassy Room, but were stopped in the area of the press room by the security guard. Just after arriving at the door to the press room, she heard a pop, which sounded like a bag was being broken. Immediately after the pop, there was a great deal of pushing and shouting. Some members of the press attempted to get into the press room and there was altercation between the security guard and one of the press men. As this is going on, a woman passed by who said that Senator KENNEDY has been shot.

At this point, she observed ERWIN STROLL being helped from the Embassy Room by three men and realized that he had been shot. Upon realizing that STROLL had been shot, she became very emotional and it was necessary for STEVE WAGNER to bring her home. Prior to leaving the Ambassador Hotel with WAGNER, she did observe SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN being taken from the hotel by the police.

On 7/1/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA RICHARD P. DOUCETTE/cld Date dictated 7/8/68
- 223 -

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
LA 56-156

At the time she and TIFFANY JONAS attempted to return to the Embassy Room, she did look into the kitchen, but does not recall seeing anyone identical to SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. She recalls seeing only four men, all of them in suits, and all appearing to be members of the press.

Miss CUCCIA observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and advised that on June 3, 1968, she was working at Kennedy Headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard answering phone calls. Sometime during the morning of the third, she recalls seeing a man who resembled SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN come into the headquarters office, go to a table which had literature on it concerning Senator KENNEDY and look at this literature for a short time. CUCCIA stated that she could not positively identify this man as being SIRHAN, and simply said that there was a close resemblance.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/28/68

JAMES CUMMINGS, residence 1700 Burnside Street, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at his place of employment, Falk General Laboratories, 3450 West First Street, Los Angeles, California, telephone 383-0663. CUMMINGS advised he left his office at about 11:30 p.m. on June 4, 1968 en route to the Ambassador Hotel to join the ROBERT F. KENNEDY Campaign Party. After arriving at the hotel, he walked to the Embassy Room, arriving there shortly before KENNEDY began his acceptance speech. During the speech he entered the hallway which connects the Embassy Room podium to the Embassy Room service pantry and remained there until KENNEDY finished his speech.

CUMMINGS stated he stood in the hallway as KENNEDY surrounded by several members of the campaign party walked through the hallway and to the Embassy Room service pantry. After observing KENNEDY enter the pantry, he turned towards the opposite end of the hallway at which time he heard three gun shots with about a one second interval between each shot and then a series of shots; however, he did not recall how many shots all together were fired.

CUMMINGS stated after the shots were fired crowds of people converged into the pantry from the Embassy Room and the hallway at the opposite end of the pantry. Due to the commotion that ensued after the shooting, CUMMINGS was unable to observe the individual who shot KENNEDY or furnish any information of value in this investigation.

CUMMINGS observed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and stated it was not familiar to him. Further, that nothing came to his attention at any time prior to the shooting to indicate this event would take place.

CUMMINGS furnished the following descriptive information concerning himself:

Date of birth	January 18, 1924
Place of birth	Los Angeles, California

On 6/25/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA ROBERT F. PICKARD and - 225 -
SA J. C. FISHBECK, JR. JCF/nmb Date dictated 6/26/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
LA 56-156

Height	5'9"
Weight	145 pounds
Social Security No.	[REDACTED]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 27, 19681

WILLIAM DEIMER of CBS News, Philadelphia, advised that he is a sound man traveling with the CBS Camera Crew, which consists of himself; WALTER DOMBROW, the photographer; and MATT DOUGLAS, the light technician.

Mr. DEIMER said that on the 5th of June, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, he and the above-mentioned men were set up in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, to film a speech by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He said their location was almost directly across from where the podium was set up, but at the opposite end of the ballroom. Mr. DEIMER said they were filming his speech and when Senator KENNEDY left the podium he was supposed to have gone out the main door of the ballroom, but then left the podium and proceeded through a door which is located near the rear of the podium.

Mr. DEIMER said he saw nothing except all of a sudden there seemed to be mass confusion as people started running back and forth in the ballroom and it was at that time he finally learned that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

He said he heard no shots, nor did he see the actual shooting since he was quite a distance from where the assault actually took place. He said he and the other two men mentioned above arrived at the spot where the Senator had been shot but, by the time they got there, the Senator had already been carried away.

Mr. DEIMER said he has no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to proceed to the Colonial Room and he did not observe the assassin at any time.

227

On 6/26/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SA RICHARD E. LOGAN: AED Date dictated 6/27/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 27, 19681

MATT DOUGLAS advised that he is a light technician and travels with a camera crew for CBS News in Philadelphia. He said in his crew is the cameraman, WALTER DOMBROW; and the sound man, WILLIAM DEIMER.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he was working with these men on the 5th of June 1968, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, in the ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Calif. He said the purpose of their mission there was to film the speech to be made by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He said they did film the Senator from the time he entered the ballroom and got up on the podium until he spoke, and then left the podium and went out a door near the rear of the podium.

He stated that all of a sudden there seemed to be mass confusion and people running around and shouting for a doctor and someone, whom he did not know, got up on the podium and put his finger to his head, indicating that someone had been shot.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that he heard no shots, nor did he see the assassin at any time. He stated that he and the crew were set up at the opposite side of the ballroom, quite a distance from the podium. He stated that the first he really knew about what was really going on was when some woman was brought out of the back room where the Senator had gone, bleeding from the head and that he and the crew filmed her.

Mr. DOUGLAS said that by the time he and the crew got to the spot where the Senator had been assaulted, the Senator had already been moved on his way to the hospital.

Mr. DOUGLAS said he had no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to go to the Colonial Room.

228

On 6/27/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SA RICHARD E. LOGAN & DARWIN B. BARE REL/AED Date dictated 6/27/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 27, 19681

WALTER DOMBROW advised that he is a cameraman for CBS News in Philadelphia and that he has in his crew one WILLIAM DEIMER, a sound man; and MATT DOUGLAS, a light technician.

Mr. DOMBROW stated that on June 5, 1968, about 12:15 a.m., Pacific Time, he and his crew were filming the speech of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel ballroom in Los Angeles, Calif.

He stated that he and his crew were set up across the ballroom on the opposite wall from where the podium was located. Mr. DOMBROW said he filmed the Senator from the time he came into the ballroom and got on the podium, and during his speech, and also when he left the podium and went through a door near the rear of the podium.

Mr. DOMBROW said that he heard no shots nor did he observe the assassin at any time because of the distance from the podium and the fact that the Senator was actually into another room before the assault took place.

He said that after the confusion started, somebody brought out a blonde-headed woman who was bleeding from the head and they filmed her; it was then that they learned that the Senator had been shot.

Mr. DOMBROW said that at that time mass confusion took over with people shouting for a doctor and begging the crowd to leave the ballroom. He said that by the time he and his crew got to where the Senator had been shot, he had already been moved, on his way to the hospital. Mr. DOMBROW said he has no knowledge as to why the Senator changed his plans to go to the Colonial Room when he left the podium, nor did he observe the assassin at any time.

229

On 6/27/68 at PHILADELPHIA, PA. File # PHILADELPHIA 62-4929
by SAs RICHARD E. LOGAN, §
DARWIN B. BARE REL/AED Date dictated 6/27/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

-1-

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/28/68

Mr. HENRY F. PETERS, residence 14009 North Port Washington Road, Mequon, Wisconsin, was interviewed at the home of a nephew, Dr. EARL PETERS, Route #6, Janesville, Wisconsin, and furnished the following information:

Mrs. JOHN WEIDNER, whose husband operates the Organic Pasadena Health Food Stores, Pasadena, California, is the niece of PETERS' wife. For the past several years PETERS and his wife have been visiting the WEIDNERS staying with them from around Christmastime each year until the end of April or May. During their stay, PETERS, who is an elderly retired painter, does odd jobs around the WEIDNER food stores. During his recent stay with the WEIDNERS, PETERS did become acquainted with a young dark complexioned male, whom he knew as "Saul". PETERS described this individual as a very intelligent polite person, who was an excellent worker. PETERS further described "Saul" as a loner, who did not seem to carry on much conversation concerning himself as an individual. PETERS had no conversations in which "Saul" talked of any of his political or religious philosophies and he never heard any conversations by "Saul" indicating any hate towards any U. S. political leader because of any pronouncements made by such a person. PETERS had no knowledge concerning any of Saul's associations as to individuals or organizations outside the food store.

PETERS did not connect the name of ~~SIRHAN~~ SIRHAN with SAUL until after he saw on television the interview his wife's niece had with newspaper people. It was then that the photographs and the name connected with the person he knew as "Saul".

230

On 6/14/68 at Janesville, Wisconsin File # MI 157-548
by SA THOMAS L. MADDEN
SA HENRY W. CURRAN, Jr. - bb Date dictated 6/21/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 7/5/68

Miss CHRISTINE DE SAUTELS, presently residing at 7100 Hillside, Hollywood, California, Apartment 205, advised that she was born on July 1, 1949, at Glendale, California. She stated that for the last several months prior to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY she had been working for Senator KENNEDY on his campaign in California. She stated that she originally worked only as a part-time campaigner, but that she eventually became one of the "KENNEDY Girls" and she and several others traveled to various parts of California where Senator KENNEDY was to make a speech to help in the campaign celebrations for him.

She advised that on the afternoon of Tuesday, June 4, 1968, she was just leaving the KENNEDY campaign headquarters on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, and was in her car at the curb, when a woman knocked on the window of the car. She said that she rolled the window down and the woman told her that she needed her help and that she wanted to help save the country. Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she told the woman that the best way to help would be to go into the KENNEDY Campaign Headquarters and offer her assistance in the campaign. She stated that the woman told her that she did not understand, but that she wanted Miss DE SAUTELS to take her to the race track as she said that she "had to inform some people the way to save their country." Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she once again told the woman that the best thing to do was to help on the KENNEDY campaign, and at this point the woman stepped away from the curb.

She stated that later that afternoon she asked several individuals in the KENNEDY campaign headquarters if any woman fitting the description of the one she had talked to had been into offer her help, and she was told that no one had been in fitting that description.

She described the unknown female as follows:

On 7/1/68 at Hollywood, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

- 231 -

by SA E. RHEAD RICHARDS/RB Date dictated 7/2/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
LA 56-156

Sex	Female
Race	White
Characteristics	Possibly of Latin- descent as she had a dark complexion
Age	Mid 20's
Complexion	Dark, rough or ruddy
Hair	Long with brown and blond highlights
Height	5'5" 5'8"
Weight	110 - 120 pounds
Build	Slender
Clothing	Wearing capris and a sweater, carrying a notebook and a large bag type purse

Miss DE SAUTELS advised that she did not see this woman again and that she had no indication or reason to believe that her encounter with this woman had anything to do with the KENNEDY assassination, and it was something that she recalled as she tried to thing back over the events of those two or three "hectic and tragic days."

Miss DE SAUTELS advised that on the evening of June 4, 1968, she was at the Ambassador Hotel on Wilshire Boulevard in Los Angeles, California, and was participating as one of the "KENNEDY Girls" with the rest of the campaigners. She stated that she and several others who were participating in a singing group singing songs with words which had been written by ETHEL KENNEDY, and that they were on the floor of the Embassy Ballroom or in the small press room immediately behind the Embassy Ballroom most of the evening. She advised that near midnight, or shortly after midnight, she and several others of her group went down to the next floor and joined those celebrating in the Ambassador Ballroom. She and her associates were on the stage of the Ambassador Ballroom at the time they heard the first individual shouting from the back of the Ballroom that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

3
LA 56-156

She stated that she did not recall seeing anyone run out of the building prior to that time and that she could not think of anything she had seen or heard that evening which would be pertinent to the investigation of the KENNEDY assassination.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

6/28/68

Date _____

Mrs. PATTY DE SAUTELS, 2407 West Big Tujunga Canyon Road, Tujunga, California, advised she attended the victory celebration for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY at the Ambassador Hotel the night Senator KENNEDY was killed. She stated she is a free lance reporter and attended to prepare a story about KENNEDY's victory. She stated she was not in the area of the shooting and did not observe the shooting or the assassin.

She stated her daughter, CHRISTINE DE SAUTELS, was also at the celebration as CHRISTINE was a "Kennedy girl" who worked for KENNEDY during the campaign in California.

Mrs. DE SAUTELS advised that the day after the shooting, she returned to the pressroom of the Ambassador Hotel, on the sixth floor, to continue work on her story. While she was working on her story, she observed a husky, burly, olive skinned male watching the television set in the pressroom. The man was watching a program relating to Senator KENNEDY and he had a strange look on his face and appeared to be talking to the television set. The man was acting so strange that she called a hotel security guard who escorted the man from the pressroom. She asked other members of the press about the man and no one knew who he was and she does not know if the guard determined his identity or not. She recalled the man had dark coarse hair and appeared to have at least one day's growth of beard. He was wearing a suit which was very wrinkled.

Mrs. DE SAUTELS stated she could furnish no additional first hand information as she did not observe the shooting or the assassin.

She stated after July 1, 1968 she can be contacted at Route 1, Box 82, Santa Maria, California, or through the U. S. Forest Rangers, Pine Canyon Ranger Station, Los Padres National Forest.

6/26/68 Tujunga, California Los Angeles 56-156
On _____ at _____ - 234 - File # _____
SA ORLEY A. LEESON, JR./llg 6/27/68
by _____ Date dictated _____

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 6/20/68

1

JOHN J. DOOHAN, Head Librarian and columnist, Kansas City Star, 19th and Grand, furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, he was attending a newspaper librarian's convention at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, Los Angeles, California. On that evening he and two fellow librarians attending the convention, JAMES SCOFIELD, Librarian, St. Petersburg, Florida, Times, and EDWARD QUILL, Librarian, Boston Globe, went to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to follow California primary election returns and attend the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY rally.

During the evening of June 4, 1968, DOOHAN visited the press room in the Colonial Room of the Ambassador Hotel and attended the rally about midnight at which Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY spoke. About 1,000 persons were in attendance and he became separated from his two associates. In order to meet the fire department regulations the Embassy Room where the rally was held was closed and the overflow crowd was sent he believes to a room on a lower floor, possibly the Ambassador Room. While he had been in the press room he learned that Senator KENNEDY would visit the press room at the Colonial Room after he spoke at the rally in the Embassy Room. Therefore, after hearing Senator KENNEDY speak and watching him leave the stage DOOHAN went directly to the press room to await Senator KENNEDY'S appearance there. It was while he was on his way to the press room that he heard the commotion, although he did not hear any shots, and learned that Senator KENNEDY had been shot.

Although he had not been assigned as a reporter to the California primary or to the KENNEDY party he immediately prepared a story which was printed in the June 5, 1968, issue of the Kansas City Star, the evening Kansas City Times, under his by-line giving his personal account of the assassination which read as follows:

235

On 6/19/68 at Kansas City, Missouri File # KC 62-8651
LA 56-156
by SA ROBERT V. HARMAN, JR. Date dictated 6/19/68

"Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had just finished his short victory statement, raised his fingers in a V sign and it was now "on to Chicago.

"I was standing toward the rear of the Embassy room at the Hotel Ambassador, along with more than 1,000 others. Though the ballroom is air-conditioned, it was hot and stuffy. I thought to myself that Kennedy looked as happy as anyone could possibly be.

"As the senator turned to leave the room, I heard a rumor that he was going to pass through a temporary press room on his way to a lower floor of the hotel, where another group of his excited supporters waited for him to appear.

"I headed for the press room. I knew where it was because I had been in there a few minutes earlier talking to Pierre Salinger, press secretary for the New York senator and for his late brother, President John F. Kennedy.

"The press room was near a long, narrow corridor used as a serving room for dinner meetings in the ballroom. Senator Kennedy was to use this passageway on his way to meet reporters.

"Accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy; Jesse Unruh, speaker of the California Assembly and a leader of the Kennedy forces here, and others, Kennedy started through the serving galley. Leading the way for him were several Los Angeles police officers, Rafer Johnson, former decathlon champion and now on the R. F. K. staff in California, and Roosevelt Grier, a defensive tackle for the Los Angeles Rams professional football team.

"The room itself contained metal serving and steam tables, which were not in use early today as there had been no program or refreshments served in the Embassy room. The area is 10 to 12 feet wide and 40 to 50 feet long.

"At 12:15 o'clock this morning it was jammed with hotel employees waiting for a chance to see and, perhaps, shake hands with the Democratic presidential hopeful.

"Predictably, Senator Kennedy paused as he made his way slowly through the galley to shake hands. I was still on my way from the ballroom to the press room-kitchen, when it happened.

"I heard absolute bedlam coming from the narrow hallway, as from a range of less than 10 feet the would-be assassin began firing what turned out to be a .22-caliber revolver, wounding Kennedy and several others immediately clustered around him. I didn't actually hear the shots.

"But I got a chance to peer into the room and saw a young, bushy-haired, dark complexioned man being carried out by police officers. He was wearing blue jeans, tennis shoes and a blue sweat shirt.

"I was told that Johnson and Grier and possibly one or two others tackled and held the man immediately, but, of course, the tragedy was completed.

"We don't know yet who he is. But one thing is clear in my mind. He had to know the ropes. This was all behind the door to the ballroom. It seems to me that he had to know what the Kennedy exit was going to be beforehand.

"People say that a hurricane roars. You could just heard a roar. Then in a short time-just a few moments-people were crying. All of us were stunned.

"I saw Ethel Kennedy. She was right alongside him all the time. Mrs. Kennedy remained very composed.

"Then Steve Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law, asked everyone to quiet down and "let's all be orderly." It was hair-raising; Smith's voice sounds just like Senator Kennedy's.

"I was at the hotel in the first place because I admire Senator Kennedy. Our convention business was over for the evening and three of us, a librarian from St. Petersburg, Fla., and another from the Boston Globe had gone out to eat. Instead of going back to our hotel, the Statler Hilton, we decided to go over to the Ambassador. We had heard that the senator and his California friends had taken quarters there for the night.

"We got there about 9:45 o'clock, and the lobby was already packed with people. There must have been more than 3,000 in the lobby and the ballroom. There was no program; people just standing around talking and catching the latest returns.

"That's how I bumped into Salinger. I told him I was from The Star, and he asked about several persons he knows on the paper. Then he told me that Kennedy probably would pass through the press room after making his television statement.

"Thus, I was by happenstance close to the scene of the tragedy, close enough, regrettable as it was, to be on the sideline as the senator was carried to an ambulance.

"Some of those closer than I felt Bobby Kennedy was conscious. Someone told me he was able to take a rosary in his hand.

"I have never seen a huge mass of people so crazed in the aftermath of the shooting. Many were knocked down in the hallways as young people ran around. It was shocking.

"I then went back to the shooting scene. The other victims were still lying on the floor. Karl Uecker, an assistant manager of the hotel, told me he was alongside the senator as they came through the kitchen.

"The senator had paused to shake hands with some of the help when the shots popped, Uecker said. 'I saw the senator fall and several others go down.

"I saw a small type gun in the gunman's hand. Two guys (apparently Johnson and Grier) pinned him over the counter.'

"I also talked with Norman N. Mamey, president of the Finance Service corporation, who said he was right next to Kennedy when he was struck.

"We came from the Embassy room and were going through the kitchen area,' Mamey said. 'The senator stopped to greet some of the help, and as he reached for a hand four or five shots were fired.

"Three men fell and I knew one of them was Senator Kennedy. I ducked in a corner and kind of under the tables. The fellow on my right was hit in the hip, I believe, and the man in front of me was hit in the leg.

"Everyone else ducked for cover. The women became hysterical.'

"After it was all over, police took over some rooms. Fourteen witnesses were giving statements right in the hotel.

"Obviously, for me, any thought of sleep was out of the question. I returned to the Embassy room, where the frenzied mood was over, giving way to tears and shock.

"'What a country we live in,' one girl said.

"'It just can't be true, it just can't be,' I heard a man say.

"At first it was fairly easy to get out of the hotel. But later entrances were blocked by police. In the press room I was told by an officer that the 14 witnesses were being questioned.

"Still later I was able to leave the hotel. I hired a taxicab to go back to the Statler Hilton. I asked the driver to stop by the Good Samaritan hospital, and he did.

"I guess there were about 150 people at one of the two entrances, just sitting on the curbing, waiting. I asked a policeman, and he said the senator was still in surgery and that was no word. At the other entrance, about 300 persons were just standing around the doorway and the street. They were stunned, all stunned."

DOOHAN covered the assassination for the next two hours for the Kansas City Star and was stationed at the hospital where Senator KENNEDY was taken.

DOOHAN had no knowledge of any change in plans by Senator KENNEDY to go to the Ambassador Room or any other room instead of proceeding to the press room (Colonial Room).