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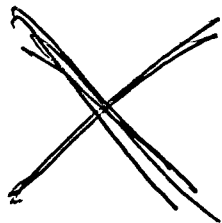
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SECTION 32

SERIAL 983

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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| REPORTING OFFICE LOS ANGELES | OFFICE OF ORIGIN LOS ANGELES | DATE 10/10/68 | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/5/68 to 9/30/68 |
| TITLE OF CASE KENSALT | | REPORT MADE BY AMEDEE O. RICHARDS, JR. | TYPED BY pjc |
| | | CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS | |

REFERENCE: Report of SA AMEDEE O. RICHARDS, JR., dated 8/7/68, at Los Angeles.

- P -

ENCLOSURES

TO BUREAU

Two (2) copies of Exhibit 20, copy of Pasadena, California, Police Department File Number 569061, containing results of investigation concerning alleged shots fired at vehicle of SAIDALLAH BISHARA SIRHAN at approximately 4:30 a.m., July 3, 1968, on Pasadena Freeway.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------|-------|---------|------------|------------------------------|---|
| ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED | | | | | NONE | ACQUIT- TALS | CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO |
| CONVIC. | AUTO. | FUG. | FINES | SAVINGS | RECOVERIES | | |
| APPROVED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE | | | | | | DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW | |
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| ENCLOSURE | | | | | | REC-50 | |
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report | | | | | | Notations | |
| Agency | 100 Wilson Pollock, L. J. (Det.) | | | | | 11.23 | |
| Request Recd. | 100 Secret Service | | | | | COPIES DESTROYED | |
| Date Fwd. | 10/21/68 | | | | | 27 SEP 27 1974 | |
| How Fwd. | 10/21/68 | | | | | | |
| By | 53 NOV 20 1968 | | | | | | |

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ADMINISTRATIVE

Additional copies are being furnished the Bureau pursuant to specific Bureau instructions.

Pursuant to a request of the Los Angeles Police Department and Bureau authority, leads have been set forth to pertinent field offices requesting that interviews be conducted with the 259 individuals registered as guests at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, during the period 6/4 to 5/68. Investigation has been requested through appropriate Legal Attaches concerning those individuals now abroad.

Former LA 4366-C advised SA GEORGE E. BLAND on 8/13/68, as follows:

Attorney A. L. WIRIN originally contacted Attorney RUSSELL PARSONS and "conned" PARSONS into coming into the case to represent SIRHAN SIRHAN. WIRIN told PARSONS that money would be available and indicated that the Arab Countries were going to furnish a blank check for legal expenses for SIRHAN.

PARSONS contacted Attorney GRANT COOPER to come into the case with him, COOPER agreed. Later, COOPER advised PARSONS that COOPER could not be mentioned because he was representing MAURICE FRIEDMAN in the Friars Club trial and FRIEDMAN objected to COOPER's name being announced while representing him. FRIEDMAN reportedly said that no attorney of his was going to announce representing an Arab while defending him.

PARSONS informed source on 8/12/68, that Mrs. COOPER was against her husband representing SIRHAN, and COOPER was trying to get out of the case by contacting and urging Attorney EDWARD BENNET WILLIAMS to join with PARSONS and replace COOPER.

WIRIN's promise of unlimited funds has not materialized, and to date, PARSONS has received \$35 from donations as his fee.

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COVER PAGE

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RE: INVESTIGATION ATTEMPTING TO
LOCATE BANK ACCOUNTS IN LOS ANGELES
AREA FOR SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Records of Bank of America, Los Angeles - Information furnished by DAVID GRAY, Inspection Department, Main Office, Bank of America, to SA NICHOLAS MC GAHAN, JR., on 8/23/68.

Records of Crocker-Citizen National Bank, Los Angeles - Information made available by R. D. BOSWORTH, Auditor, Southern Division, Crocker-Citizen National Bank, Los Angeles, to SA MC GAHAN, JR., on 8/5/68.

Records of Security-Pacific National Bank, Los Angeles - Information made available by ROBERT CRIMI, Assistant Auditor, Head Office, Security-Pacific National Bank, Los Angeles, to SA MC GAHAN, JR., on 8/15/68.

Records of First Western Bank and Trust Company, Los Angeles - Information made available by THOMAS GAFFNEY, Vice-President and Auditor, First Western Bank and Trust Company, Los Angeles, to SA MC GAHAN, JR., on 8/19/68.

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COVER PAGE

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LEADS

No specific leads are being set forth in view of the fact that all leads arising from this investigation are continuing to be handled on an expedite basis.

LOS ANGELES

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA: (1) Will continue efforts to obtain all pertinent records and charts not presently available prepared by the Governmental agencies.

(2) Will continue intensive investigation of all aspects of the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

- D* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: AMEDEE O. RICHARDS, JR.
Date: 10/10/68

Office: Los Angeles, California

Field Office File #: 56-156

Bureau File #: 62-587

Title: SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: On 8/2/68, SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, represented by his attorney, RUSSELL E. PARSONS, appeared before Los Angeles Superior Court Judge RICHARD SCHAUER and pled not guilty to charge of murder in slaying of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. Trial date set for 11/1/68. SIRHAN also pled not guilty to feloniously assaulting, with a deadly weapon and with intent to commit murder, five other persons wounded the same night at the election celebration at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California. On 9/25/68, California State Court of Appeals denied Los Angeles District Attorney EVELLE J. YOUNGER's petition to block enforcement of a publicity ban on the pending trial of SIRHAN. Additional Ambassador Hotel employees interviewed and unable to recall observing SIRHAN in Ambassador Hotel prior to shooting. DUN GIFFORD, Legal Assistant to Senator EDWARD KENNEDY and State Co-Ordinator in campaign of late Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, advised he saw SIRHAN step out with a gun from the right in the kitchen area of Ambassador Hotel and heard shots. GIFFORD unable to state he actually saw SIRHAN fire the shots but saw WILLIAM BARRY strike SIRHAN. GIFFORD assisted in subduing SIRHAN after shooting along with ROOSEVELT GRIER, RAFAEL JOHNSON, GEORGE PLIMPTON, and WILLIAM BARRY. JAMES BRESLIN,

LA 56-156

newspaper reporter, advised that he was in kitchen area but did not see actual shooting. Immediately after shooting, he went up to SIRHAN, who was being held by several individuals, and asked SIRHAN twice, "Why did you have to do it?" SIRHAN was rolling his eyes and did not answer. EVAN FREED, free lance photographer, advised was in kitchen area and saw SIRHAN shooting, but did not actually see Senator KENNEDY hit by gunfire or fall to floor. PETE HAMILL, free lance writer, advised was in kitchen area at time of shooting. Saw SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN in front of and to Senator KENNEDY's left about seven or eight feet with his arm fully extended and his face in tremendous concentration shooting a gun at Senator KENNEDY. HAMILL did not observe SIRHAN in Ambassador Hotel prior to shooting. DANIEL JOHN CURTIN, worker in late Senator KENNEDY's campaign, advised he was in kitchen area at time of shooting and heard several shots and saw Senator KENNEDY falling to the floor. CURTIN believes he was one of very first to reach Senator KENNEDY on floor and handed him a set of rosary beads. As CURTIN was leaning over Senator KENNEDY, the Senator appeared as if he was starting to say something, but noise of crowd prevented CURTIN from understanding it. CURTIN observed SIRHAN being held by several persons after shooting. Additional interviews conducted with individuals acquainted with SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and other members of his family. SIRHAN described as "loner" who had no close friends or girl friends. Former instructor of SIRHAN at Pasadena City College described SIRHAN as very pro-Arab and exhibiting an almost uncontrollable temper in defense of Arab national unity. Anonymous letter to ETHEL KENNEDY, Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, was postmarked Chicago, Illinois, 8/6/68 and stated WILLIAM ERTL, 1402 Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, was responsible for assassination of late Senator KENNEDY. Investigation determined 1402 Greenwood Avenue was non-existent address in Chicago and no record of individual named WILLIAM ERTL located in Chicago Telephone Directory, Chicago Credit Bureau, or Chicago Police Department. FBI Laboratory identified

-lb-

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signature and address "SIRHAN SIRHAN, 696 E. Howard Street, Pasa " on shooting roster of San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, Duarte, California, for 6/4/68, as having been written by SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

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JOS/pjc

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PROSECUTIVE ACTION CONCERNING
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

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AOR/jr

On August 2, 1968, SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN pled not guilty to the charge of murder in the slaying of ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge RICHARD SCHAUER set the trial date for November 1, 1968, in this matter.

Represented by his attorney, RUSSELL E. PARSONS, Calif SIRHAN also pled not guilty to feloniously assaulting, with a deadly weapon and with intent to commit murder, five other persons wounded the same night at the election celebration at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California.

Judge SCHAUER did not at this hearing name the judge who will preside over the case.

Also at this hearing, Los Angeles County District Attorney EVELLE J. YOUNGER, assisted by Deputy District Attorneys JOHN HOWARD and DAVID FITTS, asked that Judge SCHAUER vacate or modify a previous court order restricting publicity in this case.

SIRHAN's attorney RUSSELL E. PARSONS and A. L. WIRIN, Calif Chief Counsel of the Southern California Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, opposed the motion of YOUNGER. WIRIN was allowed to appear as a "friend" of the court.

The motion of YOUNGER regarding publicity on this case was denied by Superior Court Judge RICHARD SCHAUER.

On September 10, 1968, District Attorney EVELLE J. YOUNGER signed an appeal requesting that the court order limiting publicity in the SIRHAN case be modified. The District Attorney sought reversal of the order in a petition for a writ of mandate and prohibition from the State Court of Appeal.

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LA 56-156
AOR/jr

On September 19, 1968, Superior Court Judge RICHARD SCHAUER, of the Master Calendar Criminal Department of the Superior Court, selected Superior Court Judge ROBERT V. WALKER to try SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN.

SCHAUER also announced that the trial would take place in the courtroom now designated as Department 107, Room 832, located on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice. Trial is currently scheduled for November 1, 1968.

The California State Court of Appeals on September 25, 1968, denied District Attorney EVELLE J. YOUNGER's petition to block enforcement of a publicity ban on the pending trial of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. The office of the District Attorney indicated that it might ask for a hearing on the matter before the State Supreme Court.

¹
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JOS/rem

INTERVIEWS OF EMPLOYEES OF
AMBASSADOR HOTEL, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 9/24/681

FRANCES A. BAILEY, 2981 West Eighth Street, Apartment 218, Los Angeles, California, advised the following:

BAILEY claimed that she could not furnish any additional information to that furnished during interview by an agent of the FBI on June 14, 1968. At that time she stated that when she was on duty in the uniform room of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on Sunday, June 2, 1968, two Caucasian males came to her window and asked to borrow waiter's jackets so they could use them to get in to see Senator KENNEDY who was then at the hotel. Her recollection was that these two men, who were unknown to her, had no authority to obtain the jackets. Their request was refused by BAILEY, who said that she was busy, and since there was quite a bit of activity, she did not pay close attention to these individuals to the extent that she could describe them in detail. She was of the impression that they were of dark complexion but was sure that she would be unable to recognize them should she see them again.

Photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and members of his family were exhibited to BAILEY who said that she had no recollection of ever having observed any of the individuals in the photographs at any time.

On 9/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/cyn Date dictated 9/23/68

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1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/19/68

IRENE WISHNUCK, 374 South Columbia Street, Los Angeles,
advised the following: Date _____

WISHNUCK, who is employed in the linen room which maintains linen and uniforms at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, said that she could not add any additional information to that furnished when she was interviewed by an agent of the FBI on June 10, 1968, with respect to the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. She had reported for work at the hotel on June 4, 1968, at 11 PM and got off duty at 7 AM on June 5, 1968. She had remained in the linen room and had no first hand knowledge of the shooting which had occurred on a floor in the hotel above the area where she worked. She recalled, that she had previously related that on the afternoon of June 3, 1968, a Negro male over 6' tall, medium build, and about 30 years old, had asked for a busboy's uniform, but he did not have the necessary card with which to obtain the uniform. When he was unable to produce such a card, he turned and just walked away.

WISHNUCK said that she did not feel that she could identify the Negro male if she ever saw him again and that no other employee to her knowledge observed this man. She stated she has never seen this man since and has no idea who he may have been.

WISHNUCK examined photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and members of his family and said that she had no recollection of ever seeing any of the persons in these photographs at any time.

On 9/19/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/cyn - 7 - Date dictated 9/23/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/19/68

WILLIAM F. GARDNER, 221 North Belmont Street, Glendale, California, phone 242-9522, advised that he was no longer Chief Security Officer of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles and was currently attending law school. Mr. VARDIGAN T. MOON has replaced GARDNER as Chief Security Officer of this hotel. During the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party in the Embassy Room at the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4 and the morning of June 5, 1968, the hotel put on a number of extra employees. The Security Department hired six extra guards whom they have used in the past and who were all on duty at the time of the shooting. Senator KENNEDY had refrained from using any security guards, consequently specific security assignments were not made to guard him. GARDNER selected two waiter captains to lead the KENNEDY procession to and from the Embassy Room where Senator KENNEDY was to speak.

The KENNEDY campaign party did not have any dinner arrangements, so there were no large number of extra waiters hired. There were some extra waiters utilized in the Room Service Department and extra bartenders were used. The various departments hiring these extra employees normally utilized extra employees with whom they have had previous experience and every department would be accountable for the extra employees hired.

During the evening the Embassy Room was extremely crowded. There was no attempt to challenge any persons coming or going until the room reached capacity and then persons were denied entrance on the basis that the overcrowding would create a fire hazard. Persons entering the Embassy Room were not challenged continually except when the fire hazard approach was used to stop them, and Anyone wishing to get in would have had little trouble.

On 8/12/68 at Glendale, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg

Date dictated 8/14/68

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Concerning an orange colored pamphlet which bore the caption "Kill Kennedy" which Mr. GARDNER was alleged to have displayed to ELMER M. BOOMHOWER, an employee of the Ace Guard Service, Granada Hills, on the night of June 4, 1968, GARDNER advised as follows:

During the height of the Senator KENNEDY campaign party it was mentioned to GARDNER by some of the hotel employees, identities not recalled, that bumper stickers were being passed out in the front of the lobby and in front of the Embassy Room which bore lettering about killing KENNEDY. The persons reportedly passing out these bumper stickers were described as being young people, "hippie type."

A hotel employee had furnished one of the stickers to GARDNER who said that it was a reddish orange in color with black lettering. He did not recall the exact caption on the bumper sticker but in substance the wording justified the killing of JOHN F. KENNEDY and did not pertain to Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. GARDNER said that he had turned this bumper sticker over to the Los Angeles Police Department after the shooting of Senator KENNEDY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

9/24/68

Date _____

Mr. ROBERT J. GINDROZ, Head Chef, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, advised that all of the employees in his department, which included all of the chefs and certain administrative employees in the hotel kitchen who were on duty on June 4, 1968, and June 5, 1968, were established employees who had worked with the hotel for some period of time. No employees had been hired recently or within a reasonable short period before the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

Mr. GINDROZ said that he was not in the area where Senator KENNEDY was shot at the time of the shooting and he had no recollection of having ever seen any suspicious person in the area before the shooting.

Mr. GINDROZ, following examination of photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and his family, stated he had no recollection of seeing any of the persons whose photographs were shown him at any time in or around the Ambassador Hotel or otherwise.

On 9/20/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/cyn Date dictated 9/23/68
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/10/68

1

On September 4, 1968, JACK GRUGAN, ^{Date} 3003 Leeward Avenue, Apartment 17, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 West Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, where he is a Security Guard.

GRUGAN advised he was previously interviewed by FBI Agents following the shooting of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He stated he was on duty the night of the shooting and his post was at the back parking lot of the hotel. He stated a Los Angeles Police Department Unit was writing parking tickets at the rear of the hotel when he learned about the shooting of Senator KENNEDY. He stated that he directed the Los Angeles Police Officers to the place of the shooting. He stated other Police Officers were at the scene and the only time he saw the person suspected of shooting Senator KENNEDY was when the police took the suspect out of the hotel to a waiting police car. At that time he got a short glimpse of the suspect.

GRUGAN stated he had not seen the suspect before and he could furnish no further information concerning the shooting.

On 9/4/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA FREDRICK E. BECKER/djm Date dictated 9/10/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date August 7, 1968

MARCOS ^{Calif.}HERNANDEZ advised that he recently returned from a trip to Mexico to see his relatives. He stated that he does reside at 4217 East Folsom Street, Los Angeles, but has never worked at the Ambassador Hotel. He stated that a man by the name of BENJAMIN SOLES (a friend of his uncle who resides with HERNANDEZ) visited from Mexico and got the job at the hotel. SOLES used his (HERNANDEZ) name and address as he was in the United States on a 48 hour visa but apparently decided to remain permanently.

HERNANDEZ stated that while he was in Mexico, he spoke to a girl friend of SOLES who stated that SOLES was employed in California. She would not give any additional information as she knew he was in the United States illegally.

HERNANDEZ further advised that he was employed at the Civic Center Body Shop, at Olympic and Flower Streets on the night of the assassination of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He could offer no information on the events of that evening.

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On 7/31/68 at Los Angeles, California File # LA 56-156

by SA TIMOTHY J. O'NEILL/rg Date dictated 8/2/68

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1

8/8/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WALTER JOACHIM was interviewed at his residence, apartment number 201, 2971 West 7th Street. He said he has been employed as a baker in the kitchen at the ^{Date} ~~Ambassador Hotel~~, Los Angeles, California, for about eight and one-half years. He worked the 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. shift in the hotel kitchen during the afternoon-evening of June 4, 1968. After he finished his work shift, he went home and completed his plans to go on his vacation.

Mr. JOACHIM said he was not at the Ambassador Hotel at the time that Senator ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY was shot. He said he has no personal knowledge regarding the incident.

Mr. JOACHIM said he has seen newspaper photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN. He said he has never seen this individual before and is positive he did not see him at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4, 1968. Mr. JOACHIM had no background information to furnish regarding SIRHAN SIRHAN.

On 8/6/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
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by SA JOHN F. MORRISON/jr Date dictated 8/6/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/28/681

EDITH JOHNSON, Auditor, Banquet Waiters and Busboys Department, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, advised following examination of records of waiters and busboys hired for and shortly before the Senator ROBERT KENNEDY campaign party, June 4, 1968, as follows:

(Donald D.) (Donald David)

All waiters and busboys used were either regular employees or extra employees who had been known to the hotel and used as extras from time to time over a long period. They all work out of Local 17, Waiters Union, 321 South Bixel Street, Los Angeles, California. There was one exception, DONALD EVANGELISTA, social security number [REDACTED] who was employed May 17, 1968.

Born June 29, 1943

Born in mass,

Colombia

On 8/12/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/vaa Date dictated 8/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/20/68

Mr. PATRICK MURPHY, Security Division, Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, said that he was acting Security Officer in charge in the absence of Chief Security Officer VARDIGNAN T. MOON who had recently replaced WILLIAM F. GARDNER, the Security Officer who was at the Ambassador Hotel at the time when Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot. Mr. GARDNER can now be reached at 221 North Belmont Street, phone 254-3256.

Concerning the number of extra employees hired at the time of the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party at the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968, and the morning of June 5, 1968, Mr. MURPHY said that there were a few extra employees hired in the Security Department as well as the Room Service Department and among the bartenders. Normally the hotel maintains a list of extra workers in the various departments who are called when needed. The various department heads would be aware of the identities of the extra employees hired during that affair or any extra or new employees hired a short period before the affair. MURPHY advised that Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY had refused to utilize any security from the hotel and consequently no specific security assignments were given and MURPHY himself had a roving assignment to look out for the hotel's interests. MURPHY spent a good part of the evening in the lobby and the area of the Embassy Room. There were thousands of people running in and out of the Embassy Room and when it became full, the firemen on duty would not let any additional people in the room until someone came out. When this happened before midnight, those people who could not get into the Embassy Room were going in through the kitchen area and were coming in through the back entrance of the Embassy Room which opened through the kitchen. There were two separate, swinging door entrances through the kitchen and there was no one challenging anyone coming in and out of the kitchen until so many people attempted to go through the kitchen that MURPHY took a stand in front of one of the swinging door entrances of the kitchen and began to keep people out.

On 8/12/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg Date dictated 8/14/68

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He did not know if there was similar coverage on the other kitchen entrances. He said that under the circumstances there was no need for the people to utilize any guises or pretenses in attempt to gain entrance to the kitchen.

Concerning the identity of firemen stationed at the Embassy Room on the evening of June 4, 1968, MURPHY said that Inspector CECIL LYNCH of the Los Angeles Fire Provention Bureau could furnish this information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 8/28/68

Mr. ROBERT SALCEDO in charge of the bartenders at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, advised that all the bartenders used at the hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968, and the morning of June 5, 1968, during the various campaign parties, including the party of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY, were all old employees or established extra employees. He had two bar boys who were fairly new but both had been at the end about eight months at the time. There had not been any bars set up in the Embassy Room for the KENNEDY party but they had been set up out in the lobby of the hotel.

On 9/12/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/vaa Date dictated 8/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/20/68

Mr. HANS PETER BIDSTRUP, Electrician, Maintenance Department of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, advised the following:

BIDSTRUP had previously been interviewed and had mentioned an unknown male Caucasian who had talked to him in the sound booth in the Venetian Room at the Ambassador Hotel about an hour before BIDSTRUP went off duty at 11 P.M. on June 4, 1968. BIDSTRUP said that after he had seen photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN in the newspapers and on television, he had thought that SIRHAN resembled a male Caucasian whom he had talked to in the sound booth on June 4, 1968.

Photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and his brothers were exhibited to BIDSTRUP. He said that the photograph of SIRHAN SIRHAN somewhat resembled this individual who had talked to him in the sound booth. This person was described as:

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Age | 22 |
| Height | 5'6" to 5'8" |
| Weight | 150'165 pounds |
| Hair | Dark |
| Complexion | Tan |

This person was carrying a glass with a drink in it and in the opinion of BIDSTRUP was slightly intoxicated. This person had asked BIDSTRUP "are you a Democrat?" He then made a lot of rambling statements, the text of which BIDSTRUP could not recall. No discussion or particular interest in Senator KENNEDY came up during this man's presence in the booth.

There was a Los Angeles Fireman on duty in the Venetian Room who was present when BIDSTRUP was talking to the unknown male. The name of this fireman was not recalled but BIDSTRUP described him as:

On 8/12/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg Date dictated 8/14/68

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Sex
Age
Hair

Male
About 30
Possibly blond

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 8/20/68

Inspector CECIL LYNCH, Fire Prevention, Public Assembly of the Los Angeles Fire Department, Second and Hill Streets, MA-86161, advised on August 12, 1968 that he would check the description of the firemen assigned to the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968, in an attempt to identify the fireman working in the Venetian Room at about 10 P.M. on June 4, 1968, described by HANS BIDSTRUP.

On August 13, 1968, Inspector LYNCH advised that the fireman in question was MICHAEL D. WHARTON, 27028 Spring Creek Road, Palos Verdes Peninsula. WHARTON is attached to the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Los Angeles Fire Department, 7166 West Manchester, Los Angeles, California 90045, phone 670-2875.

On 8/12/68 and 8/13/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/lg Date dictated 8/14/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/19/68

Mr. MICHAEL D. WHARTON, 27028 Spring Creek Road, Palos Verdes, California, who is employed in the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Los Angeles Fire Department, 7166 West Manchester Avenue, Los Angeles, California, telephone 670-2875, advised the following:

On the evening of June 4, 1968, Mr. WHARTON was on duty for the Fire Prevention Bureau in the Venetian Room at the Ambassador Hotel, during the Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY campaign party. Mr. WHARTON recalled that an electrician, apparently employed by the Ambassador Hotel, had been working in a sound booth in the Venetian Room around 10:00 - 11:00 P.M. on June 4, 1968. The name of this electrician, however, was not known to Mr. WHARTON and the latter had no recollection of observing any individual engaging this electrician in conversation in the sound booth around 10:00 P.M. on June 4, 1968.

Mr. WHARTON continued that he had no recollection of observing any individual in the Venetian Room on the evening of June 4, 1968 or at any time who resembled SIRHAN SIRHAN.

Photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN and members of his family were exhibited to Mr. WHARTON. He said that he had no knowledge of having observed these individuals at any time and specifically not observing anyone resembling any of them in the Venetian Room of the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968.

On 9/17/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA LESLIE F. WARREN/ecr Date dictated 9/18/68

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JOS/rem

ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS OF INDIVIDUALS
IN AREA OF SHOOTING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 9/5/68

Mr. WILLIAM BARRY, Assistant Vice-President, Security Department, Bankers Trust Company, 120 Broadway, New York, New York, stated that on June 5, 1968, in the ambulance taking Senator ROBERT KENNEDY from the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California, to the Central Receiving Hospital, were the following people:

In the front seat was the ambulance driver, in the middle was WILLIAM BARRY, and seated near the right door was WARREN ROGERS of "Look" Magazine.

In the back, with Senator KENNEDY, was his wife, ETHEL KENNEDY; his sister, JEAN SMITH; FRED DUTTON; and one ambulance attendant. FRED DUTTON was in the back, up front near the partition in back of the driver which would be at Senator KENNEDY's feet.

BARRY does not recall the exact location of the others in the back other than ETHEL KENNEDY and JEAN SMITH were near Senator KENNEDY.

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On 9/4/68 at New York, New York File # 44-1640
by SA FRANCIS L. CASHIN/lam Date dictated 9/4/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/26/68

Mr. FREDERICK GARY DUTTON, Attorney, 1225 19th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., advised he was an aide to Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY on his Presidential campaign, handling scheduling and travel arrangements.

He stated that Senator KENNEDY left his Ambassador Hotel suite at about 11:30 p. m. to make a victory talk to those gathered in the Embassy Room of the hotel. He said he accompanied KENNEDY from his suite, using a service elevator and passing through an area where KENNEDY was later shot. He said that en route to the Embassy Room he did not note any particular crowd in the area where the Senator was shot.

DUTTON said he was aware that a large crowd had gathered in the Embassy Room as well as in a lower ballroom for the expected appearance of Senator KENNEDY. He said these crowds had become rather loud and somewhat unruly awaiting the appearance of the Senator.

DUTTON stated he decided that upon the completion of Senator KENNEDY's victory talk, the Senator would go to the Colonial Room where the press had gathered, rather than to go down to the lower ballroom.

He said Senator KENNEDY left the podium at the rear of the platform and he followed the Senator, accompanied by Mrs. KENNEDY. DUTTON said he did not tell Senator KENNEDY that he was to proceed to the Colonial Room, but believed that BILL BARRY had done so, as BARRY was aware of the plan.

He stated he trailed Senator KENNEDY by about seven to eight feet when he heard a snapping noise, similar to the sound of fire-crackers. He said upon learning that Senator KENNEDY had been shot, he proceeded directly to KENNEDY, passing another man lying on the floor, later identified as PAUL SCHRAGE,

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On 6/26/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

WALTER B. SAVAGE
by SAs JOSEPH C. KELLY WBS:nlr Date dictated 6/26/68

an official of the United Auto Workers, who appeared to be seriously wounded. He said Senator KENNEDY was lying on the floor and he proceeded to open his collar and belt, removing his cuff links and shoes. L

He

DUTTON said he was joined by Mrs. KENNEDY and was not aware of any other activity in the area.

He said that he had not heard that SIRHAN SIRHAN, the suspected assassin, had ever been seen earlier or that SIRHAN had ever been evicted from any area by anyone. He said that a dark skinned individual, possibly an Arabian, had reportedly been asked to leave the podium. He said he had seen a photo in Time magazine in which this dark skinned male appears, however, upon viewing a photo of SIRHAN, he determined that SIRHAN is not identical to the dark-skinned individual in Time magazine.

DUTTON stated that he had never seen SIRHAN SIRHAN during his tour with Senator KENNEDY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/68

DUN GIFFORD, Legal Assistant to Senator EDWARD KENNEDY advised he served as State Co-ordinator in the presidential campaign of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

GIFFORD stated he was on the podium when Senator ROBERT KENNEDY made his victory talk to those gathered in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel.

GIFFORD said that following KENNEDY's talk, he was to leave the podium and go to his right, as he faced the audience, where PIERRE SALINGER had planned to talk to him. He said that KENNEDY, however, went to his left going in the direction of the Colonial Room.

GIFFORD believed that either FRED DUTTON or BILL BARRY might have decided on the route to be taken by Senator KENNEDY after his speech.

GIFFORD said he followed Senator KENNEDY and saw him, BARRY and DUTTON pass through a double door entrance in the kitchen area, GIFFORD trailing by about seventeen feet.

He stated he saw an individual, later identified as SIRHAN SIRHAN, step out from the right and he heard one shot, a short delay, then heard five more shots.

He said he cannot say he actually saw SIRHAN fire the shots, although he saw him with a gun. He said he then saw BARRY strike SIRHAN, and recalls SIRHAN was on the floor, a gun was on the floor, and SIRHAN, on his hands and knees, was moving toward the gun.

He stated ROOSEVELT GRIER, RAFAEL JOHNSON, GEORGE PLIMPTON and he held SIRHAN. He said JOHNSON held him by his lower body, GIFFORD having a hold on his head while all

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On 6/24/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

by SA JOSEPH C. KELLY and
SA WALTER B. SAVAGE JCK:slb Date dictated 7/1/68

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four of them were attempting to get the gun from SIRHAN's hand.

GIFFORD said that all four of them leaned across SIRHAN's body, and their combined hands grasped SIRHAN's gun hand. He said they removed their hands, one at a time, permitting GRIER to wrest the gun from SIRHAN. He said he believed GRIER, upon removing the gun, handed it to JOHNSON.

GIFFORD said SIRHAN did not say a word, at first appearing composed, and then appeared terrified as the crowd reacted to what had occurred.

GIFFORD stated he had never seen SIRHAN before the moment he saw him holding the gun. He said he recalled that JESSE UNRUH was standing on a steam table calling for the police and an ambulance.

He said Senator KENNEDY was lying on the floor and another man, also lay on the floor, both lying head to toe in a line, as he moved toward SIRHAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/26/68

JOSEPH D. GIORDANO, Office Manager, Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's Office, New Senate Office Building, advised that he was with the Senator during the Los Angeles Presidential Primary. He stated that when the Senator made his victory speech in the Embassy Room, Ambassador Hotel, June 4, 1968, he accompanied the Senator to the stage from KENNEDY's hotel suite.

After the Senator's speech, according to GIORDANO, KENNEDY departed the stage area by walking to the rear, through a hallway and into the kitchen. KENNEDY was making his way toward the Colonial Room and planned to talk with the "pencil-press." GIORDANO said he, GIORDANO, was just leaving the ballroom and heard balloons breaking. He was told KENNEDY had been shot. He hastened to the area and observed the Senator lying on the kitchen floor. About this time, he saw ROSIE GRIER, a professional football player, holding an individual with a gun.

GIORDANO took up a position at the Senator's side and assured him he would be alright and to remain quiet. When an ice pack arrived he held it to the Senator's head, and recalls seeing WILLIAM BARRY taking off his coat and placing it under the Senator's head. He stated when the ambulance arrived, he accompanied BARRY and the others to the hospital.

GIORDANO related that he does not recall seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN in the area prior to the shooting. He mentioned that at about 3:00 a.m., June 5, 1968, he recalled

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On 6/20/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

by SA PHILIP E. COGHLAN/bas/gja Date dictated 6/25/68

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seeing an unknown white female with a polka-dot dress talking to a police officer outside room number 507. He related this conversation lasted about three to five minutes. He only recalls the dress was white with large dots about the size of a silver dollar; he believes the dots were black or dark blue. GIORDANO feels that because of the time this may not be important but recalls the incident for what it might be worth.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/68

FRANK MANKIEWICZ, Press Secretary to Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY on his presidential campaign advised that he and PIERRE SALINGER had planned that Senator KENNEDY, following his victory speech in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, would then go to a room occupied by SALINGER which was to the right of Senator KENNEDY and then the Senator would go on to the Colonial Room.

He stated when Senator KENNEDY finished his talk he left the podium and proceeded toward the Colonial Room which was off to his left. He said he attached no significance to the fact Senator KENNEDY proceeded in the direction of the Colonial Room, as the routes taken by Senator KENNEDY were not definite and he often went directly into a crowd rather than through some easier and less crowded route as planned. He stated BILL BARRY or FRED DUTTON might possibly know why Senator KENNEDY proceeded to the Colonial Room after his talk.

MANKIEWICZ stated he trailed Senator KENNEDY by about ten to twelve feet as he moved toward the Colonial Room. He said as he passed through some double doors he heard a noise, similar to the sound of fire crackers, and thought it was inappropriate to be setting off fire crackers.

He stated he never saw SIRHAN SIRHAN, the suspected assassin of Senator KENNEDY, and as he moved forward he recalled seeing PAUL SCHRADE, a United Auto Workers official, lying on the floor about two feet from the body of Senator KENNEDY.

He said he then saw a "tableau" of arms in a struggle and a gun lying on a table. He said he could not see the head of the man the group was struggling with.

He estimated that fifteen people were between him and Senator KENNEDY when the shots were fired.

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On 6/24/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

by SA JOSEPH C. KELLY and
SA WALTER B. SAVAGE JCK:slb Date dictated 7/1/68

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He said a Mr. UECKER, an Ambassador Hotel employee, was leading Senator KENNEDY through the narrow passage way enroute to the Colonial Room.

He stated that Mrs. GEORGE PLIMPTON reportedly walked past the suspected assassin, SIRHAN SIRHAN, and saw a gun in SIRHAN's hand just before the shooting.

MANCIEWICZ stated as he trailed Senator KENNEDY on his route, he could not be of more assistance and thus could furnish no additional information.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date _____

1

8/7/68

Mr. WILLIAM NORRIS, Partner, Law Firm of Tuttle and Taylor, Suite 1300, 609 South Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, phone number 625-7831, advised that during the campaign of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY for the presidential nomination, he, NORRIS, acted as one of twelve State of California Vice Chairmen under Chairman JESSE UNRUH. In this capacity, he associated with the Senator and other members of the Senator's staff, and based on his, NORRIS' position, he furnished the following information with respect to his knowledge of the events of June 4, 1968, and June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel.

NORRIS advised that he went to the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 8:30 pm, and parked in the rear parking lot. He then entered the hotel and went to the KENNEDY press area, located in the Colonial Room, where he talked with various campaign personalities. At approximately 10:00 pm, he went upstairs to the KENNEDY suite, where he stayed for approximately 45 minutes. He then went downstairs to the Embassy Room, where he met several friends and took them to the KENNEDY suite to meet the Senator. Shortly thereafter, he returned to the Embassy Room and met other loyal supporters who also wanted to meet the Senator. Just as he was about to take them upstairs, he saw STEPHEN SMITH, the Senator's brother-in-law, so he delayed his trip upstairs as he realized that the Senator would appear in the Ballroom in a few minutes.

When the Senator arrived, he, NORRIS, remained in the press alcove of the Embassy Room, just to the west of the platform. After his speech, the Senator left the platform to the rear, through some curtains which provided access to the kitchen area and the main KENNEDY press room. He, NORRIS, attempted to follow from the Embassy press area and he heard several distinct rapid reports. He did not realize that anything out of the ordinary had occurred until he encountered a rush of people coming toward him from the ~~direction the Senator had gone, plus the look of stark~~ terror on the face of JUDY ROYER, the personal secretary

On 8/2/68 at Los Angeles California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA DAVID H. COOK/cld Date dictated 8/7/68

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for former Governor PAT BROWN, currently associated with the Beverly Hills Law Firm of BALL, HUNT, HART, and BROWN. ROYER was standing on a chair looking down the passageway toward the Senator and he assumes that she must have seen some of the actual shooting. There also were loud shouts and screaming in the air.

Shortly thereafter, many rumors were spread about concerning who was shot. He heard that STEVE SMITH, FRED DUTTON, and PAUL SCHRADE, had been shot as well as the Senator. The facts soon developed, however, that STEVE SMITH and FRED DUTTON had not been shot, for he saw both of them and they were uninjured. It was then that SMITH told him that the Senator had been shot, and that they should get all the people out of the Ballroom. He, NORRIS, emphatically concurred and suggested that SMITH himself make a public announcement, since such an announcement coming from a member of the KENNEDY family would have more meaning to those assembled in the Ballroom. Mr. SMITH then made the announcement to clear the Ballroom. NORRIS advised that he stayed at the hotel until approximately 3:00 am, helping to clear the area and talking to various friends.

He was shown a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and he stated that at no time during the evening did he see this individual.

He advised the security in the KENNEDY suite upstairs in the hotel was almost nonexistent, and that it was fairly loose early in the evening at the Embassy Room, but that as the evening wore on it became more difficult to gain access to that room. He stated that he bases this observation on his ability to gain access to those areas during the evening. No one checked his press pass in the KENNEDY suite. At approximately 10:30 pm, a guard was at the Embassy Room and the guard checked his pass, but later on at approximately 11:00 pm, the guard denied him access to the room, so he entered it through another back entrance.

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With regard to the plan for the protection of Senator KENNEDY while the Senator was in the State of California, he advised that VICTOR PALMIERI, member of the President's Commission On Crime, who was concerned over the safety of the Senator during his campaign, discussed this with STEPHEN SMITH in his, NORRIS', presence on one of the Senator's earlier trips to California. PALMIERI suggested that stringent security be provided for the Senator, but SMITH told PALMIERI "We will just have to take our chances".

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/28/68

1

ADAM WALINSKY, Legislative Assistant in Senate, and speech writer for the late Senator ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY, was interviewed in Room 3327, New Senate Office Building. He said he traveled with KENNEDY in the Oregon and California primary campaigns. During the evening of June 4, 1968, WALINSKY and Mrs. WALINSKY had a room in the fifth floor KENNEDY Suite at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California. WALINSKY congratulated Senator KENNEDY upon winning the primary in California. WALINSKY remained in the suite to watch the television broadcast of KENNEDY's victory speech in the Embassy Room. After KENNEDY completed the speech, WALINSKY stood in the doorway of the KENNEDY suite talking as CAROL WELCH told WALINSKY, "PIERRE just called and something is wrong with the Senator. You had better go down and see what is the matter". WALINSKY said he walked into the hall with SWANIE VON HEINSCHEL and was still talking with VON HEINSCHEL when CAROL said, "There really is something wrong with the Senator." WALINSKY said CAROL gave him a push and said, "Get going". WALINSKY then rushed down the stairs and turned and left. There were a lot of people coming out of the room. WALINSKY pushed through and got to the door of the Colonial Room. A hotel security guard in front of the door would not let WALINSKY in, but a press representative spoke to the guard and he let WALINSKY through.

WALINSKY said he saw Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor and KENNEDY's wife, ETHEL, was bending over him. WALINSKY saw four or five policemen take SIRHAN SIRHAN out. WALINSKY said he had never seen SIRHAN before.

On 6/28/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

SA PHILIP E. COGHLAN and - 35 -
by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND/RDA Date dictated 6/28/68

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