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RECEIVED OF WEPAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

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F. B. J.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Los Angeles, California 90017
May 21, 1969

RADIO BROADCAST BY ART KEVIN RADIO STATION LHJ

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THE REVEREND, THROUGH HIS ATTORNEY GEORGE T. DAVIS, CLAIMED THAT SHORTLY BEFORE THE KENNEDY MURDER HE PICKED UP THREE HITCHHIKERS, TWO MEN AND A GIRL. THE MINISTER SAID THE GIRL WAS "DIRTY BLONDE".

ONE OF THE TWO VEN HE SAID WAS SIRHAN SIRHAN. THE MINISTER SAID THAT PART OF THEIR CONVERSATION CONCERNED HORSES. HE SAID HE HAD SOME TO SELL AND SIRHAN INDICATED HE WAS INTERESTED IN BUYING ONE OF THEM.

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THE MINISTER DID NOT KEEP THE APPOINTMENT DUE TO A PREVIOUS.

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UNANSWERED:)

RADIO BROADCAST BY ART KEVIN RADIO STATION KHJ

In connection with this broadcast the local minister who implied that Sirhan tried to make him part of an escape plot immediatedly after the assassination, is identical to Jerry Lee Owens.

The mystery cleric referred to by Kevin as James Mundell is identical to Reverend James W. Mundell. The local anti-Castro Jose Duarte is identical to Major Jose Duarte. In connection with the alleged freeway shooting attack on Saidallah Sirhan, Sirhan's brother, it was the conclusion of the Pasadena Police Department that this was possibly a self-inflicted attack.

In reference to Kathy Fulmer and mentioned by Kevin, it is noted that Fulmer never had any connection with the investigation and the reference to was completely evaluated.

Kevin gives reference to the mystery of the polka dot dress lady and it is noted that this aspect was completely refuted by Sandra Serrano who originated the story and Vincent DL Pierro who claimed to have seen this girl when both of these individuals took polygraph examinations and admitted the falsity of their prior statements.

Investigation also showed that there was no basis for the statement by Booker Griffin concerning the girl in the polka dot dress.

In connection with Kevin's statement that Israeli Intelligence had sent a file to the local FBI Officials, no such file was ever received by this office.

It is to be noted that in connection with the above items designated by Kevin in this broadcast, that each and every item has previously been thoroughly investigated by both the Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Office of the FBI and each area has been thoroughly resolved and all of this information has previously been furnished to the Bureau in report and/or Letterhead Memorandum.

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.

Les Ares

MY

2178 Washington Street
Eugene, Oregon
May 4, 1969
Page 1969

President Richard Nixon The White House Washington, D.C.

Dear President Nixon,

The following is a clipping from the Eugene Register Guard, April 25th,

Middle East Agitators Said Flowing to U.S.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—House Minority Leader Gerald Ford, R-Mich., citing the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy by an Arab refugee, said Thursday Peking-trained "agitators from the Middle East" are participating in American college disturbances.

"Indications of the flow of trained agitators from the Middle East have been revealed in contacts between the Arabs and the Black Panthers, the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) and other anti-democratic groups," Ford said in a speech before a gathering of lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

"We are painfully aware of how the Middle East conflict has already spilled over our shores in the case of the convicted murderer Sirhan Sirhan. This pation will not tolerate assassination and terrorism," he said.

I am wondering, is this information reliable or is it just a plausible, improbable line thrown out to see what it catches?

"Peking trained" sounds much more foreboding than "Moscow trained". Is this the way it is or is this verbal gymnastics? And, also, what constitutes a "flow" of trained agitators? It must be somewhere from 3 to several hundred, I suppose.

For over six months all indications are that the assassination of Senator Kennedy was not an international conspiracy. The trial of Sirhan has not indicated anything different. Now suddenly it is claimed that these groups - Arabs, Black Panthers, S. D. S., and "other anti-democratic groups" - are in very real danger of becoming a unity with a common goal, that of disrupting our country. Is this a responsible evaluation of the situation or is this simply the lumping of our urban, ghetto, racism, economic problems in with the Middle East problems?

To me this article sounds like an <u>effort to discredit and smear Arabs</u>. For many people, however, it ties a great variety of complex problems into one near and tidy little package. It doesn't solve or explain anything but it does direct people's antagonism.

My main concern is what does this report from a responsible official say about our developing policies on the Middle East situation? Are we going to take the stand that this is really a conflict between Russia and the U.S. and the Arabs are assigned the role of stooges?

I should like to see this report elaborated upon and either confirmed or denied by someone who can speak with authority.

copies:

Sen. Mark Hatfield Sen. Robert Packwood U.S. Sec. of State Sincerely,

REC On Richard E. Chambers

1201

15 JUN 2 1969

54 JUN 18 1969

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CORRESPONDENC





FBI

Date:	5/27/69

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DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156)

KENSALT SUBJECT:

> Re: THOMAS GOOD

Re Los Angeles report 7/1/68 (page 499); Re Los Angeles report 8/7/68 (page 550); re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 9/9/68; San Francisco airtel to Bureau 8/27/68; San Francisco airtel to Bureau 5/21/69.

In connection with the request of the Department of Justice concerning THOMAS GOOD, there is no evidence available showing his presence in the Los Angeles area in June 1968.

San Francisco airtel of 5/21/69 would indicate that, at least on 6/5 and 6/68, GOOD was in the San Jose, California, area.

UACB, no further action will be taken regarding GOOD.

- Bureau (AM) I - Los Angeles WJN:CM (3)

Per.

Special Agent in Charge

A Section of the sect		
- N	FBI	
Rt.	Date: 6/12/69	
Transmit the following in	(Type in plaintext or code)	
Via AIRTEL	ATR MATL	
,	(Priority)	

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)

FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)

RE:

KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 5/26/69.

RE: WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Attached herewith are two copies of a five page weekly summary of information prepared for the benefit of the news media by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. This release is dated 5/21/69 and is being furnished for information of the Bureau.

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ST 102

REC-33, 62-587-1203

5 JUN 16 1969

2 - Bureau (Encso 2) 1 - Los Angeles (INCLOSURE AOR/bje (3)

Sent _____ M Per _____

55JUN 20 1969 Agent in Charge 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hell of Justice
Los Angeles, Californi 0012

NOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
5-3888 Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Ved., May 21, 1969 After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUPPARY 750 Re: Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Mednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 50th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Mednesdays.

SUNDAY, MAY 11 -- According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), Attorney Helvin Belli met with the family of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, yesterday.

The newspaper article, by Noel Greenwood and Linda Mathews, staff writers, indicated Belli said "he probably will handle the appeal of Sirhan's conviction for the assassination of Sen. Kennedy.

Continued the news story:

"He said he would meet with Sirhan early this week.

"The announcement set off speculation that Belli was about to take over the defense of Sirhan, sentenced to die in the gas chamber.

Belli, who defended Jack Ruby in his trial for the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Ruby received a death sentence but was awaiting retrial when he died of cancer in January, 1967.

"Although Belli said his interest in Sirhan was limited to writing an appeal brief, an associate indicated Belli's role could develop into much more than that.

"'There's no question the family would like him to do that (write an arpeal brief)' said Sydney Irmas, a Beverly Hills attorney associated with Belli.

62 - MOTE 8 7-1203

2025 REPUBLIC UNDER E.O. 14176

"Then, the question is whether he's going to go any further.

And I think nobody but Sirhan can decide that.'

"Russell E. Parsons, one of Sirhan's three defense lawyers, informed of Belli's comments, said he was in the case "until the bitter end.

"'I told him (Sirhan) when he hired me that I would go to the Supreme Court of the United States if necessary, and he shook hands with me and said, 'That's what I want.'

"Grant B. Cooper, Sirhan's chief defense counsel, said he knew nothing about Belli entering the case.

"Belli said Sirhan's mother and two brothers first approached him about three weeks ago when he was in Los Angeles for a trial.

"In a two-hour meeting during a court recess, they asked him to enter the case, he said.

"Saturday morning, Sirhan's mother and brother, Adel, met with Belli in the lawyer's Los Angeles apartment. Adel then agreed to arrange for the meeting this week between Sirhan and Belli.

"Belli said his main interest was in writing the appeal should the motion for a new trial for Sirhan be denied. That motion, submitted last month by Cooper, is scheduled for argument May 21 before Superior Judge Herbert V. Malker.

(Reanwhile, the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner carried a United Press International story quoting Mrs. Mary Sirhan as stating "I can't comment (about Belli) because I don't know that much about it."

(The same UPI story reported that "Belli said Sirhan was mentally unbalanced and added, 'Sirhan's not going to die.")

* * *

MONDAY, MAY 12 -- Sirhan B. Sirhan said today that he will keep Attorneys Grant B. Cooper and Russell Parsons "and none other" to fight his conviction and death sentence for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

According to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), "It was the first word from Sirhan himself in response to stories that celebrated San Francisco Attorney Helvin Belli would handle Sirhan's appeal."

In a statement today, released through Cooper, Sirhan said:

"I, Sirhan Sirhan, having full confidence in my present attorneys, Grant B. Cooper and Russell Parsons, members of the California
State Bar, hereby engage them and none other to handle my appeal to the
Supreme Court of the State of California and, if necessary, to the Supreme
Court of the United States."

The statement, continued the newspaper, was signed by Sirhan and witnessed by Baron Sarkees Nahas, an Arab who served as unofficial advisor to Sirhan's defense during the 15-week trial, and Sheriff's Lt. Rudolph Berteaux.

As for Belli, he was quoted Friday in Tucson as saying Sirhan's family had contacted him and, "They want me to do the appeal," reported the newspaper.

_Related the newspaper:

"Sirhan's brother, Adel, 30, said Honday he and his mother, -- Hary, 59, had met-with Belli-once, but that the meeting had been indecisive. He said Belli had not been engaged either to assist or replace Sirhan's present attorneys.

"Asked if the family was dissatisfied with Sirhan's defense, in view of his conviction, Adel Sirhan said, 'No, we are not --- not in any way.'

"He said it was his understanding that Belli's involvement in the case probably would be in filing a friend of the court brief. Belli himself was quoted earlier as saying he did not expect to participate personally in any further court sessions, but would probably restrict his efforts to a written appeal.

"Belii was not immediately available for comment Monday."

Cost of the Sirhan trial to the taxpayers of Los Angeles County totals 5929,285, said Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, "in releasing the final audit of the most expensive trial in Los Angeles County history," according to an article in a Los Angeles legal newspaper (Daily Journal).

"Any appeals will add to the expense," he said, continuing that he hopes "it prevents the need for another Warren Commission which cost 56 million to investigate the death of President Kennedy."

County costs through April 30, said Hahn, were \$570,478; Sheriff's Department, \$110,000; Pasadena Police Department, \$39,978; Los Angeles Police Department, \$208,829.

Some of the extraordinary costs included \$62,045 to alter the Hall of Justice and Central Men's Jail and \$58,397 for witness, jury and transcribing fees, added Hann.

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"danced in his office while waiting for Sen. Kennedy to die from an assassin's bullet last June," according to the Los Angeles Times.

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(Noguchi was the coroner at the time of the assassination. He was fired by the Board of Supervisors March 18, after the county chief administrative officer filed a long report critical of Noguchi's conduct in office.

(At today's hearing, Godfrey Isaacs, Noguchi's attorney, said his client revered the senator and "if he could have given part of his life for Kennedy to live, he would have.)

NEWS RELEASE
Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, Californi 20012

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Call: Jerry Littman News Secretary 6-3888; Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Ved., May 21, 1969 After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUPPARY \$50 Re: Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy

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more

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more --

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	FBI
	Date: 6/6/69
nsm.	it the following in(Type in plaintext or code)
ı	AIRTEL
,	(Priority)
	TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
	FROM: SAC, PHOENIX (175-NEW) (C)
	ALEX M PEDILLA
	THREAT AGAINST THE OPERIDENT
	Re Phoenix teletype to Bureau, 6/6/69.
	Enclosed are the original and seven copies of a LHM concerning captioned matter. The LHM is self-explanatory.
	Phoenix indices are negative.
	Agent JAMES E. LE GETTE, Secret Service, Phoenix, notified telephonically at 11:24 AM, 6/6/69, by SA BURTON H. JENSEN.
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Special Agent in Charge



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona June 6, 1969

ALEX M. PEDILLA

On June 6, 1969, at 11:15 AM, Mr. Morris Johnson, U.S. Civil Service Commission, 44 West Adams, Phoenix, Arizons, telephonically notified SA Burton H. Jensen of the Phoenix FBI Office that on June 4, 1969 at approximately 1:30 PM, Alex M. Pedilla stated to Gene Hahn, Information Girl, U.S. Civil Service Commission, Phoenix, that, "I ought to perforate Mixon's head like I did the Kennedys."

Mr. Johnson advised that Mr. Pedilla was in their effice for the purpose of applying for a job. On the application completed by Mr. Pedilla, Mr. Pedilla included the following information:

Address

Social Security No. Past employment

414 West Roosevelt Phoenix, Arizona

Communications Technician, United States Navy, High Security Clearance discharged

Grocery Store, San Antonio, New Mexico

Western Union Telegraph, 1964 - 1968 left because of discrimination in management

Mr. Pedilla called Mr. Johnson "sub-human," and Mr. Johnson stated he called the girls in the office "bigota" and "white trash."

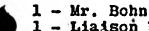
ALEX M. PEDILIA

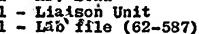
Gene Hahn stated that three other men who were applying for jobs were in the room at the time Mr. Pedilla made his statements, but she could not identify any of them.

Agent James E. LeGette, Secret Service, Phoenix, Arizons, was telephonically informed of the above information at 11:24 AM on June 6, 1969.

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.

REPORT of the





1 - Mr. Schutz, Rm. 5716 1 - Mr. McKinnon,

John Edgar Hoover, Director

CO-2-51,322

D-690526005 AT

95-153887

Rm. 5718



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: Director, U. S. Secret Service

June 3, 1969

By Liaison

Unknown Subject: Chief Justice Earl Warren Victim: Extortion

Examination requested by:

Addressee

Reference:

Letter 5/16/69

Bramination requested:

Document

Specimen:

U.S. postal card, postmarked "SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, 1969," addressed "Cheif Justice Earle Red Rat Warren Washington, D.C. U.S. Supreme Ct."

YOUR NO.

LAB. NO.

FBI FILE NO.

Result of examination:

The handwriting on Q1 was compared with the Anonymous Letter File maintained in the FBI Laboratory without effecting an identification with any of the writings therein,

As requested, the writing on Q1 has been compared with the writing on the envelope designated as Q22 which is described in FBI Laboratory report dated June 21, 1968, a copy of which was directed to your office in connection with the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Los Angeles, California. While the writing on the envelope described as Q22 in referenced FBI Laboratory report is too limited for

Enclosure

- San Francisco Enclosures (2)

- Bureau file (62-587)

This matter has been coordinated with Special Agent H. A. Schutz of the Criminal Section of the General Investigative Division.

(continued on next page)

Rosen

CLETYPE UNIT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Note on yellow:

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Mohr -Bishop

Casper .

Callahan

Felt Gale

DeLoach.

-16388

ORIGINAL PILED

adequate comparison with the writing on specimen Q1 described above, a number of significant differences in handwriting characteristics were found which indicate that the writer of the postal card Q1 did not write the anvelope designated as Q22 in the case pertaining to the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

You will be advised subsequently concerning the results of the investigation conducted in this matter. Q1 is returned herewith.

Note for San Francisco: Two photocopies of Ql are attached to the copies for San Francisco.

San Francisco is requested to conduct appropriate investigation and advise the Bureau.

Page 2 D-690526005 AT

·	
	FBI
	Date: 6/16/69
he following	(Type in plaintext or code)
AIRTEL	AIR MAIL
	(Priority)
TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)
FROM:	SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)
RE:	CKENSALT
	Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 6/12/69.
	RE: WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE FROM LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
	Attached herewith are two copies of a 15 page
weekly s	
of the r	summary of information prepared for the benefit bews media by the Los Angeles County District
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NEWS RELEASE Office of the District Attorney 600 Hall of Justice Los Angeles, California 90012 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION Call: Jerry Littman News Secretary 626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., May 28, 1969

After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #51

Re: Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy

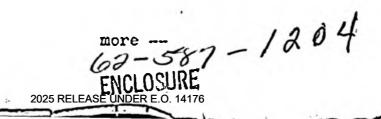
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MONDAY, MAY 19 -- Payment of \$85,071.08 was demanded today from organizations which last year backed U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for Preside., according to an article in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

(The senator was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in the Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968. He now awaits sentencing by Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker. The jury voted the death sentence for the defendant.)

The demand for payment was contained in a suit filed in behalf of the hotel, and directed against the National Kennedy for President Committee, Kennedy National Headquarters, Kennedy Campaign Committee and the latter's attorney, Stanley R. Caidin, and Julius Glazer, accountant.

Filed April 18, the suit was sealed pending the levying of an attachment by the county marshal's office. The marshal's report showed that an account standing in the name of the Kennedy Campaign



Weekly Summary #51 Page 2

Committee at the U.S. National Bank had been attached.

But Caidin said only a "nominal amount" was in the account.

The suit said the bill was incurred for hotel space, goods and services under an agreement made in June, 1968.

* * *

TUESDAY, MAY 20 -- The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today voiced support of federal legislation designed to reimburse state and local governments for expenses resulting from the prosecution of individuals accused of assassinating or attempting to assassinate federal office holders.

Noted an article in a Los Angeles legal newspaper (Daily Journal):

The resolution delivered by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn called for the county to support a bill now before the Uniedd States Senate, which was authored by Hontana Senator Lee Metcalf.

"If passed, the legislation would provide for the reimbursement of any prosecution expense resulting from the attempted assassinating or assassination of the President, cabinet member, Senator and member of the House of Representatives.

"The resolution by Supervisor Hahn made reference to the recently-concluded trial of Sirhan Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

"Hahn said that the trial of Sirhan cost the taxpayers of Los Angeles County 0929,285, and was the most costly in the history of the county.

Weekly Summary #51 Page 3

"The resolution also requested that the expense of the Sirhan trial be reimbursed by the federal government. Copies of the resolution are being sent to President Nixon and to all the members of Congress."

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21 -- Appearing in Superior Court today at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, Los Angeles County Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger issued the following statement regarding a hand-written letter he received from Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, brother of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, who was slain by Sirhan.

The text of the statement:

"Some time ago, when discussions concerning the possibility of a plea were being conducted, I inquired of an attorney representing Senator Edward Kennedy whether or not the Senator or the Kennedy family had any comments or recommendations relative to the penalty in this case.

"I was told at that time that the Senator did not have any recommendations.

"Last week, this same attorney phoned from New York and asked me whether or not, in my opinion, it would be proper for the Senator to now express an opinion concerning penalty.

"I indicated that, in my opinion, the question of guilt having been decided, it would be proper for a member of the family of the victim to express an opinion, provided it was done openly in the form of a letter to the probation office or to the judge.

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"I further indicated, however, that the judge might consider such an opinion irrelevant to the present proceedings, but that in any event, the letter would be in the file for consideration at any clemency hearing that might occur in the future.

"I indicated that if the Senator wished to write a letter expressing his opinion, I would present it to your Honor in open court. I have here a hand-written letter, which was delivered to me on lay 19, 1969, and I offer it to your Honor for whatever consideration you deem proper."

Copies of the Senator's letter were then handed to Judge Herbert V. Walker and Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, but it was not read in open court.

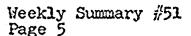
Later, however, Younger released the text of the Kennedy letter, which is as follows:

"Some weeks ago you inquired whether the Kennedy family wished to express any views on the possible penalties available to the court under the law in the trial involving the death of my brother.

"The issue then was the position to be taken by the prosecution on the offer of a plea of guilty and that involved the question
whether there would be any trial at all. We felt that any answer to
your inquiry at that time would accordingly be inappropriate.

"At the time of the hearing on the sentence a similar inquiry was made by defense counsel. The matter was then before the jury and again any response seemed inappropriate.

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"I now understand that the trial judge will be called upon to exercise his discretion concerning the penalty. Since this is now a question of clemency and the trial proceedings have been concluded, I feel I can appropriately convey to you, for whatever consideration you believe to be proper, how we feel.

"My brother was a man of love and sentiment and compassion. He would not have wanted his death to be a cause for the taking of another life.

"You may recall his pleas when he learned of the death of Martin Luther King. He said that 'what we need in the United States is not division; what we need in the United States is not hatred; what we need in the United States is not violence or lawlessness, but love and wisdom and compassion towards one another.'

"Moreover he was a young man totally committed to life and living. He stood against injustice, poverty and discrimination for these evils lessened life.

"He grew to despise war for war denies the sacredness of life. And he had a special affection for children for they held the promise of life.

"We all realize that many other considerations fall within your responsibility and that of the court. But if the kind of man my brother was is pertinent we believe it should be weighed in the balance on the side of compassion, mercy and God's gift of life itself."

Sirhan was formally sentenced today to death in the San Quentin gas chamber, despite the plea by Sen. Edward Kennedy that the life of

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his brother's assassin be spared.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, brushing aside both the dramatic letter and an impassioned entreaty by defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, read solemnly from a previously prepared summary of the case.

"This is the time for judgment and sentence...It is the judgment and sentence of this court that for the crime of murder in the first-degree...you should suffer the penalty of death within the walls of San Quentin in the manner prescribed by law."

The ordered the diminutive assassin taken to San Quentin's Death Row within 10 days.

"Sirhan, standing with his hands on his hips and staring without visible emotion as the judge sternly pronounced sentence, turned and smiled at defense investigator Michael McCowan, 'Well, now the real battle begins.'

courtroom, cried softly and dabbed at her eyes as she waited for court to adjourn, signalling the moment when she could visit her condemned son in his 13th floor cell.

"She also had written to Judge Walker, citing Biblical references in her plea for mercy for Sirhan. Her letter, delivered to the 69-year old jurist Wednesday morning, was not mentioned in open court."

Before the formal sentencing today, Cooper cited 13 grounds for his motion for a new trial for Sirhan, arguing at length on two points.