

"Whether Sirhan's case fit anywhere onto this still indeterminate scale of responsibility was a subtle matter of degree for 12 jurors to calculate and agree upon unanimously."

The newspaper also claimed that "four other persons" besides the family "suffered in varying degrees...These were two psychologists and two psychiatrists who absorbed a good deal of hard cross-examination."

As for Sirhan's fate, the Times noted:

"Whatever penalty the jury decides for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan it could be months or even years before his future is really certain.

"If they (the jury) decree death, Superior Judge Walker could, on his own authority, commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

"Barring that, appeal of a death sentence is automatic anyway, under California law.

"Defense attorney Cooper estimated Thursday, after the verdict of first-degree murder in the death of Robert F. Kennedy, that it would be at least one year before Sirhan's appeal -- if there is one -- would be resolved.

"He said he planned to file a notice of appeal on the verdict, but indicated he did not know whether he would press an appeal immediately.

"'Partly,' he added, 'it depends on whether someone comes up with some money to conduct a defense.' Cooper has defended Sirhan thus far without fee."

Concerning formal sentencing by the judge, the newspaper indicated this is "expected to be held about three weeks after the jury

returns a verdict in the penalty phase."

Following the verdict, a press conference was held and Compton related, according to the Times, that "the circumstances of the murder and the conduct of Sirhan B. Sirhan were the major contributing factors in his conviction."

Flanked by his two fellow prosecutors, Compton termed the jury's decision "appropriate" and said it "expressed the will of the community."

Continued the newspaper's account:

"Asked the penalty the prosecution will seek at that phase of the trial, Compton said:

"'I don't think it appropriate for me to express what we think would be the appropriate penalty.'

"He explained that 'this is a unique case without precedent' and that it should be left to a jury to decide what should be the 'appropriate penalty.'

"...he made it plain that Howard, who will deliver the prosecution's argument to the jury, will emphasize those facts which point to one punishment -- presumably the death penalty.

"Howard, who has been assigned to the case since moments after the shooting, and who has lost 35 pounds since the trial began in January, said the thrust of his summation will be that the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was a 'political assassination' and that the jury must decide what should be the proper punishment for such an act.

more --

"He hinted that he will hammer home to the jury what he described as Sirhan's lack of remorse.

"He intends to remind the panel that while the electorate went to the polls last June 5, Sirhan went to a pistol range. To be fair, Howard said, he will say all he can in Sirhan's favor, but, he added, 'that will be very little.'

"Fitts, who carried the brunt of the prosecution's presentation in court, remained silent during the press conference, but he said later that he was 'relieved' when he heard the verdict.

"Compton who had asked the jury to disregard the trial testimony of psychiatrists, said he did not think the verdict necessarily was a repudiation of such testimony in general.

"Rather, he said, in this case the jury 'did not accept the diagnosis of the psychiatrists.'

"Compton commended both Fitts and Howard saying 'this whole community owes a debt of gratitude to them for the work they performed on this case.'

"He also complimented the three defense attorneys, for their behavior during the trial.

"Compton, Howard and Fitts have all been through death penalty trials before, Compton having obtained seven death verdicts, Fitts four and Howard, who has spent much of his career as a prosecutor handling major fraud cases, one.

"However, with all their experience, there has never been a Sirhan case -- a political assassination which in itself, as Howard said, affects 'our democratic processes.'"

Meanwhile, Cooper expressed disappointment at the verdict, and Parsons said, "I feel very bad about it. We have a sick man and the psychiatric evidence was overwhelming."

The third defense attorney, Emile Zola Berman, said in New York: "I just regret that the sciences of psychology and psychiatry are held in such low esteem."

Reported the Times:

"Asked if Sirhan fully realized the import of the outcome, Cooper answered: 'Of course.'"

"When asked if there had been judicial errors during the lengthy proceedings, he (Cooper) replied that he felt so."

"Cooper mentioned a matter that will come before the Court of Appeals on Friday, that of Lincoln High School teacher Sal Castro and 12 other defendants, accused of felony conspiracy for their roles in student walkouts last year."

"If the court upholds the defense position that the Grand Jury was improperly constituted -- favoring certain segments of the population -- then the Sirhan case would have to be retried, Cooper said."

(Sirhan was indicted by the 23-member Los Angeles County Grand Jury several days after the shooting).

"In response to a question, the attorney said Sirhan has not indicated that he wants any change of lawyers."

"Cooper said he had no regrets about the course pursued by the defense.

"'I don't know of any other way we could have tried it,' he stated. 'We did the best we could and we lost. That's all.'"

Meanwhile, a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) published United Press International story from Jerusalem quoting Sirhan's father that he (the father) "was even more adamant than ever that his son had committed an act of political courage and even of necessity" in the shooting.

Continued the UPI story:

"Something had to be done 'to bring to the attention of the United States people the wrongness of America's support of Israel,' Sirhan told newsmen.

"Many of the Arab residents of Taibeh and through the occupied West Bank area agreed with Sirhan. The Arabs view the young Jordanian as a hero and a martyr for the Arabs and Palestinian cause.

"Veteran political observers in Beirut said the conviction of Sirhan was expected to provoke a wave of popular protest in the Arab world.

"Although the long trial got little more than routine attention in the Arab press, interest in his case has been sparked recently by the appearance in Arab capitals of posters hailing Sirhan as a hero of Palestine.

"The well-printed posters in black and red are issued by the Palestine Liberation Organization and show a drawing of Sirhan with the words, 'I did it for my country.'"

VIA TELETYPE

APR 25 1969

ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

WASH DC --9--

3-58PM URGENT 4-25-69 NJZ

TO DIRECTOR (62-587) PLAINTEXT

FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156)

KENSALT.

RELATEL APRIL TWENTY THREE LAST.

REFERENCED TELETYPE ADVISED NEXT COURT APPEARANCE FOR  
SIRHAN WAS TO BE MAY FOURTEEN NEXT.

ATTORNEYS FOR SIRHAN APPEARED BEFORE SUPERIOR COURT  
JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER TODAY AND REQUESTED CONTINUANCE UNTIL  
MAY TWENTY ONE NEXT. REQUEST WAS GRANTED AT WHICH TIME  
SENTENCING OF SIRHAN WILL TAKE PLACE.

LOS ANGELES WILL FOLLOW AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END

REM FBI WAS DC

REC 107

10 APR 29 1969

MAY 2 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 23, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF SENATOR  
ROBERT F. KENNEDY  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. Shroder  
1 - Mr. Schutz  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Bishop

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen ☒ \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Los Angeles advised at 2:35 p. m. Eastern Standard Time that the jury in the Sirhan trial has just returned the death penalty.

HAS:emf  
(8)

SI-100

REC-20

COPY MADE FOR MR. TOLSON

3 APR 28 1969

ENCLOSURE

56 MAY 9 1969

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-107

ADD SIRHAN, LOS ANGELES

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER WILL FORMALLY PRONOUNCE  
SENTENCE IN ABOUT THREE WEEKS.

THEN THE 25-YEAR-OLD PALESTINIAN ARAB IMMIGRANT WILL BE MOVED UNDER  
HEAVY GUARD EITHER TO DEATH ROW IN SAN QUENTIN PRISON OR THE PRISON  
HOSPITAL AT VACAVILLE, CALIF.

JUDGE WALKER SET MAY 14 FOR ARGUMENTS FOR A NEW TRIAL.

THE CALIFORNIA STATE SUPREME COURT WILL AUTOMATICALLY REVIEW THE  
SENTENCE.

IF IT IS UPHELD, CHIEF DEFENSE LAWYER GRANT B. COOPER SAID HE WOULD  
APPEAL ALL THE WAY TO THE U.S. SUPREME COURT SEEKING A NEW TRIAL.

4/23--EG243PES



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

UPI-106  
 (SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN *B.* SIRHAN WAS ORDERED TODAY TO PAY WITH HIS LIFE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY BUT APPEALS TO HIGHER COURTS MAY SPARE HIM FROM THE GAS CHAMBER INDEFINITELY.

THE JURY WHICH CONVICTED SIRHAN OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER IN THE SLAYING OF THE SENATOR DURING KENNEDY'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CAMPAIGN LAST JUNE DIRECTS THAT THE PUNISHMENT SHOULD BE DEATH.

WHEN THE VERDICT WAS ANNOUNCED SIRHAN CHEWED HARD ON A WAD OF GUM AND STARED STRAIGHT AHEAD. HE WAS WEARING LIGHT BLUE SHIRT AND DARK SLACKS AND HIS SKIN LOOKED VERY SALLOW.

4/23--EG241PES

62-587-1184

VIA TELETYPE

APR 23 1969

ENCIPHERED

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASH DC --3--

1-59PM URGENT 4-23-69 NJZ

TO DIRECTOR (62-587) PLAINTEXT

FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)

KENSALT

Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

RELATEL APRIL TWENTY TWO LAST.

JURY IN TRIAL OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, LOS ANGELES COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT, TODAY RETURNED DEATH VERDICT FOR SIRHAN.

FURTHER ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE MAY FOURTEEN NEXT,

AT WHICH TIME MOTIONS FOR NEW TRIAL WILL BE MADE AND SENTENCES WILL BE IMPOSED BY COURT CONCERNING FIVE ADDITIONAL COUNTS OF THE INDICTMENT.

END

XRDR

FBI WASH DC

REC-33

62-587-1185

2 APR 29 1969

See memo Rosen to  
DeLoach 4/23/69.  
HSS

6-1/69

55 MAY 2 1969

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

CC-MR. ROSEN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

April 29, 1969

REC-39

62-587-1186

Mr. Robert Blair ~~Kaiser~~  
2762 Woodshire  
Hollywood, California 90028

Dear Mr. Kaiser:

Your letter of April 19, 1969, has been received, and I appreciate the interest which prompted you to write.

In reference to your inquiry, the files of the FBI are confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice, and it will not be possible to furnish the information regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan you desire.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

MAILED 22

APR 29 1969

COMM-FBI

1 - Los Angeles (Enclosure)

NOTE: Bufiles reflect that Kaiser had obtained rights to prepare a book on Sirhan and that part of the royalties would be paid to Sirhan's lawyers. Kaiser was identified as a former Time Magazine correspondent in Europe.

FCS:gms

(5)

*gms*

56 MAY 1969

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

April 19, 1969

J. Edgar Hoover  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am a former Time and Life correspondent, the author of a book on Pope John, and a free lance writer currently engaged in writing a book on the assassination of Robert Kennedy.

I have reason to believe that I am writing the book on the assassination because, to get the facts I needed, I managed to attain a unique position: I became an investigator for the defense.

In that role, it became necessary for me to engage in long interviews with Sirhan, to work in close cooperation with the psychologists and psychiatrists in the case, and, of course, with the lawyers. None of these people, I am happy to say, tried to "concoct" a defense; they probably prejudged the case a little bit, as most of the nation did, with the preliminary notion that Sirhan had to be nutty to kill a Kennedy in cold blood in the middle of a crowded hotel pantry and leave a notebook behind saying he intended to do it. The lawyers and the doctors were interested in getting to that portion of the truth they could use in the defense of Sirhan and then in presenting that truth fairly before judge and jury. I was happy to help them in that because at the same time I was helping myself gather material for my book.

On order to write the best possible book, however, I feel I should get other points of view. I would like the FBI to consider helping me with information and some evaluation.

1) Information: I'd like to know how the FBI went into action, who got the word first, where you were when the news came, what orders you gave, who carried them out and how. It is a part of the story which I imagine the F.B.I. would not want me to overlook.

2) Evaluation: I wonder what your investigators think about certain clues which point toward a conspiracy. I am not entirely convinced that Sirhan wasn't put up to this by someone else and I have a few good reasons why I think so. Since I have talked to Sirhan and your people haven't, I assume my reasons might bear some examination. Maybe the FBI has checked out certain areas. If so, fine. I'd like to know, if not for publication, at least for background, so I do not ~~make~~ imply that there is a need for "further investigation" into what has already been well investigated.

Sincerely,

Robert Blair Kaiser

(213) 467-9546

ROBERT B. KAISER  
2762 Woodshire  
Hollywood, Calif. 90028

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

34 APR 23 1969

EXP. PROC.

REC-39

62-587-1186

let to  
Mr. Kaiser  
4-29-69  
FCS: gmo

17 APR 23 1969



FBI

Date: 4/24/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587) **REC-64**

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

SUBJECT: KENSALT

Classified by SPT6 BTP/102  
Declassify on: OADR  
C.N. 255,315  
9-8-86

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE

Re Los Angeles airtel 3/4/69.

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 2/18/2025

Enclosed for the Bureau are 12 copies of a Letterhead Memorandum (LHM) in response to request set forth in memorandum to the Bureau from RICHARD G. KLEINDIENST, Deputy Attorney General, dated 2/25/69, regarding the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY on 6/5/68.

LHM is classified Confidential since disclosure of information attributed to sources one and two could reasonably result in the identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof.

Source one is LA 4688-S.

Source two is MM 1070-S\*

The Bureau is aware that LA 4688-S is being made available to the Department in cases relating to petitions to the Subversive Activities Control Board under provisions of the Internal Security Act, as amended. From investigation in this matter as well as the individual investigations of

2 - Bureau (Enc. 12)  
2 - Los Angeles

TJA/gja  
(4)

100-932(9+1) LHM

XEROX  
MAY 7 1969

Copy to ISD, Crim. Div.  
by routing slip for SP ASST. to AG,  
Wm. S. Lynch  
date 5/2/69  
by afmc/jmt

15 MAY 2 1969

Approved: 75

Sent Deleted Copy Sent Per

55 MAY 13 1969

Special Agent in Charge

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

by Letter and Bernard Fensterwald  
for full request  
7/31/73

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-457991-150372

LA 56-156

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

the members of the Student Club, SCDGP, it is not felt that any communist conspiracy existed in the relationship between SIRHAN SIRHAN, WALTER CROWE, and the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. Interview of the members of this CP club would be of little or no value and may well jeopardize the effectiveness of LA 4688-S in his testimony before the SACB, especially when one of the individuals concerning whom he will testify against is a member of this club, namely CLIFFORD FRIED.

- 2 -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

April 24, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:  
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE  
DATE 2/18/2025

Reference is made to memorandum of Deputy Attorney General Richard G. Kleindienst dated February 25, 1969, regarding the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, on June 5, 1968.

On March 3, 1969, Deputy Chief Robert Houghton, Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) advised that the LAPD, on the basis of the polygraph examination and from a review of reports of the FBI in the captioned matter, concluded that Thomas Good had no connection with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. Chief Houghton stated that Walter Crowe had fully cooperated in interviews conducted by the LAPD in the captioned matter.

In order to clarify the inconsistencies arising out of interviews with Walter Crowe and his mother, Mrs. Margaret Crowe, and to identify the two unknown individuals who were with Walter Crowe and Sirhan Bishara Sirhan during the evening of May 2, 1968, Walter Crowe was interviewed. The results of this interview follow.

~~Declassified~~  
11/19/76 GTT

DECLASSIFIED BY SP6 BJA/142  
ON 9-8-86

C.N. 255, 315

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

XEROX  
MAY 7 1969

62-587-1187

ENCLOSURE



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

1

Date 4/18/69

WALTER S. CROWE was interviewed regarding his meeting with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN on May 2, 1968. CROWE stated that his mother, Mrs. MARGARET CROWE, worked at the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Lake Avenue, Pasadena, California, and that SIRHAN's mother also worked at this church. SIRHAN would often bring his mother to work and Mrs. CROWE would see SIRHAN. Prior to May 2, 1968, Mrs. CROWE mentioned to WALTER CROWE that she had talked with either SIRHAN or Mrs. MARY SIRHAN, who stated that SIRHAN would like to see him. ✓

WALTER CROWE continued that at his mother's suggestion, he phoned SIRHAN and made a date to see him. During the evening of May 2, 1968, SIRHAN, driving his brother's Volkswagen, came to the CROWE residence, picked up CROWE, and the two proceeded to Bob's Restaurant on Colorado Boulevard, in Pasadena, California. ✓

CROWE and SIRHAN were sitting at the counter at the restaurant and were later joined by two of SIRHAN's friends. CROWE stated he did not know the identity of these two people at the time he was interviewed by the Los Angeles Police Department; however, he was informed later that one of the two was IVAN GARCIA, a former fellow student with CROWE at Pasadena City College, Pasadena, with whom he had classes. CROWE stated GARCIA was not a close associate of his and during the interim three year period since he left Pasadena City College and attended the University of California at Los Angeles, he had not seen GARCIA and had completely forgotten him. U

WALTER CROWE stated that THOMAS GOOD was not with the afore mentioned group of four during the evening of May 2, 1968. ✓

CROWE was asked to identify the individuals mentioned by him to the Los Angeles Police Department, namely. ✓

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

On 4/17/69 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA THEODORE J. A'HEARN/TJA/rj Date dictated 4/18/69

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.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2  
LA 56-156

*Calif.*  
~~LOU BENNETT, WALTER HAHN, and GORDON WEAR.~~ CROWE stated that he does not know these individuals and cannot recall why he mentioned these names during interview with the police officers. (It is to be noted that ~~GORDON WEIR~~ is a well known Los Angeles television weather forecaster. It is to be noted that ~~KENNETH HAHN~~ is a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors).

During interview, CROWE volunteered that he no longer is a member of the Communist Party, having dropped all political activities upon graduating from the University of California at Los Angeles. He said he is no longer a political personage.

-3-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~1Date 4/28/69

IVAN GARCIA, 452 North Hill Street, telephone 795-4771, advised he is presently employed as a computer operator at Can, Inc., 4949 Earle Street, Rosemead, California.

GARCIA stated that he has been a personal friend of SIRHAN SIRHAN for a number of years, having met SIRHAN while they were both students at Pasadena City College (PCC). GARCIA related that during the early part of May 1968, he was at Bob's Restaurant located on Colorado Avenue, across the street from PCC, with JOE MARCOVECCHIO having a cup of coffee, at which time they met SIRHAN, who was with an individual introduced by SIRHAN to be WALTER CROWE a student at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

This meeting took place during the early evening hours and the four of them sat at Bob's for a relatively short period of time. They left and went to the Highlife Bar, which is located on Colorado Avenue near Allen Street in Pasadena, where they each had several beers. While at the Highlife, which is a topless bar, the conversation generally concerned girls and race horses.

GARCIA stated that during the meeting at Bob's and at the Highlife, politics were not discussed and the name of the late Senator ROBERT KENNEDY was not mentioned. GARCIA stated that he does not know WALTER CROWE and is not acquainted with CROWE's political philosophy. GARCIA stated he has absolutely no information that would indicate that SIRHAN was interested in the Communist Party.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 4/18/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA RICHARD K. SCHWAB and  
SA ALBERT A. HUSTEDT/AAH/rj Date dictated 4/23/69

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

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Date 4/18/69

~~JOSEPH MARCOVECCHIO~~ presently resides at 110 North San Marino Avenue, San Gabriel, California. He is a student at California State College, Los Angeles, and is employed part-time as a technician in the Foreign Language Department, Pasadena City College. This will record a reinterview with him for his recollection of a specific meeting with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN on May 2, 1968. U

MARCOVECCHIO recalled the meeting principally because of the fact that it ended in a trip to the "Hi Life", a local bar which features topless dancers. MARCOVECCHIO made it quite explicit that he has a strong and abiding interest in "broads", which he feels is very much in keeping with his Latin background (Argentina). U

MARCOVECCHIO recalled the incident of his meeting with SIRHAN on May 2, 1968, as follows: U

It was early in the evening, when MARCOVECCHIO and a close personal friend, IVAN GARCIA, were leaving Pasadena City College following a late afternoon class. They decided to stop at Bob's Restaurant, which adjoins the campus at Pasadena City College, for a cup of coffee. In the restaurant, they met SIRHAN with another individual who was introduced to them as WALTER CROWE. MARCOVECCHIO has no clear recollection of CROWE except that he was from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) and did not talk very much. What conversation there was, MARCOVECCHIO said, was "broads". "We never talked politics". The conversation lead to a trip to the "Hi Life", a beer parlor a block away. Here, they sat and had a couple of pitchers of beer. MARCOVECCHIO does not recall that the beer caused CROWE to say anything more nor did it change the level or focus of the conversation. U

After an hour or so of this, MARCOVECCHIO and IVAN GARCIA left together in MARCOVECCHIO's car. MARCOVECCHIO said he has never seen CROWE again and saw SIRHAN once again later at Pasadena City College on the date of the assassination of Senator KENNEDY, however, he did not see him to speak to. U

-5-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 4/18/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA J. ROBERT SULLIVAN and  
SA PHILIP J. REILLY/PJR/lmt Date dictated 4/18/69

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MARCOVECCHIO said that he is almost positive that there was no other person present in the group other than those he met described above. U

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Regarding the mutual friends of Crowe and Sirhan, namely Charles Krill, Lou Bennett, Walter Hahn, and Gordon Wear, there follows the results of interview with Chester Krill, who describes himself as having known both Sirhan and Crowe. U

Crowe during interview advised that he does not know Bennett, Hahn, or Wear and did not know why he had mentioned these names during interview with the LAPD. U

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 3/12/69*B. Approx 1947*

*X*  
CHESTER CRILL, age 22, a recording musician who resides at 397 East Villa, Pasadena, California, furnished the following information concerning his association with SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WALTER S. CROWE, Jr., and THOMAS GOOD.

CRILL said he has known CROWE and SIRHAN since they were seniors at Elliott Junior High School in Pasadena and later during high school years and at Pasadena City College.

During the early years of their association, CRILL lived at 1637 North Holliston, WALTER CROWE lived in the immediate neighborhood and SIRHAN lived about one-half mile away. CROWE was the first to pick up an association with SIRHAN because he was interested in Arabic. CRILL's mother wanted him to make friends with SIRHAN because he was a foreigner and she thought he might be interested in attending their church (The Bressie Church of the Nazarene) in Pasadena.

CRILL attended Pasadena High School whereas SIRHAN attended Muir High School so he did not see him too often during high school years but did see him again at Pasadena City College in 1965.

CRILL visited in the SIRHAN home occasionally but SIRHAN did not like having people such as CROWE and another boy named TOM GOOD at his home because they were radical leftist types. Mrs. MARY SIRHAN did not seem to like CRILL too well and as CRILL said, "SIRHAN was never enthusiastic about me."

Through CRILL'S efforts SIRHAN would occasionally come to the Bressie Nazarene Church during his high school years.

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On 3/12/69 at Pasadena, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by *PR* SA PHILIP J. REILLY/rse Date dictated 3/12/69

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CROWE took some pleasure in teasing SIRHAN and once told SIRHAN that CRILL was Jewish. This infuriated SIRHAN and he stopped speaking to CRILL for a period of time until someone told him he had been put on.

As they grew older, CROWE and GOOD became more radical and began to drink. CROWE tried to get CRILL to attend some Du Bois Club parties in Highland Park area and CRILL did attend two but does not recall SIRHAN going to these.

During the high school period, SIRHAN began to work, at first part time and then full time. He also took to drinking with CROWE and others during this period. CRILL broke off relations with CROWE completely when CROWE became intoxicated on one occasion and began making homosexual advances at CRILL.

CRILL said he did not see much of SIRHAN through high school but saw him again in 1965 at Pasadena City College. He said that SIRHAN "was always hanging around the lounge".

CRILL said he was amazed when he heard the news of SIRHAN having mortally wounded Senator ROBERT KENNEDY. He feels certain that he was drunk at the time. He mentioned that SIRHAN did not show the effects of alcohol as other persons did. He became quieter when he had been drinking, CRILL said.

CRILL said it is his feeling that all three persons, SIRHAN, WALTER CROWE and TOM GOOD, were and possibly still are, seriously emotionally disturbed.

CRILL said the names of LOU BENNETT, WALTER HAHN and GORDON WEAR or WEIR, are not familiar to him as friends of SIRHAN or of WALTER CROWE. CRILL indicated that he had known CROWE for ten years and parted friendship with him in 1965.

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CRILL said he had no doubt that CROWE may have tried to influence SIRHAN along Communist Party lines but doubts that he was successful. According to CRILL, CROWE used SIRHAN primarily to learn Arabic and made him the butt of many jibes in some wild political discussions. According to CRILL, CROWE was stealing whiskey from his father during high school and the father, being a heavy drinker, never noticed the loss. GOOD, CRILL said, was another strange type. He read, "all the time", and used to read and drink till he became completely intoxicated. SIRHAN would drink quite a bit with them, CRILL said, but it did not have a noticeable effect on him.

None of this group, CRILL said, with the exception of himself, were at all interested in girls during this period. This, plus their drinking and CROWE's latent homosexual tendencies made him pull away from this group entirely.

CRILL said he did not believe that WALTER CROWE exercised any real influence over SIRHAN insofar as his political thinking was concerned. According to CRILL, SIRHAN was inflexible in his political philosophy and it consisted principally in an unreasonable hatred for Jewish people.

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

Source one, who is a friend of Walter Crowe, and who was an associate of his at Pasadena City College (PCC) and at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) advised on April 14, 1969, that Crowe's "friend Bill, the guy that lives at the co-op" is Bill Divale. According to this source, Divale attended PCC with Crowe, is a current member of the Communist Party (CP) and was a member of the CP with Crowe when both were attending UCLA. Source one advised that Crowe terminated CP membership in approximately early fall of 1968.

Source one who is generally knowledgeable of the membership of youth in the Southern California District Communist Party (SCDCP), advised on April 14, 1968, that he has never known Ivan Garcia, Joseph Marcovecchio or Chester Krill to be members of the CP.

The files of the Los Angeles FBI Division contain no information regarding Garcia and Marcovecchio other than that pertaining to captioned matter.

Source one advised on June 24, 1968, that the following individuals were members of the Student Club, SCDCP:

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- Judy Arraj, SI
- James Berland, SE
- Walter Crowe, SI
- William Divale, SI
- Clifford Fried, SI
- Lucille Fried, SI
- Susan Romo, SI
- Judith Schub, SI
- Jo Wilkinson, SI

There is no information in the files of the Los Angeles FBI Division indicating that other than Walter Crowe, none of the members of the Student Club, SCDCP, were

SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

acquainted with or had any information regarding Sirhan Bishara Sirhan prior to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy on June 5, 1968.

Source one furnished the following autobiographical sketch of Walter Crowe.

Walter Crowe: A Sketch

I am writing this sketch with my application for Graduate School at UCLA for the coming fall of 1969 in mind. What follows is therefore especially oriented towards explaining the academic side of my personality.

I am a history major. My main interests lie in the direction of modern European history. I am particularly interested in intellectual history, with a focus on the development of socialist movements and ideas. This little autobiography will try to underline those parts of my background which have helped to mature these interests. I hope that any reader of these words would be able to recommend, with reasonable certainty, that I should be given my chance in graduate history.

I was born in Pasadena, California on August 3rd, 1945, at the end of the Second World War and the beginning of the Cold War. My family was native Californian and provincial. I was never even out of the state, or even out of the southland more than a dozen times until after my twenty-first birthday. Not that travel is really necessary for those living in God's own country, Southern California.

Neither of my parents went to college. Actually, this is no longer true, my mother just graduated last month from a small private college at the age of 54. To understand my parents, you must remember that they were young and poor during the depression. That fact is what makes them tick. Their

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universe is defined in terms of economic security, upper-middle respectability and affluence. I have a thirty year old sister and a twelve year old brother. My parents raised children and devoted their lives to these values.

My father was born in Porterville, California--a real country town whose economy depended on the surrounding orange groves and which was advertised in a 1909 brochure as: "the only city in California where the Japanese have not been allowed to gain a foothold. The result is that wages have always been at the top price."

My father grew up to admire the then dying economically independent middle class. It was natural for him to see economic independence and hard work as the keys to success and happiness. He wanted to be his own boss, and swallowed the illusion, along with many other post-war Americans (viewing as they did, the boom and the growing war economy), that it is still possible to make it as an "independent" entrepreneur. He borrowed to the hilt and launched his own "fine pitch" instrument gear company--the family headache, which survived twenty years. Our entire family life orbited around the business, its survival and ups and downs.

My home situation provided me with some basis for a good education. It gave me prerequisites for the crystallization, later, of my perception of college, rather than, say, the armed forces, an early job, marriage out of high school and "raising a family", as the most meaningful of the many possibilities and alternatives at my disposal.

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What were the things that so influenced me? First of all were the expectations--I was expected to go to college and become some sort of an engineer or scientist. A second factor were the books in our house and the fact that regular reading did go on there, so that the television didn't have a complete monopoly on our mental life. Our library contained such books as: The Encyclopaedia Britannica, The World Book Encyclopedia, a set of Historical Tales, a set of the works of Washington Irving, etc.

I am sure that I identified with the past from an early age. Every culture idealizes its history as something sacred--when "men were really men" etc. Our family was never really religious. Religion was just not discussed or otherwise a real matter of concern. Both my parents had a knowledge of western history. I remember my father reading Irving's Life of George Washington and The Voyages of Christopher Columbus. He used this kind of history the way some people fall back on the Bible. What Washington had done in such and such a situation provided a moral, which might somehow be applied to the running of the business.

On one side of the family were my grandparents' stories about growing up in California in the last century. On the other side were my grandmother's wild, senile tales of her life as a nurse during the building of the Panama Canal. I believe that the past represented security to me, as something more agreeable than the present, because it seemed ideal rather than mundane.

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When I was in grade school, I remember some of my friends being paid by their parents to read so many books and for getting high grades. I considered most of my friends to be intelligent and looked up to them for getting better grades than me. Yet in almost every case, once they outgrew the age when parental pressure could still be effective, their grades fell down and they went straight to work after high school. I realize now that I did have other motivations besides parental pressure. My ego was bound up, from an early age, with what went on in the classroom. I was the smallest boy in my classes right up through high school. I had a bad right eye and wore glasses from the first grade on. As a result, I felt somewhat physically inadequate and soon gave up trying to compete with my peers in sports. As a compensation, I became pedantic in the classroom, and enjoyed showing off my brains.

I was mainly interested in two things up to high school: science and history. A few of the books I remember going through in elementary school illustrate this. I did a lot of reading from the Landmark historical series for children. I also particularly remember a couple of other children's pictorial histories--one of France and one of England. On the scientific side, I was accumulating a chemistry laboratory, which did not stop growing until I was in high school. After Sputnik, I was swept up in the amateur rocketry fad, and also dug making small backyard hot air balloons. In junior high school, I and my friends were typical "boy inventors", as the names of some of my books indicate. There was a four volume 1915 edition of

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The Boy Mechanic which contained plans for building your own hang-glider, which I always dreamed of constructing. There was also The Boy Electrician and The Boy Engineer, both written in the thirties, but still in print. My friends and I built two illegal Marconi type spark-gap transmitters, using model-A ignition coils. We built a good kiln and a screw type printing press, which would not, however, print clearly.

What I have described here is growth--my growth. These books and experiments and inventions attest to my motivation to inquire. They represent archeological evidence, debris below the surface, upon which my adult personality is being constructed. Somewhere in high school I lost interest in science. My mood, however, was still one of inquiry. But my feelings were beginning to change--there was a greater sense of disappointment and hostility to my surroundings, which is perhaps why I gave up science, supposedly man's great hope, for politics; political enquiry and criticism.

Adolescence is supposed to be a time of troubles for everyone, and mine was certainly that for me. I wish I could attribute all this "growth" to some positive aspect of my personality, such as "character." But I believe that it was really the result of a lot of insecurity about not being able to really fit the teenage image. High school and junior high school appeared to me like a giant "in-group" composed of people who were hustling or were trying to hustle campus social circles for two things: women and prestige. The people who I associated with generally didn't give a hell about the

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class "prom", rented the whole football team and brass President and were trying to tune-out "high school U.S.A." as fast as possible.

Among the new friends that I made in my first year of high school were several politically aware liberals, who influenced me strongly. That was the year of the 1960 Presidential election, which was my first real political experience. I became acquainted with all the liberal magazines--New Republic, Nation, Frontier, Commentary, etc. The main source of this new political literature, previously unknown to me, was the American Friends Service Committee Office in Pasadena, who maintained a lending library. I attended meetings of the Young Democrats in the local Friends Meeting House, but decided not to join that organization.

At this time I can remember becoming aware of a sense of frustration due to the fact that a lot of my school work, such as the necessity to take algebra and geometry, interfered with my own education. My teachers noted that I read a lot, and my parents were pleased because "It keeps him off the streets." They did not mind seeing me read The Thirty Years War, by C.V. Wedgwood or Hellas, A Short History of Greece, C. Robinson. They became hostile and began to worry about me when I brought political literature home, however. As examples, I remember a pamphlet on socialism by Erich From, and books by H. Stuart Hughes and William O. Douglas--all very harmless. For a while I was a member of a U.N. Club on campus and wrote an article, in the eleventh grade, on why people shouldn't say the Pledge

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of Allegiance for a short-lived (three issues) underground campus paper, called The Opinion. While I enjoyed the shock-effect I could produce in classes and among friends by arguing such issues as the Pledge, I was surprised when people I knew began referring to me as a "Communist", which I certainly wasn't. How things have changed! A young man in high school today would never be called a Communist for arguing against nationalism and for supporting the U.N. That was only eight years ago!

In my last year of high school I made my most important intellectual discovery--C. Wright Mills. I read his book, Listen Yankee and became a supporter of the Cuban Revolution. In an opinion poll for the school newspaper, I described the Cuban Revolution as "an independent socialist revolution . . . which will determine its own destiny outside of either bloc." Next I read Mills' The Causes of World War Three, and bought myself a ban-the-bomb button. I and the most political of my friends, who influenced me the most, practically hero-worshipped Mills, and tape recorded a two hour program off of KPDK on Mills' life by Saul Landau, his secretary. Two periodicals, both now defunct, were originally intended to continue Mills' work: Root and Branch and Studies on the Left. Mills showed us the basic relevance of radical politics, and predicted the development of a New Left in America.

He explained that private problems are not really private problems at all, but are actually public issues, confronting privatized, compartmentalized and powerless individuals.

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These individuals naturally, can only see great issues as nothing more than the private problems which mess up their lives. Mills taught us that to be radical meant to go to the root of the problems, (rather than merely dealing with just their effects) and to therefore seek fundamental rather superficial solutions. Mills described the basic problem in American society as the inability of the individual to meaningfully effect or control those institutions with which he is in direct daily contact with and which determine the course of his life. Mills located the root of this problem in the development of elitism (corporate, political and military) in American society.

This seemed to explain our own middle class problems in the same way that Marxism had explained the problems which confronted preceding generations of workingmen--as part of a basic flaw in the whole social system. One of my friends had Mills' photograph framed, like some icon, on his bedroom wall.

My twelfth grade World History class was another really meaningful experience. It helped me to acquire analytical tools and notions that I did not have before this. Also, this course was the first which got me beyond the "history as-memorization-of-facts" syndrome. Rather than just recounting facts, we studied history from the standpoint of the questions and problems which it poses to the historian today.

The main problem which we studied was the "economic origins of the French Revolution." We began this study using one of the Amherst booklets entitled: "The Economic Origins of the French

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Revolution." This booklet consisted of selections from authors in the field who held conflicting opinions on this subject. We began by reading and mastering each of these selections. I still remember our characterizations of some of these authors: Mathiez--the "Marxist view," Michelet--a "Romantic view," Lefeuve--"political liberalism." The end of the book contained essays attacking these earlier authors and putting forth a "many equally-important factors" explanation of the problem.

After this, we began our own debate on the origins of the French Revolution. Using a mimeographed map of France showing pre-1789 provinces, we examined the harvests in each of these provinces for the century. With this we attacked Michelet's interpretation of the revolution as a result of increasing economic recession. It was found that the worst harvest years occurred earlier in the century, for example. We also attacked Mathiez's interpretation of bourgeois economic ascendancy as the factor compelling the need for a revolution against the nobility and crown. We found that the main growth of the merchant and manufacturing bourgeoisie came in the 17th century. We found that the class composition of the signers of the Tennis Court Oath revealed that the clergy and new nobility played key roles--indicating that either a political modal point in the Revolution had to be seen as the work of "mixed class types", or the term "class" itself could not be regarded as politically meaningful.

In the second semester we did shorter studies on the English

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Civil War and the Origins of World War One. Our teacher attempted to show us how to recognize generalizations and how to attack them. He stressed the complexity of each problem. He wanted us to learn how to ask significant questions, rather than how to provide pat answers. Our examination was an individual study. Mine was based on Lefebure's book, The Coming of the French Revolution. My grade was based on my ability to dissect, debate and raise questions about Lefebure's interpretation. Later on, when I was in the University, I began to react negatively to this "many equally-important factors" approach. Not to its substance, but to its sum--to what it added up to. It seemed to me that it was a part of an overall political neutralization of intellectuals in this society. It appeared to be so totally eclectic and agnostic as to be irrelevant and meaningless in terms of the contemporary world.

That summer I enrolled in Pasadena City College "Freedom Summer", 1963, was the summer in which the Civil Rights movement ceased to be a movement composed of militant minority and became a "mass" movement of the Negro community. It was at this time that I discovered "the movement". Up to then I had only read about such things as voter registration in the South, Selma, Alabama and S.N.C.C. But now the Civil Rights Movement had arrived in Los Angeles and was available to me. I went on three Civil Rights marches that summer in Los Angeles and on one in Pasadena. This was not easy for me to do and marked a real turning point in my development. Teachers and students I knew in school acted as if I were engaged in

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some kind of deviant behavior. My parents are becoming increasingly antagonistic, fearful and racist. As a middle-class person, I also had distinct feelings that politics wasn't properly something you parade around and force on people--it was something involving private opinion and personal preference. That summer I worked through a lot of my feelings about being stigmatized and about political expression.

In junior college, political activity was the basis for my social life. It was also a catalyst for my formal education in school. It meant that I always had my own little going "intellectual concern" and intellectual life, based on my social interaction with my peers (which was mainly political activity and discussion). The fact that my private and social lives had some intellectual kernel made me more open to and interested in my school work--unlike many other students whose social and private lives were almost totally non-intellectual.

At this time I began reading several new political publications such as Studies On the Left, The New Left Review and Root and Branch, all publications devoted to developing a new socialist analysis of contemporary capitalism. I was continuing my own private study of French and was wading through Albert Camus' L'homme revolte, which took me a year to finish. I was taking Spanish in school and reading a Mexican political journal called Panaremas. I had been interested in Arab culture and politics since high school and began studying the Arabic language in extension school. My first year at P.C.C. I was part of a left clique within the campus Young Democrats

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and was treasurer of that organization that year. I read

Mills' three most important books: The Power Elite, White Collar and The Sociological Imagination. In this last book, Mills described his notebooks, in which his personal and intellectual life merged. He said that topics would begin to arise out of these writings, and that as he began to subdivide them and develop them, "releases" or more or less self-contained areas of study would emerge. He described his books as "releases" from these notebooks.

The notebook which I kept in junior college helped me to clarify and develop a lot of the ideas I was in contact with at that time. It also became a place where I recorded a lot of good information and analysis from the books I read. After junior college I had little time for this, and contented myself with filing notes from books I read in it.

In my second year at P.C.C. I joined Students for a Democratic Society and began attending their meetings in Los Angeles. The most important things I read at that time included Paul Baran's Political Economy of Growth, Herbert Marcuse's One Dimensional Man, Reason and Revolution and Eros and Civilization and also, two volumes from Issac Deutscher's trilogy on the life of Trotsky. I had the pleasure of meeting Deutscher, a minor hero of mine, in Berkeley during the Spring 1965 "Vietnam Day" teach-in, where I subjected him to a five minute critique of his books. When my parents found out that I had been in Berkeley, they threw me out of the house for a week.

The Free Speech Movement in Berkeley, the effectiveness

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of direct confrontation and the moral strength ~~that was the basis~~ U  
positions in the Civil Rights and Anti-War Movements then enjoyed were compelling reasons for the tiny left-wing at P.C.C. to take action at that time. We failed to realize that generations and years of organizing had gone into politicizing the Berkeley campus as a prerequisite for the movement there. We formed an Ad Hoc Committee to End Discrimination at P.C.C. around the issue of the selection of the Rose Queen and Court which was held on campus every year (no minority group person had ever been included in the court in over seventy years of Tournament of Roses Parades.) We began leafletting and organizing for a sit-in, and announced a date. The response was so poor that we would have given up except for one thing--the Administration made the same mistake as we. The administration also assumed that this was Berkeley, that the campus was seething with discontent. They moved quickly to head off a confrontation and negotiated with the Committee for the entire next semester. The Tournament of Roses Association, with pressure from the school administration eventually removed the control from the campus.

Then I was accepted into UCLA. On my first trip to the campus I got lost and ended up on the Pacific Coast Highway going north. I wandered around the perimeter of the campus for two hours before I finally gave up and asked somebody where the Administration Building was. Then, there were all those forms and cards I had to fill in to be admitted! I took all history classes my first two semesters at UCLA. I was frankly



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disappointed because all these, with the exception of the courses on Intellectual and Cultural history of Europe, were purely empirical in approach and "dry as dust" in content. I remember a paper I wrote called: The Beginnings of the Middle Ages Under Rome. It was not, of course, good scholarship. I explained the transition from the old to the new society using crude economic determinism. But for me it was a real educational experience. My professor's reaction surprised me. He wanted to discourage me from that kind of analysis and would have preferred a more factual paper on a better defined topic such as "Arrianism."

My classes in Cultural and Intellectual History lived up to my expectations for three reasons: The first was the content of the courses. In order to understand how cultural change had arisen, how certain ideas had come to the fore in lieu of others, the kind of wholistic social analysis which my political background had made me used to was required. Secondly, the rise of the secular bourgeois culture and the estrangement on the intellectual from that culture were themes with which I could identify. The selection of reading was broad enough so that I could pick and choose and find something I was really interested in. I also enjoyed the fact that we were not expected to parrot the teacher, but were allowed to go on our own hook and to develop our own explanations.

Even though most of my expectations were disappointed, I stayed in history, which only goes to show that one good experience can outweigh ten bad ones. And what were my ex-

pectations? First of all, I saw history as a way of thinking, a style of analysis based on facts, rather than the mere compilation of facts. Mills called history "the shank of all other thought." Sociology, political science, philosophy etc., if they are to be meaningful, coherent and relevant in terms of the present must carry on their discussions in terms of an historical rather than an a-historical framework. If not, they tend to degenerate into irrelevant statistical micro-studies, or abstract, non-historical "Grand Theories." Secondly, it seemed to me that history becomes most coherent and understandable to the present, when it is based on a comparative method of analysis (of defined historical entities, such as epochs, cultures, events, etc.) It seemed to me that an historical entity could be best understood, defined and made meaningful not as a compartmentalized and isolated unit of study, but rather only in the light of a much broader historical context. If history is "the shank" of other knowledge, it should exist for the enrichment of other areas of human knowledge, rather than for its own sake. I felt that what I was being taught was a "history for its own sake," whose sole justification was that for the historian as an individual; it was more satisfying than fiction or poetry.

That year I was also attending an experimental school at night, organized by several political groups in Los Angeles, called the "New Left School." Outside of a couple of books I had read, this was my first real exposure to Marxism. I took two "fundamentals" courses on Marxism-Leninism, and a third on

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Marxist philosophy. My attitude towards Marxism remains the same now as it did then. Despite its numerous shortcomings, as an ideology it provides a reasonably accurate picture of reality and has proved an effective tool for political action. It is the starting point for socialist politics--it can only be transcended by being developed and enriched. It cannot be dismissed, because it is more than a theory--it is a political reality. Marxism has best been characterized as a "research strategy". It is this because it provides us with more questions than answers, which is to say that it is more than a starting-point for our thought--it gives us a direction also.

That spring of 1966 I joined the W.E.B. Dubois Clubs in Los Angeles, and became active in their drive to support the Delano grape strike. I had my first taste of "civil disobedience" trying to stop grape trucks from Delano from unloading in Los Angeles. At this time I was also busy in Pasadena S.D.S., helping edit the chapter newsletter, as well as taking part in demonstrations at our local draft board, Rose Queen Ball and leafletting draft ranking exams.

In the summer I went to the national Du Bois Clubs convention in Chicago and on returning home I moved to a West Los Angeles apartment. I read Satre's Being and Nothingness and volume #1 of Capital--both of which were, of course, tremendous influences on my thinking.

The next school year at UCLA I became active in the Bruin Du Bois Club. The Du Bois Clubs were at this time in the process of being red-baited out of existence. I was chairman of the

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Bruin Du Bois Club for a semester, but due to a combination of lack of political talent at leadership on my part, and the suspicion with which the Du Bois Clubs were regarded in all quarters (including the Movement), the chapter was unable to maintain the kind of political initiative and leadership that it had shown the year before. By the end of the year we dissolved the chapter and joined VDC-SDS, at that time the most important radical organization on campus.

I mentioned earlier that my history classes had left me with some unfulfilled expectations. As a result, I tried to stay away from history classes, and enrolled in courses in other departments which seemed more significant to me. I took classes which involved theory and the history of theory in several fields: Development of sociological theory, history of economic theory, graduate and a political science seminar on socialism and, later, some philosophy. Economics and philosophy were difficult for me because of a lack of background. In all of these courses my thinking arose out of my own private dialogue between Marxism and the new ideas I was encountering. This was especially so in my course on History and Historians, where I directly debated, in my paper and final exam for the course, the views of history presented to us from the best Marxist position which I could muster.

I had been working since moving to Los Angeles the year before. I first worked for the Campus Parking Service as a lot attendant, and later worked as a lab assistant in the ceramics department. My parents had at first given me some support from

home, but were later unable to contribute ~~any~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ towards my education. As a result, I was continually pressed for money. I did not want to borrow from the school because I couldn't stand the idea of being in debt--as my father had been for as long as I could remember. For a while I lived on the cheapest foods: beans, rice and potatoes. For a couple of months I was cooking some cheap meat, which I had actually begun to enjoy, until I learned to my horror I had been eating what was actually an expensive dog-food, which the store had failed to label.

The end result of this was that I moved into the University Co-operative Housing, where I could live cheaply and eat well. I soon fitted into the atmosphere at the Co-op, which pretends to be non-conformist. I began experimenting with drugs, had my first steady girl friend and went through three pairs of room-mates, who could not stand my old jazz collection and refused to live in a room with Lenin, Trotsky and Marx staring down from their frames on the wall.

I was not as involved in political activity as I had been the previous year. Over the summer I leafleted the Army induction center about once a week, helped form a Peace Committee at the Co-op, and participated in a series of mass anti-war demonstrations, such as the one on June 23rd at Century City. The previous year I had become involved in Civil Disobedience on campus when I sat-in twice in the campus Job Placement Center to protest the presence of Dow Chemical Corp. recruiters on campus. The following year I sat-in twice again in the Job

Placement Center and once in the Administration Building ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ along with S.D.S.--V.D.C. On one occasion I "went limp" and was carried out by campus police.

As I entered my fifth year since leaving high school, I felt a sense of crisis about the future. I had always avoided making long range plans and really had no idea what I would do with my degree. On the one hand, having never really worked and feeling that I had not really trained myself to do anything except continue to be a student, the idea of graduation frightened me. I was tempted to postpone the inevitable confrontation with the "outside" world, and continue straight into graduate school. I didn't for two reasons. The first was that my draft board was actively trying to draft me, as I had not applied for or accepted a Student Deferment. So I had to live with the fact that time was "running out." I eventually confronted this problem directly, after I graduated, and applied for a I-O Conscientious Objector deferment. I wrote the Draft Board a 35 page essay called: "Is Humanism A Religion?" The answer to that question is "yes", and this is what I based my appeal on. I was eventually allowed a personal interview with the local board, in which I frankly explained my views on world socialism and U.S. imperialism. I have never heard from my draft board since then.

If remaining in the University was becoming an escape, it was more and more an ineffective one. There was a feeling of inertia about the whole student life style. It is totally future oriented--the books, exams and studies have no direct

meaning to us in the here and now. As part of our ~~training~~ ~~education~~ all that stuff only has any real function in our lives after graduation. I would expend great amounts of my energies in school, and yet I couldn't find any perceptible change, enrichment or new direction in my life as an immediate result.

The results were always postponed until after graduation or until after I had become a scholar or had completed so many units. You have the feeling you weren't really living; just waiting. I was compelled to do so many assignments, and yet afterwards I had the feeling that I had not really done anything at all.

All of these things were reflected in my last quarter of work. I took a political science course on Communist political theory and a philosophy course on existentialism--both classes which a year before I would have jumped into enthusiastically. Instead, I could hardly bring myself to do anything. I did not even attend either class for a month and a half.

At the end of the quarter, my petition to graduate was accepted. I had made my choice--I had decided that my life as a would-be student trouble-maker was growing stale and that I would need new experiences in order to continue to mature. In April of 1968, mustering a little self-confidence, I applied for a job as social worker in South L.A. and was hired.

Since that time I have been working in the Aid to the Totally Disabled program helping, in the Department's words "people mentally or physically disabled for competitive employment to meet their basic living needs." This job has helped me to

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accept, understand and deal with people who generally have nothing going for them in their own lives. It has also helped me to accept and understand myself a little more, and to perceive some of the advantages that luck has thrown my way.

I remember in Eugene Weber's class on Intellectual History his continual use of the term "this game we play," to describe himself as an intellectual. At the time I enjoyed this cynicism because it seemed frank and it seemed to cut through much of the pretentiousness one sees in teachers. That was a nice way of saying: "it's all really meaningless after all." I had this same feeling about my own interests in politics, history and theory and so I became dissatisfied. I could not justify playing a game, and with luck, some day ending up in front of a classroom as a bad entertainer (there is nothing implied about my former teachers in that comment.) I realize now that my interests are not a game; they are one of my unique assets. I have learned from my clients that many people are lucky if they can simply make it through the life-trip sane and in functioning health. After a year of working on a well-paying job with white collar people, I have discovered that anyone who has interests and a motivation that is self-enriching outside of the rat-race to get comfort and a little recognition, (and who is in a position to follow through, to gain a greater perception of the world, history, events or one's self), is extremely fortunate. I think that the role of the intellectual does justify itself for the simple reason that meaning comes into our world in only one way--as we perceive and understand it. It is much

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more difficult to justify the role of a working person who does things all day whose consequences and meaning he cannot really understand. Intellectual pursuits are not games--they are real life and they are possibly the most important aspect of life for the individuals concerned. It is true that the intellectual is often irrelevant to what is really happening--socially, politically, etc. What is important, however, is that the intellectual can be relevant if he decides to be, whereas people in other roles are a hundred times less likely to even ever confront that choice. For these reasons, I hope to be able to continue the pursuit of what I have discovered are basic and real interests for me, in history and especially in intellectual history. In doing this, I feel that I have made a very important choice.

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SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN

On March 4, 1969, source two, who is knowledgeable of high-level CP, USA activity in New York City and also phases of leadership activity in the Southern and Northern California Districts, advised that no information was ever received indicating a possible conspiracy involving the CP-USA and/or its members in the assassination of Senator Kennedy. Source does not know Sirhan B. Sirhan, Walter Crowe, or Thomas Good. U

Other sources familiar with CP activities throughout the United States have been contacted and advised they had no knowledge of any possible conspiracy between the CP and the assassination of Senator Kennedy. U

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