

INTERVIEWS

PERSON INTERVIEWED: HAMILL, Pete DATE/TIME _____

SEX _____ RACE _____ HAIR _____ EYES _____ HT _____ WT _____ DOB _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 478 68th St., Brooklyn N.Y. PHONE (212) 833-2930

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

Near R.F.K. when he was shot.

Not interviewed by LAPD. Following is a synopsis of the FBI Interview of 8-5-68.

Witness was on stage with Senator during the speech. After the speech, Witness was preceeding the Senator through the pantry with George Plimpton I-1020. He looked back and observed the Senator shake hands with some people and then start to walk away. At that time Witness heard 5 shots in rapid succession. He saw Sirhan standing about 7'-8' to the left front of the Senator. His arm was fully extended and he was firing a gun. There was a look of tremendous concentration on his face. Witness saw the Senator falling to the floor and someone catching him.

Witness recalled George Plimpton rushing to the suspect & going for the gun. Rosie Grier "slammed" Sirhan into a table, according to Witness.

PERSON INTERVIEWED: HAMILL, Pete DATE/TIME 10-9-68 2:30pm

X RACE HAIR EYES HT WT DOB

RESIDENCE ADDRESS PHONE (212) 499-9213.

BUSINESS ADDRESS PHONE (212) 758-8980 Ex. 2

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

RE-INTERVIEW OF WITNESS REGARDING HIS OBSERVATIONS (IMPRESSIONS)
OF THE SHOOTING.

Witness was walking toward the Colonial Room, preceeding Senator Kennedy, in the area of the West end of the ice machines. He had turned and was walking backwards, looking at the Senator. He described the Senator standing with his body facing in an Easterly direction and his head turned to his left in a Northerly direction. His right arm was across his body and he was shaking hands. He was standing approximately 2' South of the South end of the first steam table and approximately 4' West of the West edge of the table. The suspect was standing approximately 4' to 6' from the Senator, near the center of the same table. His right foot was forward and his right arm was extended with the gun in his right hand. Witness estimated the gun was about 2' from the Senator. He indicated he could be off on the distances due to the circumstances.

He heard the shots and it was then that he first saw the suspect in the above described position. However, he did not see the flashes from the gun nor the Senator being hit. His view of the suspect's face was a left profile. He described the suspect as having a look of determined concentration on his face. He next saw the Senator with his right hand up in the air.

In reviewing the moment of the incident, witness recalled that he froze. His next recollection was that of Rosie Grier rushing toward the suspect. He was informed that there was about a twenty second period between the shooting and Grier arriving. He replied that he did not recall what happened during that period.

bju/10-15-68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/17/68

RAFER LEWIS JOHNSON, 5470 West Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, telephone No. 294-1270, furnished the following information to SAs JAMES CAGNASSOLA, JR., and JAMES W. WOOD of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

JOHNSON arrived at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 8 PM, on June 4, 1968. JOHNSON met two personal friends and escorted them to the Embassy Room in the Ambassador Hotel. At 8:30-8:45 PM, JOHNSON went to the suite of rooms occupied by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and his staff which were located on the fifth floor of the hotel. Upon arrival at the suite, he spoke with BILL BARRY, Senator KENNEDY's bodyguard. JOHNSON asked BARRY when the Senator was going downstairs to make a speech, but BARRY could not supply this information at that time. JOHNSON told BARRY to let him know when the Senator planned to leave. JOHNSON waited in the KENNEDY suite and spoke with Mrs. ETHEL KENNEDY and other friends.

At approximately 11 PM, Senator KENNEDY went to the fourth floor of the hotel and was interviewed on television. Immediately thereafter he returned to the fifth floor and was interviewed in a television studio which was set up on that floor. JOHNSON accompanied KENNEDY during the interview. Senator KENNEDY returned to his suite approximately at 11:20 PM and at that time JOHNSON left the group and visited with his friends in the Embassy Room.

JOHNSON explained that entry into the Embassy Room was restricted to people who had passes. He recalled that the "press" had green passes and that the KENNEDY staff and possibly campaign workers were issued red passes. There also may have been other colored passes in use. Security guards were stationed at the main entrance to the Embassy Room. He recalls that there was an entrance to this room on the south side which was being used by the major television networks. There were no guards on this door.

On 6/13/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA JAMES W. WOOD and
SA JAMES CAGNASSOLA, JR./JC/sdb Date dictated 6/14/68

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

2
LA 56-156

After completing his visit in the Embassy Room, JOHNSON returned to the fifth floor at 11:40-11:45 PM, and asked BILL BARRY when the Senator would go downstairs. Since BARRY did not know the time of departure, JOHNSON joined the other guests in the KENNEDY suite.

At midnight or shortly afterwards the KENNEDY party, consisting of approximately 30 people began to leave the suite. The group included Senator KENNEDY, ETHEL KENNEDY, JESSE UNRUH, "TUCK" (complete name unknown), ROOSEVELT GRIER, Mr. (FNU) WILSON of CBS, "STAN" (LNU) of Look Magazine, and BILL EPPRIDGE (phonetic) of Life Magazine. The party also consisted of other newsmen, camera men and writers whose identity are unknown.

Senator KENNEDY left his suite in the company of BARRY and JOHNSON. The group walked down the hallway to the right from the Senator's room and turned in the first corridor to the right. They waited for an elevator, however, when it arrived it was occupied by other passengers. Senator KENNEDY got onto the elevator and then immediately got off since he realized that there was not sufficient space to accommodate his party. The KENNEDY party then moved to another elevator on the same floor and Senator KENNEDY also got on it and left this elevator for the same reason as stated above. Thereafter the KENNEDY party went around the corner and turned left and were proceeding in the direction of the freight elevator. JOHNSON recalls that the elevator operator who was wearing an unrecalled uniform was standing near the elevator door. He is not certain who decided to take this elevator, however, he did not think that it was strange that a freight elevator would be used since most of the people in the KENNEDY party had used this elevator previously. JOHNSON could not furnish any description of the elevator operator other than to say he was not a Negro male.

3
LA 56-156

When the party entered the elevator, JOHNSON recalls seeing Senator KENNEDY, ETHEL KENNEDY, JESSE UNRUH, BILL BARRY and ROOSEVELT GRIER. He does not know who instructed the elevator operator to take them to a specific floor. When the elevator stopped and the doors opened JOHNSON observed that they were in the kitchen or serving area of the hotel and he presumed that it was the same floor where Senator KENNEDY was to make his speech.

JOHNSON does not remember who was off the elevator first, but it may have been the men from Life and Look Magazines. BARRY was leading Senator KENNEDY. JOHNSON was following behind the Senator and ROOSEVELT GRIER with Mrs. KENNEDY was behind him. After leaving the elevator Senator KENNEDY stopped when a man dressed in a white uniform, presumably a kitchen worker, reached across the table to shake his hand. JOHNSON moved toward this individual and raised his arm to keep him away. The Senator reached across JOHNSON's arm and shook hands with this man. Senator KENNEDY then moved approximately 15 feet ahead and shook hands with a white female who was dressed in a white uniform. The Senator then moved ahead five feet and greeted another male kitchen worker. The Senator may have also shaken hands with a fourth kitchen employee. JOHNSON is unable to recognize any of the men who shook hands with Senator KENNEDY but said he could recognize the woman employee.

When Senator KENNEDY finished shaking hands with the kitchen employees, BARRY led him to the Embassy Room. The hallway or corridor which the group was walking through was very crowded with television cameras, KENNEDY workers and KENNEDY staff members. The Senator was walking ahead of the group with BARRY. JOHNSON and Mr. and Mrs. GEORGE PLIMPTON became separated from the Senator because some member of a CBS camera crew was pulling a cable in the corridor and blocked their passage for a few moments.

JOHNSON observed Senator KENNEDY enter the Embassy Room through a door way which was crowded with people. He then proceeded on to the stage. JOHNSON recalls that the stage was surrounded by a curtain and that if the stage was viewed from the center of the ballroom, Senator KENNEDY would have entered the right side of the stage. During this time BARRY and JOHNSON were standing together and he questioned BARRY as to how the Senator planned to leave the stage upon the conclusion of the speech. BARRY indicated that the exit would be made the same way as they previously entered the stage. Shortly before the end of KENNEDY's speech, BARRY moved towards the Senator. Senator KENNEDY turned from the podium and started towards the side of the stage by which he had previously entered. Senator KENNEDY paused for a moment and then turned to the opposite direction (left side of stage). JOHNSON could not see whether the Senator continued to the far left of the stage, but did notice that his direction of travel was slightly towards the rear. JOHNSON realized that the Senator was leaving the stage by a different way and attempted to reach him but because of the crowd he could not move forward. JOHNSON, in the company of Mrs. PLIMPTON, walked to the back of the stage (right side) near the corridor and joined Senator KENNEDY as he walked past. JOHNSON is unaware as to why KENNEDY left the stage in a different direction.

As Senator KENNEDY walked past JOHNSON, he noticed that BARRY and unrecalled other individuals were in front of the Senator. Between Senator KENNEDY and JOHNSON, who were approximately five feet apart, there was a camera man and a sound man, identities unknown. JOHNSON and Mrs. PLIMPTON continued to follow Senator KENNEDY through a darkened area and at a point, three or four feet from an opened double doorway with a divider in the center, JOHNSON heard a sound which reminded him of a bursting balloon. A second or two later, JOHNSON heard a second similar sound and looking in the direction where he assumed the Senator should have been, he saw smoke and fragments of paper in the air. The area in front of JOHNSON was brightly lit possibly by camera lights. After hearing the second noise, JOHNSON immediately assumed that these noises were gunshots. JOHNSON immediately moved forward pushing

5
LA 56-156

people aside. Due to the great number of people in the area forward movement was seriously impaired. As he passed through the open double doors he saw BARRY hit and push a white male who was standing on the floor in front of him (JOHNSON) but slightly to the right. JOHNSON continued to push forward and observed a wounded man lying on the floor in front of the doorway. He saw blood on this person's forehead and also thought that he saw a bullet hole in the top of his head. JOHNSON then observed Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor in the same area. The Senator was lying on his back in an almost flat position but looked as if he was struggling to get up. His left arm was on the floor, his right arm moved from a down position beside his head through an arch and down to his side. JOHNSON saw blood on the floor beneath the right side of Senator KENNEDY's head. He also saw blood on the right side of KENNEDY's head below the ear and extending down the right cheek and down the right side of his chest. Senator KENNEDY looked at JOHNSON and they stared at each other for a moment.

JOHNSON was then deciding whether to assist the Senator or proceed towards BARRY who was attempting to subdue the white male who JOHNSON assumed had been firing the gun. He approached this individual and observed that he was still holding a gun in his hand. JOHNSON does not recall if the gun was being held in the right or left hand. Other unrecalled individuals were trying to seize the weapon and at this time the assailant was pushed back against a table. JOHNSON lunged at the man and grasped the front part of the gun with his left hand. ROOSEVELT GRIER had the buttend of the gun in his hand. The assailant still had his finger in the trigger housing. GRIER twisted the gun from this individual's hands and at the same time JOHNSON tightly held this person's body. JOHNSON then turned towards Senator KENNEDY and saw that BARRY was now at his side.

At the same time that JOHNSON was holding the assailant, ROOSEVELT GRIER was holding the man around the waist and by the left leg. GEORGE PLIMPTON was holding the man's right arm and was holding his right side. A hotel employee, who JOHNSON described as having a fair complexion with a sunburn, was holding the assailant around the neck. Another hotel employee who appeared to be an Italian or Armenian was also holding this individual. At this time a male voice said, "Let me have the gun. Let go ROSIE", (meaning ROOSEVELT GRIER). "Let go RAFTER." JOHNSON then shouted to this individual who was speaking, "shut up". JOHNSON then shouted to GRIER, "ROSIE let me have the gun." The male voice then said, "Let RAFTER have the gun." JOHNSON then repeated to GRIER, "ROSIE give me the gun", and GRIER complied with his request. JOHNSON placed the gun in his left pocket and released his grip on the assailant. JOHNSON remained next to this man and while he was standing there said to this individual "Why did you do it?" The man did not answer. JOHNSON, moving his face directly in front of the assailant and looking directly into his eyes repeated "Why did you do it?" The man did not respond. JOHNSON then clenched his fist and placed the back of his fist on the assailant's forehead. JOHNSON then repeated, "Why did you do it?" The assailant answered "I'll explain it." The assailant did not speak any other words while he was in JOHNSON's presence. Several minutes later, JOHNSON observed two uniformed Police Officers approaching and he left the assailant and moved to where Senator KENNEDY was laying. Two men with a stretcher were with the Senator and ETHEL KENNEDY said to them "Don't move him. Don't lift him". JOHNSON heard the Senator say "no don't." The Senator was then placed on the stretcher and taken to the freight elevator. JOHNSON stood guard at the elevator door and only allowed the KENNEDY family and a few other people to enter the elevator. JOHNSON wanted to remain with the Senator so he ran from the kitchen area into the lobby and took the nearest elevator to the fifth floor where he assumed Senator KENNEDY would be taken. Since he did not find the Senator on the fifth floor, he returned to the ground floor of the hotel and found the area where the ambulances were parked. He then learned that the Senator was taken to the

7
LA 56-156

hospital and he with Deputy Mayor QUINN went to Central Receiving Hospital in QUINN's automobile. At the hospital, Police Officers allowed him to enter at QUINN's direction and he saw Senator KENNEDY. While in the hospital a Police Officer asked JOHNSON for the assailant's gun and JOHNSON denied that he had the weapon. He then saw two men whom he recognized as Police Detectives. JOHNSON told these men that he had the assailant's gun and asked if Chief THOMAS REDDIN was at the hospital. One of the detectives told JOHNSON that REDDIN was not present, but that they would take possession of the gun. JOHNSON informed the detectives that he would only surrender the gun at Police Headquarters. The detectives thereafter transported JOHNSON to Good Samaritan Hospital and accompanied him to the floor where Senator KENNEDY was being treated. The same detectives then drove him to the Los Angeles Police Department Headquarters and at this time JOHNSON surrendered the gun. The gun was given to Sergeant CALKINS and Sergeant MC GANN who are assigned to the Los Angeles Police Department Detective Bureau, 150 North Los Angeles Street, Los Angeles, California.

JOHNSON said that the assailant's gun was a revolver, black in color with brown grips. The barrel of the gun was approximately four inches long. JOHNSON was unable to recall the caliber of this weapon.

JOHNSON stated that he has seen photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN in the newspaper and on television and SIRHAN is the same person who he helped to subdue following the shooting of Senator KENNEDY and others on June 5, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel. JOHNSON is certain that he did not see SIRHAN in the hotel or elsewhere prior to the time he helped to subdue him.

LA 56-156

JOHNSON does not recall seeing a woman wearing a white dress with polka dots either prior to or after the shooting. He did not see anyone run from the kitchen area after the shooting occurred.

He explained that the kitchen or serving area was very crowded and that when the first shots were heard people immediately fell to the floor or attempted to hide to keep out of the line of fire.

JOHNSON said that he is certain that he heard at least four shots. The first shot was followed one or two seconds later by a second shot. The second shot was followed by a "string of shots", exact number unrecalled. No shots were fired while JOHNSON was attempting to seize the assailant's gun.

1 STATEMENT OF RAFER JOHNSON
2 TAKEN AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL

3 WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 1968, 9:45 A.M.

4 QUESTIONED BY: SGT. F. J. PATCHETT, #7872
5 SGT. J. R. MacARTHUR, #4372
6 SGT. CHARLES COLLINS

7 SUMMARY REPORT DICTATED BY LAPD OFFICERS. REPORTED AND
8 TRANSCRIBED BY SHARON THIELMAN, CSR, ON JUNE 28, 1968.

9
10 Rafer Johnson resides at 5470 West Boulevard, Los Angeles,
11 telephone 294-1270.

12 Johnson indicated that along with Grier, and other
13 members of Senator Kennedy's campaign group, that he had spent
14 the evening in the Senator's suite on the Fifth Floor at the
15 Ambassador Hotel. When the time came for the Senator to
16 address a group in the Embassy Room, they left the suite and
17 took a service elevator to the kitchen area adjacent to the
18 Embassy Room. The Senator entered the stage via a set of
19 stairs on the left side (left side facing from the stage to
20 the room). Johnson positioned himself on the left side of the
21 stage during the speech.

22 It was his understanding that at the conclusion of
23 the speech, the Senator was to exit the same way, however, at
24 the conclusion he observed the Senator turn around and go
25 through some curtains at the rear of the stage. Johnson then
26 exited by going through the door immediately next to the stairs
on the left side of the stage. The door entered into a foyer
area adjacent to the kitchen. Johnson recalled that the room

1 was quite crowded and the complexity of the situation was
2 increased by the presence of television cameras and cables.

3 At the time of the shooting, he placed himself in
4 the vicinity of the doors leading into the kitchen, however,
5 he had not yet entered the kitchen. He estimated he was two
6 or three paces from the door. He recalled hearing what he had
7 first thought was the pop of two balloons but then in looking
8 into the kitchen area he observed smoke. He immediately ran
9 into the kitchen area and headed toward the direction of the
10 smoke. He recalled seeing a man lying on the floor who he
11 thought was dead (probably Paul Schrade). He then saw
12 Senator Kennedy lying on the floor and paused momentarily over
13 the Senator.

14 He related that at the time he felt there was
15 nothing he could do for the Senator and so he turned and went
16 in the direction of a group of men scuffling with the man.
17 He heard someone shouting, "Get the gun, get the gun". At
18 that time, he observed Rosie Grier, along with other men,
19 holding a suspect. He saw the gun in the suspect's hand and
20 dove across the table in an effort to grab the gun. He got
21 his hand on the gun but Rosie Grier had better control of it.
22 Rosie removed the gun from the suspect's hand and gave it to
23 him. Johnson stated he kept the gun in his possession until
24 his arrival at Rampart Station at which time he turn the gun
25 over to a police officer named McGann (Sgt. McGann, Homicide
26 Division).

.

CAMPART DETECTIVE DIVISION

INTERVIEWS - JUNE 5, 1968

KENNEDY SHOOTING

DR 68-521 466

INTERVIEWED BY M.J. MC GANN
R. L. CLARKINS

HOMICIDE DIV.

STATEMENT OF RAFER JOHNSON
5470 West Blvd.
90043
Ph: 291-1270

Can I.D. susp. and gun. (Heard one shot, Kennedy entered door. Then heard several more, by the time 2nd shot fired, he was at door.) Susp. pacing Kennedy who was walking eastbound surrounded by newsmen. When Johnson entered through door, he saw Rosey Grier heading toward susp. who was holding the gun. Grier got to the susp. and grabbed him before Johnson did. Susp. was still waving gun out in front of him. Johnson thought it was held in his left hand. Johnson took possession of the gun. Susp. was held by Grier, Johnson, and other unk persons. Susp. turned over to uniform officer at scene. Susp. taken out through main lobby. Susp. described as Male Latin, 25/26, short, thin, dark curly hair, med. length, blue denim pants, jacket unk color, blk sock Johnson asked, "Why did you do it" Susp stated in English, "I'll explain it." As Johnson passed Kennedy, he noted Kennedy, an aide, and possibly a woman down.

*Susp pacing Kennedy who was a
E/B surrounded by newsmen. When
Johnson entered through door he saw
Rosey Grier heading toward susp who
was holding the gun. Grier went
to the susp & grabbed him before
did. Susp was still waving gun out in
front of him. Johnson thought it was*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 18, 1968

JOHN R. LEWIS, 361 Chelsea Circle, N.E., former residence 3670 Gordon Road, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at his place of employment with Southern Regional Council, 5 Forsyth Street, Atlanta, Georgia, and he furnished the following information.

LEWIS advised that he was formerly associated with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta and was presently the director for the Committee Organization Project of the Southern Regional Council. LEWIS stated that at some unrecalled time during ROBERT KENNEDY'S Presidential Campaign he was asked by EARL GRAVES of BOBBY KENNEDY'S New York State Campaign staff to assist KENNEDY in his campaign.

LEWIS advised that he accompanied ROBERT KENNEDY to the Oregon Primaries and on May 29, 1968, traveled to Los Angeles as a member of KENNEDY'S staff where he performed speaking engagements on behalf of KENNEDY in various communities in the Los Angeles area.

LEWIS stated that on the night of June 4, 1968, he was one of many KENNEDY supporters who was taking part in the activities at the victory celebration in the ballroom at the Ambassador Hotel.

He stated that while in the ballroom he received a call from a Mrs. JOAN BRADEN of the KENNEDY staff requesting that he join KENNEDY and his family and friends in the KENNEDY suite. LEWIS advised that he was also registered at the Ambassador Hotel. He stated that after receiving the request from Mrs. BRADEN he went to the KENNEDY suite where he conferred with the KENNEDY family and friends and spoke to Senator KENNEDY prior to KENNEDY'S departure to the ballroom to make his victory speech. He

On 11/12/68 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2412
by SA JAMES J. ROSE
SA RICHARD E. MUGATT JJR:mjl Date dictated 11/18/68

AT 44-2412

JJR/ncl

2

stated that Senator KENNEDY prior to leaving the suite requested that he remain in the suite with KENNEDY'S family and advisors until after the victory speech.

LEWIS stated that he remained in the suite after Senator KENNEDY left and observed the following activity and the subsequent television broadcast of the events prior to Senator KENNEDY'S assassination. LEWIS advised that he had no first hand knowledge of the events surrounding Senator KENNEDY'S assassination and could offer no further information in this matter.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/28/68

1

JOHN WILLIAM LEWIS, 11606 Vantage Hill, Arlington, Virginia, was interviewed on June 20, 1968, and furnished the following information:

He stated he works as the electrician with the crew of JIM WILSON and BOB FUNK. The crew had been under contract to Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), Washington, D. C., for coverage of Senator KENNEDY's presidential campaign. LEWIS said he was not on the Oregon campaign, except the last night, due to being on his honeymoon.

On the night of the assassination the crew was in Senator KENNEDY's suite of rooms before the speech in the Embassy Room. As they left to go to the Embassy Room the Senator rode down on the elevator and the crew ran down five flights of stairs. They filmed the speech from the stage. After the speech LEWIS said BILL BARRY said, "BOBBY, we're supposed to go this way." "This way" meant through the crowd. The Senator answered "No" and headed down the steps toward the rear. LEWIS said they followed about ten to twelve feet behind. He first heard the shots when they reached the swinging doors. It sounded like a "pop" then a number of shots in rapid succession. He and the crew rushed forward, still filming and knelt down to KENNEDY's head. LEWIS said he told JIMMY to keep shooting. JIMMY was crying and shouting and was not looking through the view finder. LEWIS stated he grabbed the lens and aimed it the best he could. At the end of the magazine JIMMY said, "I can't do anymore, we're out of film." LEWIS said he ran to the Colonial Room and got another magazine. He fought his way back to the kitchen and gave the magazine to BOB FUNK. JIMMY then threaded the film and laid the camera aside. LEWIS said he helped block the entrance, where KENNEDY was eventually taken out, with two laundry carts.

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

by SA ROBERT F. PETTY/nlr Date dictated 6/24/68

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

2
WFO 173-135

When the ambulance arrived LEWIS said he got the camera and gave it to JERRY SIMS and they followed the ambulance in a cab and filmed the rest of the events at both hospitals.

LEWIS stated he could not recall seeing SIRHAN before seeing him on television. He did not see the girl in the polka dot dress.

The other news media men he said he could recall in the corridor were JOHN HART, CBS, Washington, D. C., and JERRY SIMS, free lance, Los Angeles.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/68

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WFO 173-135

2

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

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

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

INTERVIEWS

FILE #

1-94

Person(s) Interviewed: HANKIEWICZ, Frank

Date 6-21-68

Time- 10:45a

Business Address & Phone 2506 Kookak St., Wash. DC (301) 656-3939

Residence Address & Phone New Senate Bldg. Wash. DC (202) 225-4451

Information (To be complete the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How)

Not Press Sec. for Robert Kennedy, was in kitchen at time of shooting
Interviewed above date and time

SEE - ATTACHMENT STATEMENT

Investigators making interview
Patchett L. Mac Arthur

Approved by:

W. T. R...

STATEMENT OF FRANK HANKIEWICZ, NATIONAL TRUSS SYSTEMS
FOR SENATOR ROBERT F. KENNEDY. RESIDENCE ADDRESS 2505
1 KENTUCK AVE. N.W., WASHINGTON 20016, D.C. BUSINESS ADDRESS,
2 THE NEW CHURCH BUILDING, OFFICE OF SENATOR ROBERT F.
KENNEDY. TELEPHONE (202) 655-3939; TELETYPE (202) 245-4451.

3
4 The below statement was taken June 21, 1968, 11:20 a.m.
5 Mr. Hankiewicz stated that on June 5, 1968, at approximately
6 12 midnight that he was with Senator Kennedy in Room 512
7 at the Ambassador Hotel. When it was time for the Senator
8 to leave his room and go to the Embassy Ballroom to make
9 a speech, the Senator stated, "Let's not go down through
10 the crowd." One of the hotel personnel suggested the
11 freight elevator and through the hotel kitchen. He left
12 the room and took the freight elevator and walked through
13 the kitchen and up onto the stage and the Senator made his
14 speech. After the speech, I did not know which way we
15 were going to leave, but I assumed we would go off the
16 stage on the right side and walk through the crowd to the
17 Colonial Room for a short press conference. but someone
18 at the last moment changed the plans (probably Fred Dutton).
19 The Senator jumped off the rear of the stage and went out
20 the back way. I was following him. I had just entered the
21 kitchen area and had walked five or six feet beyond the
22 swinging doors when I heard a pop. It sounded like a fire-
23 cracker, and then five or six more shots. They still
24 sounded like firecrackers. I had some papers in my left
25 hand. I put them down on a table and ran forward. I
26 saw Schrader was down and it looked like he was shot right

1 between the eyes and he looked like he was dead. I looked
2 over to my left and saw a struggle going on. I could see
3 an arm out with a gun. There was a bunch of hands pinning
4 the gun and arms down. I then looked over to my right and
5 saw the Senator was down and had been shot. I went over
6 and tried to aid the Senator. At that time Bill Farry and
7 Fred Dutton were over next to the Senator also. I then
8 left them and went into the kitchen to phone for an ambulance.
9 Mr. Hankiewicz was shown a map of the kitchen area and he
10 placed himself, at the time the shots were fired, just
11 inside the two swinging doors traveling towards the Colonial
12 Room. He figured he was somewhere on the left side of the
13 room and not quite halfway between the double doors and
14 the large petition that is next to the ice machines.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/7/68

ROSS-MATTHEW MILLER, JR., M.D., a surgeon with offices at 537 West Compton Boulevard, telephone number 639-5515, residence at 1319 Atlantic Drive, Compton, California, telephone number 636-7518, was interviewed at his office.

He advised that he is also a Compton City councilman and is president of the Compton Union High School Board and that he and his wife IRIS head up the Compton KENNEDY Headquarters, and he is a member of the Democratic delegation.

Doctor MILLER stated that on June 4, 1968, he arrived at the Ambassador Hotel between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m., accompanied by his wife. They visited with democratic delegate members and Mrs. CRANSTON and other persons during the evening, mostly on the floor level below the Embassy Room.

During the victory speech made by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, he was with his wife and numerous other persons watching the speech on television in a small dining room located one floor below the Embassy Room. He stated that after the speech and almost simultaneously with the television announcement that someone had been shot, someone ran past the room he was in and shouted "KENNEDY has been shot". He stated that he then asked some persons just outside that dining room if they had been upstairs and what the situation was, but could learn nothing.

He then went upstairs to the Embassy Room level by the nearest stairway and attempted to go into the Press Room next to the Embassy Room. However, a security guard would not let him enter the Press Room. He stated that an unknown individual was permitted by the guard to

On 6/7/68 at Compton, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA RICHARD BUCARO Date dictated 6/7/68

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

enter the Press Room, and he pushed his way in with this individual.

He said the attention of people in the Press Room was directed to the doorway leading to a kitchen access hallway and at that time he saw uniformed policemen and men dressed in plain clothes who may or may not have been policemen, bringing a man forcefully out of this hallway into the Press Room and whom he now believes looks like the photographs he later saw of the suspect SIRHAN SIRHAN.

He stated that he then pushed his way through that doorway from the Press Room into the kitchen access hallway behind the Embassy Room, and there he saw Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY lying on the floor on his back being attended by some unidentified people.

He stated that he took Mr. KENNEDY's pulse, which he estimated was 130 beats per minute and did not consider this to be critical and by the fact he was being attended by someone, he left to attend to another man, PAUL SCHRADE, who was lying on the floor closer to the Press Room door and also checked his pulse. SCHRADE's pulse was good, and he then examined the wound high above the forehead in the hair line area at the center of the head and checked the back of the head to see if there was an exit wound and found none. He stated that the blood on Mr. SCHRADE's face and wound was clotting and bleeding had apparently stopped, so he directed his attention back to Mr. KENNEDY.

He stated that he asked the man who was attending Mr. KENNEDY if he was a physician and either that man or someone else attending KENNEDY affirmed he was a physician, and Doctor MILLER believing Mr. KENNEDY was as well attended as circumstances permitted, returned to Mr. SCHRADE.

He stated he does not know the identity of the physician who was then attending Mr. KENNEDY and does not believe he could identify him if he should meet him face to face because of the turmoil, excitement, and the fleeting seconds he was there.

He stated that a stretcher was brought in, upon which Mr. KENNEDY was placed and removed from the kitchen.

access hallway, and he went back to Mr. SCHRADE and then quickly looked at a young boy 18 or 19 years of age who had a non-critical wound in the thigh and also a grown man who was more critically wounded in the stomach, but not in danger of expiring immediately. He said he then went back to Mr. SCHRADE and helped put him into a stretcher, which had been brought in and accompanied him in the ambulance to Central Receiving Hospital, where upon arrival he directed an unknown doctor and nurses to the immediate attention of Mr. SCHRADE's wound.

Doctor MILLER said he then went to Mr. KENNEDY's room which was either adjoining Mr. SCHRADE's room or next to a service room which did adjoin Mr. SCHRADE's room and saw Senator KENNEDY being attended and noticed that Mrs. KENNEDY was also there holding her husband by the arm. He overheard hospital people discussing whether or not to remove Mrs. KENNEDY, but a nurse stated that she was not causing any disruption in his treatment and permitted her to remain.

He said Mr. KENNEDY was placed in a respirator and that he helped the other doctors administer Dextran intravenously this being a blood replacement to keep volume up until whole blood could be administered. Albumen was also being administered along with the Dextran fluid by insertion of a needle permitting the albumen to flow into the same tubing by which the Dextran was being administered. He stated that the albumen needle had come out of the Dextran tubing whereupon he cleaned this needle and replaced it into the Dextran tubing.

He stated that shortly thereafter he assisted in lifting Senator KENNEDY into a stretcher as he was being transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital and continued assisting until he was placed into an ambulance for this transfer.

He stated that he then returned to Mr. SCHRADE's room and saw that he was being well attended, whereupon he departed the hospital and upon coming out the front entrance he saw numerous news men and asked for a ride back to the Ambassador Hotel and was invited to ride with two unidentified men.

4
LA 56-156

Doctor MILLER stated that he did not notice anyone or anything at the hotel prior to the shooting whom he now would suspect had anything whatever to do with the shooting. He said he has no information whatever regarding the suspect who is now in custody and did not notice him or anyone resembling him prior to the shooting, and saw no one fleeing the shooting area whom he would connect with the shooting.

Doctor MILLER further stated that there were numerous persons whom he can identify, members of the delegation and others whom he knows by name who were at the Ambassador Hotel and that he and his wife could prepare an extensive list of these persons which he would furnish when completed.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/1/68

1

Mr. GEORGE PLIMPTON was interviewed at his residence, 541 East 72nd Street, New York, New York.

He stated that he was in California for approximately the week prior to June 4, 1968, making speeches in behalf of Senator ROBERT KENNEDY.

On the night of June 4-5, 1968, prior to Senator KENNEDY's speech, he was in Senator KENNEDY's suite at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California.

He left the suite with Senator KENNEDY's party and went down a back elevator, by the kitchen and on to the podium in the ballroom where Senator KENNEDY made his speech. During the speech, PLIMPTON was on the stage and stood to the rear and to the left of Senator KENNEDY.

PLIMPTON was not part of the planning as to the route to take to or from the ballroom and just "tagged along" therefore he did not know if the plan, if there was one, of departure was changed.

When Senator KENNEDY finished his speech, he turned to the rear of the stage and started that way in the general direction of PLIMPTON. PLIMPTON, anticipating that Senator KENNEDY was going out the back of the stage, preceded Senator KENNEDY and went to the right after leaving the stage. PLIMPTON was walking along about 12 feet in front of Senator KENNEDY and would look back to see that he (PLIMPTON) was going in the correct direction.

Evidently as he was walking along he walked by SIRHAN SIRHAN but did not notice him.

On 6/27/68 at New York, N.Y. File # NY 44-1640
by SA FRANCIS L. CASHIN:jrf Date dictated 6/28/68

NY 44-1640

At one point he looked back as was his practice and saw that he was going in the correct direction and Senator KENNEDY was about 12 feet behind him and was shaking hands with one of the kitchen employees. He then looked forward and at that moment he heard very sharp shots. He knew they were shots and thinks that there were five of them in very rapid succession.

He turned his head and saw people reacting, shouting and screaming.

There was a crowd around Senator KENNEDY and PLIMPTON could not see everything clearly but he thinks that BILL BARRY of Senator KENNEDY's staff, may have knocked down SIRHAN SIRHAN once or twice. Out of the great crowd around Senator KENNEDY came another smaller crowd. In this latter group was JACK, a red-headed male member of Senator KENNEDY's staff, SIRHAN SIRHAN and maybe BILL BARRY. JACK, the red-head, and maybe BARRY had SIRHAN. BARRY then turned back to Senator KENNEDY who was lying on the floor.

PLIMPTON grabbed for SIRHAN who still had the gun. At this point, JACK, the red-head, and PLIMPTON had SIRHAN by the arm and had him over a steam table trying to get the gun from his hand. There may have been a third party holding SIRHAN. At about this time, PLIMPTON thinks the gun came loose from SIRHAN's hand but SIRHAN recovered it immediately. There were no shots fired. Things happened very fast and others were helping to subdue SIRHAN. A man wearing a seer sucker jacket had hold of SIRHAN's leg and ROSIE GRIER had hold of SIRHAN.

The struggle for the gun took a long time as SIRHAN had a firm grip on it. With JACK the red-head and PLIMPTON holding SIRHAN's wrist, a person who PLIMPTON thinks was GRIFR got the gun out of SIRHAN's hand.

3

NY 44-1640

At one point SIRHAN said something such as "You're hurting my leg." PLIMPTON did not hear SIRHAN say anything else.

SIRHAN was now subdued and being held by JACK, the red-head, ROSIE GRIER, the male in the seer sucker jacket who had SIRHAN by the leg and PLIMPTON who had SIRHAN by the wrist. They held him until the police arrived and SIRHAN was turned over to the custody of the police. JESSIE UNRUH was present and did most of the talking to the police and went with the police and SIRHAN.

PLIMPTON did not go to see Senator KENNEDY as he, PLIMPTON, was holding SIRHAN. PLIMPTON thinks that Senator KENNEDY was taken out before SIRHAN was but is not sure of this as his attention was on SIRHAN.

After SIRHAN was turned over to the police, PLIMPTON went to the Good Samaritan Hospital where Senator KENNEDY had been taken.

While SIRHAN was being held, people asked him why he did it and PLIMPTON asked him why he did it. SIRHAN did not answer any of these people.

PLIMPTON had never seen SIRHAN prior to the shooting and PLIMPTON noticed nothing undue prior to the shooting.

PLIMPTON did not see the other shooting incidents.

INTERVIEWS

FILE # I-1020

Person(s) Interviewed: PLIMPTON, George (Mr) Date 6-21-68
Time- 1:45pm

Business Address & Phone 541 E. 72nd St., New York (212) UN 1-0016

Residence Address & Phone _____

Info . tion (To be complete the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How)

Phone Interview above date & time

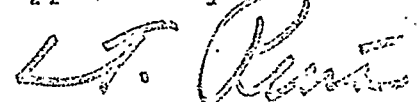
Suppl to I-95

SEE - ATTACHED STATEMENT

Investigators making interview

Patchett & Mac Arthur

Approved by:



STATEMENT OF GEORGE AL. FLIMPTON, 38 AS AT 541 EAST 72ND,
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK, PHONE (212) UN-10016.

1
2 Mr. Flimpton indicated that at the conclusion of the Senator's
3 speech, he left the area of the Embassy Room and was
4 proceeding to the Colonial Room where the Senator was to be
5 interviewed by the press. He passed the area where the shoot-
6 ing was to occur and was in about the middle of the steam
7 tables when he heard the pop of the shots. He turned and
8 observed a group of men struggling with the suspect. He
9 returned back to the first table and assisted in subduing
10 the suspect.

11 Mr. Flimpton's picture is in the photo (L.A. Fire
12 Department Official) of the apprehension of the suspect.
13 Prior to the shooting, and while en route to the Colonial
14 Room, Flimpton was aware of other people in the area but
15 could not recall who they were and where they were.
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/20/68

WARREN ROGERS, 1622 30th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., (WDC) furnished the following information:

He advised that he is employed by "Look" Magazine as their WDC Bureau Chief. He said that on June 5, 1968, he was in the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California. He stated that he had been in the Embassy Room during most of Senator KENNEDY's speech, but had gone to the temporary press headquarters in the Colonial Room just prior to the conclusion of the speech.

ROGERS said that he was in the Colonial Room when he heard what he thought to be firecrackers being fired. He said he immediately went out of the Colonial Room through the door into the kitchen area. He said that he ran into a number of people struggling with a man who was later identified as SIRHAN SIRHAN. ROGERS said that he did not see KENNEDY shot.

ROGERS said that at the time he left the Embassy Room, which was during KENNEDY's speech, it was his understanding that KENNEDY planned to come to the Colonial Room through the kitchen area. He said that to the best of his knowledge it was KENNEDY's own idea to go via the kitchen in order to avoid the large crowd in the Embassy Room. He recalled the original plan had been for KENNEDY to exit through the crowd in the Embassy Room, but this was changed as stated above. He said there was no indication that anyone other than KENNEDY influenced the change.

ROGERS said that he had never seen SIRHAN SIRHAN prior to the shooting and could not recall seeing any girl in a polka-dot dress.

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

by SA R. STEVEN POLACHEK:bah Date dictated 6/20/68

INTERVIEWS

I-1021

FILE #

Person(s) Interviewed: ROGERS, Warren.

Date 6-21-68

EDITOR OF LOOK MAGAZINE

Time- 12:30pm

Business Address & Phone 1622 30th St. N/W Washington DC 20035-0902

Residence Address & Phone

Information. (To be complete the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How)

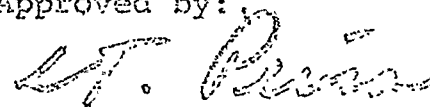
The following telephone interview was conducted by phone from Sen. Kennedy office, Wash. DC

SEE - ATTACHED STATEMENT

Investigators making interview

Mac Arthur & Patchett

Approved by:



STATEMENT OF WARREN E. BATES, EDITOR OF LOOK MAGAZINE,
WASHINGTON, D.C., 1622 30TH STREET NORTHEAST, WASHINGTON,
D.C., 965-0302.

At the time the Senator was making his speech, I was in
the press room (Colonial Room). When he left the stage, I
was still in the Colonial Room. When I heard the shots, I
ran into the kitchen area and observed the struggle going
on between three or four men and the suspect. I then ran
over to where the Senator was lying. There were several
of his aids trying to give him aid. I did hear the shots,
but I did not actually see the shooting.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/10/68

Mr. WALTER J. SHERIDAN, 4901 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, Maryland, who is employed as a special correspondent by the National Broadcasting Company, advised that he went to Los Angeles, California, immediately following the Indiana Primary Election in 1968 and that he was in close contact with the Senator ROBERT KENNEDY Campaign Headquarters in Los Angeles from that time until Senator KENNEDY was shot on June 5, 1968.

Mr. SHERIDAN related after observing a photograph of SIRHAN B. SIRHAN that to his knowledge he had never seen this individual.

Mr. SHERIDAN stated that on June 4, 1968, he worked at the Wilshire Boulevard Headquarters of Senator KENNEDY and at about the time the polling places closed he went to the Ambassador Hotel. He was at the Ambassador Hotel with CAESAR CHAVEZ who is from Delano, California, and had brought a group of about 200 Mexican-American farm laborers to Los Angeles to help with the election. He noted that CHAVEZ is the head of the farm workers in Delano, California. Mr. SHERIDAN related that during the evening of June 4, 1968, he had made arrangements for the above workers to be present when Senator KENNEDY spoke after results of the election became known and he had been to Senator KENNEDY's suite at the Ambassador Hotel to arrange for CHAVEZ to speak personally with KENNEDY. After such arrangements were made, he went to find CHAVEZ in a lower level of the Ambassador Hotel, but could not locate him.

Mr. SHERIDAN said that RICHARD COLEMAN, a Los Angeles attorney, had invited him, CAROL ASH, THERESA WALSTON and KATIE MURPHY to dinner and that this group was

On 10/9/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 173-135

by SA ROBERT W. DAVISON:tab 10/10/68
Date dictated

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

WFO 173-135

eating dinner at the Chancellor Hotel when they learned of Senator KENNEDY being shot.

SHERIDAN stated that two nights before the election a reception was held for Senator KENNEDY and his wife at the Cocoanut Grove at the Ambassador Hotel. On this occasion the hotel was very crowded and he accompanied Senator KENNEDY from his room to the reception and they were taken through the serving kitchen to avoid the crowds. SHERIDAN was of the opinion that SIRHAN may have observed this and been able to have positioned himself to be near KENNEDY after KENNEDY spoke following the election.

SHERIDAN stated that during the day of June 4, 1968, the KIBLAH (phonetic) KHAN, an Iranian, was at the Wilshire Boulevard Headquarters of Senator KENNEDY. SHERIDAN said KHAN had introduced himself at that time and told SHERIDAN he had met SHERIDAN on a previous occasion. SHERIDAN related this was not true but that he knew KHAN from an occasion in 1963 or 1964 when an attorney acquaintance of his represented KHAN when the KHAN had alleged that the Shah of Iran had misappropriated millions of dollars of U. S. aid money. SHERIDAN said that he mentioned seeing KHAN in Los Angeles on June 4, 1968, only as he had heard that there was some connection between KHAN and SIRHAN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/12/68

STEVEN SMITH, Southern California Coordinator for the KENNEDY Campaign, made available through a clerk, LUCY SALINGER, copies of proposed itineraries to be utilized by the Senator and his party in their West Coast Campaign.

These itineraries cover the dates of March 23 through March 25, 1968, April 18 and 19, 1968, May 6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, 24, 28, 29, 30, and 31, 1968, and June 2, 3, and 4, 1968.

SMITH advised these schedules normally would have been prepared by the "Advance Men," JERRY BRUNO or JOE DOLAN. BRUNO would have been more concerned with the travel during the latter part of May 1968, while DOLAN was more active in the earlier dates and, he believed, particularly in the Oregon travel.

SMITH stated further that these itineraries were subject to change and that more specific information should be available through the KENNEDY Headquarters in Washington, D. C., as to any alterations that may have occurred in the original schedule.

On 6/11/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA TIMOTHY L. DONOVAN/sro Date dictated 6/12/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date December 9, 1968

Mr. Theodore C. Sorensen, attorney 575 Madison Ave., New York, New York, stated that he was a member of Senator Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign and as such was in the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California on the night of June 4 - 5, 1968.

During Senator Kennedy's speech and immediately after it, Mr. Sorensen was in a suite of rooms in the hotel and did not witness the speech or the shooting. After Senator Kennedy had been taken to a hospital, Mr. Sorensen and Mr. Adam Walinsky, another member of Senator Kennedy's campaign, went to the hospital.

Mr. Sorensen does not know Sirhan Sirhan.

O- 12/9/68 at New York, New York File # NY 44-1640

by SA Francis L. Cashin/fc Date dictated 12/9/68

RECORDS
CHECKED (PK)FILE COPY
INTERVIEWS

FILE # I-958

PERSON INTERVIEWED: Dave Steiner ✓ DATE/TIME 8-27-68 8:15PM

SEX _____ RACE _____ HAIR _____ EYES _____ HT _____ WT _____ DOB _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 17046 Burbank Blvd; Encino PHONE 789-3869

BUSINESS ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

UNABLE TO LOCATE.

Mr. Steiner used to board at the above address but left here to go to some unknown out-of-state location. He has not been heard from for the last two months and is present whereabouts are unknown.

Party living at above address states that if they ever hear from him they will advise him to contact this dept.

Not mentioned

INTERVIEWS

FILE #

I 599

Person(s) Interviewed: Joan HusmanDate 7-1-68"Kennedy Girl"Time- 4PM

Business Address & Phone _____

Residence Address & Phone 219 S. Barrington; W.L.A. #313 476-5709

Information (To be complete the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How)
F/C 4-15-45 5-4 116 Blonde Brown.

Joan went to the hotel with another Kennedy Girl by the name of Toni Rothberg (I-679). She arrived at the hotel at approximately 7:30. and went directly to the Embassy Room. She did not leave the room because people were unable to get back into the room without a pass. At the time Kennedy spoke she was standing on the right side of the stage. After the speech she walked towards the exit when she heard screaming. She stayed around the hotel until 2AM. She does not recall seeing Sirhan or any woman in a polka-dot dress. She did not have a camera and does not know anyone that did.

Following are people she knew at the hotel:

Tom Fineman (no interview, PH#838-5984 or 838-9584), Mark Mittock (no interview, same number as Fineman), David Brody (no interview, PH#ST-4-0879. Presently in Canada until August), Bobby Heiman and Larry Sugar (no interviews, Ph#987-1697), Ron Pera (no interview, address and phone number unk), Dave Steiner (no interview, address and phone number unk; possibly lives in the valley), Jim Lowe (I-473), Nina & Mike Rhodes (I-844 & 845), Mike Robbins (no interview, address and phone no. unk), Bill Evans (no interview, address and phone number unk), Libby Corwell (I-549), Donna Blake (no interview, no address or phone no. Possibly lives WLA), Harvey Bornstein (I-380), Robin Vaughn (no interview, no address or phone number. Lives in the Valley), Peter Lang (no interview, no address or phone number), Arthur Soifer (no interview, no address or phone number), Edgar Small (no interview, no address or phone number), Joy Ellis (no interview, no address or phone number).

Investigators making interview

Alexander R. Layton 10375

Approved by:

L. R. Nigdi

LH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 14, 1968

1

Mr. JESSE M. UNRUH, Speaker of the California State Assembly, home address 8315 Byrd Avenue, Inglewood, California, furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, he was on the fifth floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California, along with members of his staff and Senator KENNEDY and his staff, awaiting the results of the California Presidential Primary. People in the room off the main lobby, who were awaiting the arrival of Senator KENNEDY, began to get restless and it was suggested that he (UNRUH) go down to speak to them.

At about 11:30 p.m. he went down and spoke to the group. At approximately 11:45 p.m. he felt there were sufficient returns for Senator KENNEDY to claim victory and sent his assistant, Mr. JACK C. CROSE, to get the Senator and his party.

The Senator came down to the hall and addressed the group congregated there for about eight minutes and then started to walk away. He proceeded to his right, towards a table where PIERRE SALINGER and DICK KLINE were seated. He was propelled, by someone whom he could not see, towards the back of the stage. The stage was so jammed he (UNRUH) decided to go down the stairs from the stage and go to the hallway by the door located at the foot of the stage.

When he stepped out into the hallway Senator KENNEDY had already passed that area and was about ten paces ahead of him. He then heard two or four pops followed by four or five more. At this point he did not realize these were pistol

On 6/13/68 at Sacramento, California File # SC 62-76

by SA NORMAN P. LE CLAIR/kah/alm Date dictated 6/14/68

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

2
SC 62-76
NPL/kah/alm

shots and thought they might be balloons. All at once the crowd parted in front of him as he continued to walk forward. He then observed PAUL SCHRADE lying on the floor with an obvious bullet wound in his head and immediately noticed Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor ahead of SCHRADE. Senator KENNEDY brought his hand down from his head and appeared to clutch at his stomach, hence he believed the Senator had been shot there. Someone had already gotten to the Senator and had undone his shirt.

Inasmuch as the crowd was pressing in, his first thoughts were to make room for the Senator and prevent his being trampled on. He then attempted to push newsmen, photographers, and other people in the area away. Noticing a photographer on top of a table where ROOSEVELT GRIER had pinned SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, he pulled him off the table and into the corridor. At this point it was the first time he had seen SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and at no time did he ever observe SIRHAN holding the gun.

Recalling the fate that had befallen LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and hearing voices in the crowd yelling to kill SIRHAN, he recalls yelling to the group holding SIRHAN to protect him. He could not recall exact words used but, remembering the events in Dallas when OSWALD had been shot, he did not want to see the same thing happen there. He did recall saying something like, "If the system works at all, we are going to try this one".

When the police arrived he attempted to keep the police all around SIRHAN . . . to protect him. He . . . grabbed SIRHAN by the scruff of the neck and helped to propel him down the hallway through the lobby and to a police car parked in front of the hotel.

He accompanied the police officers in the car that SIRHAN was in to the Rampart Division. He sat in front with the driver and SIRHAN was in the back seat between two other

3
SC 62-76
NPL/kah/alm

police officers. About the time they entered the car SIRHAN mumbled, "I did it for my country". He could not recall at just what point he (UNRUH) asked the question during the ride, but since SIRHAN looked like a Latin-American he asked SIRHAN, "Why him? Why him? He was trying to do something". SIRHAN muttered, "It's too late, it's too late". He also recalls SIRHAN saying, "I can explain, I can explain". He could not, however, recall the exact sequence of the statements except for the one made as they entered the car.

They arrived at the Rampart Division and SIRHAN was taken into a room there by one of the officers. His sole concern there was that SIRHAN not be in a position to do himself any harm and he was assured by an officer that SIRHAN was still handcuffed and would not be able to do himself any harm. Shortly after their arrival at the Rampart Division he noticed the time was 12:43 a.m.

SIRHAN subsequently was brought out, placed into a police car, and taken to the Central Division. He followed in another car. Upon arriving SIRHAN was taken to an isolation room and interrogated and that is all he saw of SIRHAN.

He added that he was not aware of any formal plans for Senator KENNEDY to address the press. The only plan he was aware of was that there was to be a victory celebration at the "Factory" a discotheque in Hollywood, California, to which he and his staff had been invited. To his knowledge all plans were made by the Senator's staff.

PERSON INTERVIEWED: VANOCUR, SANDOR DATE/TIME 9-20-68 6³⁰/P

SEX M RACE CAUCHAIR BLK EYES BRN HT 6' WT 200 DOB [REDACTED]

(9)

RESIDENCE ADDRESS 3155 HIGHLAND P. N.W. WASH. D.C. PHONE 202 244-3350

BUSINESS ADDRESS NBC NEWS HUNTLEY BRINKLEY PHONE 202 EM2-4000 x364

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

SANDOR VANOCUR WAS CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE. SANDOR STATED THAT DURING ALMOST THE ENTIRE EVENING HE WAS IN SENATOR KENNEDY'S SUITE. SANDOR STATED THAT JUST PRIOR TO WHEN RFK LEFT HIS SUITE TO GIVE HIS SPEECH THAT HE, SANDOR, WAS TALKING TO RFK. AT THE TIME RFK WAS STILL SANDOR WAS STILL IN RFK'S SUITE. AFTER THE SHOOTING SANDOR WENT TO THE AMBASSADOR & BEGAN MAKING EYE WITNESS INTERVIEWING. SANDOR DOES NOT REMEMBER WHO BROUGHT SANDY SERRANO (I 67) TO HIM FOR THE INTERVIEW BUT AS MISS SERRANO RELATED WHAT HAD HAPPENED HIS IMPRESSION WAS THAT SHE WAS HIGHLY EXCITABLE AND POSSIBLE A DING-A-LING AND HE HAD BETTER CONCLUDE THE INTERVIEW. SANDOR HAS NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI. SANDOR DID NOT SEE SIRHAN B. SIRHAN AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL ON 6-4-68. BELOW NAMES ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE HE SAW AT THE AMBASSADOR THAT HAVE NOT BEEN INTERVIEWED.

X TONY MASIRI 202 EM2-4000

X HARRY SOZIO 202 EM2-4000

MS

INVESTIGATORS MAKING INTERVIEW:

APPROVED BY:

Q. Rosen 11663

[Signature]