

1 stopped about where, would you touch the blackboard?

2 A They were right in here. Mrs. Kennedy and
3 I were right here.

4 Q S-2?

5 A Right before going in, and Roosevelt Grier
6 was behind her because I remember her face, she got
7 crushed like, and she went like this (indicating), and
8 they came down and said, "Are you all right?"

9 Roosevelt Grier pushed the people away
10 from her.

11 Then the procession went through -- then
12 we went through the door, Mrs. Kennedy and I and Roosevelt
13 Grier, and then the procession stopped again, and then like
14 firecrackers went off, like six.

15 Q At the time that you heard the six
16 firecrackers, or whatever number --

17 A Right.

18 Q -- how close to the Senator were you?

19 A I was -- he was past me.

20 The only -- I was just -- I was next to
21 Mrs. Kennedy. I did not see the Senator or anyone else.

22 Q Could you tell if he was ten feet from you
23 or thirty.

24 A About ten feet.

25 Q The Senator was ten feet from you?

26 A Right.

1 Q Now, did you see anyone near the Senator at
2 the time you heard the six --

3 A No, I didn't. I just saw smoke.

4 Q Do you recall, in reference to S-2, where
5 were you on this diagram when you heard the six -- what
6 you have described as firecrackers?

7 A Right. I was right about here (indicating).

8 Q I am going to mark S-3 in the general area.
9 Is that fair enough? Have I marked that correctly for you?

10 A Correct. And Mrs. Kennedy was right next to
11 me.

12 And then when they started shooting, I
13 pushed Mrs. Kennedy, and I saw people in front turning
14 around to her, and I saw her on the floor with Roosevelt
15 Grier hovering over her, protecting her.

16 And then after that it was like a swarm of
17 people pushing me out the door, and I just went with the
18 people because I didn't know what was going on.

19 Then when -- I noticed when I got in the
20 light that I was bleeding.

21 Q Did you feel some type of blow or --

22 A Well, while this was going on, like someone
23 kicked me in the shins.

24 Q Was that in the leg?

25 A Right.

26 Q Which leg?

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1 A My left.

2 Q Were you shot there?

3 A Yes, I was.

4 Q And will you describe generally where? Was
5 it the knee --- the cap?

6 A Right here (indicating).

7 MR. HOWARD: The witness, Mr. Foreman, may the record
8 indicate the witness now has removed the blanket and
9 indicates the center ---

10 THE WITNESS: You can say from the knee halfway
11 down in the middle.

12 Q BY MR. HOWARD: And that is on your right
13 leg?

14 A No, my left leg.

15 Q Left leg, correct. It's heavily bandaged
16 today, is that correct?

17 A Correct.

18 Q And after you noticed that you had been shot,
19 were you later taken to a hospital?

20 A Then my friends carried me on their
21 shoulders and then we got into a taxicab and I went to
22 Central Receiving Hospital.

23 Q In a taxi?

24 A Right.

25 Q Were you treated there?

26 A They just cleaned off the blood and put

1 gauze on.

2 Then the Senator arrived, so they left me
3 in there for twenty minutes.

4 And then my parents finally came and took
5 me to the Midway Hospital.

6 Q Where is that located?

7 A In Los Angeles.

8 Q Now, at any time that this event occurred,
9 did you see anyone with a gun or a weapon?

10 A No, I didn't.

11 But what I did see, when my friend David and
12 I were standing at S-1, we noticed, before the Senator
13 came, there were a lot of chefs coming by, a lot of people;
14 anyone could walk through the serving kitchen, and they
15 were just coming by to look at the crowd.

16 And we told them, "Would you please leave?"

17 And David and I, just about 11:00 o'clock,
18 we just walked through -- we were curious -- and we
19 noticed that we got to the press room door and they didn't
20 like anyone walking through there, so they blocked us
21 there.

22 We noticed that the door right here, the
23 corridor door by the rest rooms, anyone walked through, so
24 David and I put our heads out; we noticed there was a
25 security guard standing in front of the Embassy Room door.

26 And so then we went back into the kitchen

1 and we got to our posts again.

2 Q Do you know Rafer Johnson?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Was he there or in the near vicinity at the
5 time of the six shots?

6 A Well, I noticed that he already went into
7 the door.

8 Q He would be in the general room?

9 A He was in the kitchen.

10 Q And Roosevelt Grier was in the kitchen?

11 A Well, he was standing right here near Mrs.
12 Kennedy.

13 Q Do you recall, if you observed, did the
14 Senator stop, perhaps, to shake hands with certain people
15 on his exit through the kitchen area or the hallway to the
16 kitchen area?

17 A No, I didn't. But I know he was talking to
18 Jesse Unruh or his brother-in-law.

19 MR. HOWARD: That's all we have. May the witness
20 be excused, unless the Jury has any questions?

21 THE FOREMAN: Do you have any questions? There
22 being --

23 Q BY MR. HOWARD: May we have your age?

24 A Seventeen.

25 THE FOREMAN: There being no further questions,
26 it is my duty to warn -- to caution you and also warn you

1 not to impart to anyone or to discuss with anyone any of
2 the proceedings that went on in this Grand Jury room this
3 morning.

4 THE WITNESS: Yes.

5 THE FOREMAN: Thank you very much for coming in.

6 THE WITNESS: You are welcome.

7 MR. HOWARD: May we ask one additional question?

8 Q Mr. Stroll, before you leave, were you a
9 volunteer worker for the election for the nomination ---

10 A Yes, I was. I worked at Kennedy Headquarters.
11 I had a gift for him, and that's why I was going up to his
12 room.

13 THE FOREMAN: One more question. I hope we haven't
14 tired you too much.

15 THE WITNESS: No, that's okay.

16 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Mr. Stroll, going back to
17 the time that you saw the Senator go into the area through
18 the S-2 door ---

19 A Right here?

20 Q Right. Who went in first? Did the Senator?

21 A No. I remember two people went in before
22 him.

23 Q Who were they?

24 A What I can remember, I thought they were
25 Jesse Unruh and Pierre Salinger because I remember when he
26 came out of the door, they were right near him, and when

1 he came out of the curtain, they were right near him.

2 So everything happened so fast, so I just
3 figured that he went with them, but I was sure that I
4 that I did. They were all right near him.

5 MR. HOWARD: Thank you very much.

6 THE FOREMAN: Thank you.

7 (Whereupon the witness was excused and was
8 wheeled out of the Grand Jury Suite.)
9

10 MR. HOWARD: T. R. White, Officer White.

11
12 TRAVIS R. WHITE,
13 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
14 as follows:

15 THE FOREMAN: Good morning.

16 THE WITNESS: Good morning.

17 THE FOREMAN: Would you raise your right hand,
18 Officer?

19 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
20 request of the Foreman.)

21 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence
22 you shall give in this matter now pending before the
23 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the
24 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
25 help you God?

26 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

1 THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please. For
2 the record, would you give us your name?

3 THE WITNESS: Travis R. White.

4 THE REPORTER: Will you spell your first name,
5 please?

6 THE WITNESS: T-r-a-v-i-s.

7
8 EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. FUKUTO:

10 Q What is your business or occupation?

11 A I am a police officer for the City of Los
12 Angeles.

13 Q And were you on duty on election night,
14 Tuesday, June 4th of 1968?

15 A Yes, I was.

16 Q What time did you go on duty that day?

17 A 6:15 p.m.

18 Q And what Division were you working out of?

19 A Rampart.

20 Q What watch is that 6:15 p.m.?

21 A It is the mid-watch of the P.M. watch.

22 Q What time does your watch end?

23 A 3:00 a.m.

24 Q Did you have a partner that day?

25 A Yes, I did.

26 Q What is your partner's name?

1 A His name is Arthur Placencia.

2 Q Is he here, also?

3 A Yes.

4 Q You work a patrol car?

5 A Yes.

6 Q In uniform?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Sometime during the night of June the 4th
9 or the early morning of June the 5th, while you were on
10 that watch, did you receive any calls to go to the
11 Ambassador Hotel?

12 A We didn't actually receive it. We heard it
13 come out. It was given to another unit.

14 Q Was it a call just directed to one single
15 unit?

16 A It came -- the call came out, Rampart Unit
17 in the vicinity of 2 A 51.

18 Q What does 2 A 51 designate?

19 A That designates the Rampart Unit and the
20 particular car that was given the call was designated 51.

21 Q Car Number 51?

22 A Yes. The "A" stands for two-man radio car.

23 Q And did you, after hearing that call to
24 Car Number 51, proceed to the Ambassador Hotel?

25 A Yes.

26 Q That was not your car?

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- 1 A No.
- 2 Q What is your designation?
- 3 A We were 2 X 48.
- 4 Q Car Number 48?
- 5 A Yes.
- 6 Q About what time was it when the call came
7 out?
- 8 A I would say approximately 12:20.
- 9 Q A.M.?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q June 5, 1968, is that right?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q And what time did you arrive at the
14 Ambassador Hotel?
- 15 A I would say within two minutes after that,
16 probably 12:22 a.m., 12:23 a.m.
- 17 Q Did you proceed to any location within the
18 hotel after arriving there?
- 19 A On the initial arrival, we thought that
20 whoever was injured had already been taken by Yellow Cab.
- 21 We was stopped at first on Wilshire
22 Boulevard in front of the hotel by two special officers.
23 They informed us they were taking the injured person in
24 the Yellow Cab to the Central Receiving Hospital.
- 25 Q Did you see a Yellow Cab at that time?
- 26 A Yes.

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1 Q With a person in it?

2 A There were a number of people in the rear
3 and the front.

4 Q And what did you do at that time?

5 A I put out a broadcast informing
6 Communications that the special officers had the cab and
7 they were rolling Code 3 to the Central Receiving Hospital
8 and with injured people.

9 Q At that time did you have any idea who had
10 been shot?

11 A No, I did not.

12 Q Did you have any idea how many people had
13 been shot?

14 A No.

15 Q After encountering these people, what did
16 you do?

17 A I looked up the street, southbound, toward
18 the hotel, and I could see parking lot attendants and
19 members of the hotel staff waving to the police car.

20 Q To your police car?

21 A Yes.

22 Q What did you do then?

23 A We then proceeded to their location. They
24 directed us to the front of the hotel.

25 Q And from there did you go somewhere?

26 A Yes.

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1 Q Where did you go?

2 A A member of the staff took us in the --
3 it's in the west -- southwest portion of the hotel.

4 It's an entrance to the rear, and he took
5 us through the passageway, up the stairs to the kitchen
6 area.

7 Q Were you on the second floor at that time?

8 A Yes, sir.

9 Q Did you see any designations of the rooms
10 in the hotel such as the Embassy Room?

11 A Not at that time. We went up the rear
12 corridors and stairs.

13 Q Did you later determine that the room you
14 went to was the Embassy Room or near the Embassy Room?

15 A Not to my knowledge. It was a kitchen
16 portion. I never entered any other portion of the hotel.

17 Q I direct your attention to the diagram
18 which is beside you, Grand Jury Exhibit Number 1.

19 Do you recognize that diagram as the
20 location where you went?

21 A Yes, I do.

22 Q Is that the location where you went?

23 A I'm not really that familiar with the area
24 itself, but it was some portion of the kitchen.

25 Q It was a kitchen area?

26 A Yes.

1 Q All right. And you had climbed up some
2 stairs coming from the ground floor?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Okay. Did you notice a number of people
5 inside the kitchen area?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Approximately how many?

8 A On my initial arrival, I -- most of the
9 officers started up the stairs, too, and they went around
10 the right entranceway, and one of the stewards in the
11 kitchen, or whatever, he directed me that the person or
12 persons were right around his side.

13 So I stepped to his portion of the
14 kitchen where he was located, and he then told me that the
15 suspect was being held in custody at that end of the room.

16 I -- at that time I walked over and
17 started talking to people. I couldn't determine how
18 many people were in the room.

19 There were a great number of them, but I
20 couldn't see past the first two or three rows.

21 Q And did you see somebody who was designated
22 or whom you called a suspect at that location?

23 A Yes. I observed a person was being held
24 down by -- I would say eight to ten people on top of one
25 of the serving tables.

26 Q Did you know any of these people that were

1 holding this individual down?

2 A Not at that time. They later identified
3 themselves.

4 Q And what names do you recall?

5 A The main one that I spoke to later was
6 Mr. Jesse Unruh.

7 Q Anyone else?

8 A I was informed by Rosie Grier that it was
9 a person --

10 Q That he was one of the --

11 A -- that he was a person that was doing the
12 initial shooting.

13 Q Did you know Roosevelt Grier?

14 A No, not at that time.

15 Q Did you later learn that Roosevelt Grier was
16 one of the individuals helping to hold the suspect?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And did you take into custody at that time
19 the person that these eight or so individuals had in
20 custody?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Where did you take him?

23 A We took him directly from that location --
24 one of the hotel employees were directing us as the
25 quickest route out.

26 And we took him down -- I believe it was

1 through the main portion of the hotel, then in the lobby.

2 Q Directly to the patrol car?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And then did you leave the scene at that
5 time?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q Now, going back to the location where you
8 first saw this individual in custody, was it within the
9 kitchen area on the second floor there where you went?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Now, do you recognize Grand Jury Exhibit
12 Number 1 at all as being the kitchen area?

13 MR. HOWARD: Officer, would you like to stand up
14 and go around where you can see the writing?

15 THE WITNESS: I really couldn't say unless I knew
16 where the steps were, because I don't know which is the
17 north portion.

18 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: North is on the top of the
19 diagram.

20 A On the top? To the best of my knowledge,
21 right now, not knowing where the stairs were located, I
22 believe it would be in this area right here (indicating).

23 Q You are indicating one of the serving
24 tables located in the north portion of the kitchen area,
25 is that correct?

26 A Yes.

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1 MR. FUKUTO: May I mark that W-1, Mr. Foreman?

2 THE FOREMAN: Surely.

3 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: Would you point out the
4 general location where the suspect was at that time?

5 A The only way I have of knowing is, really,
6 since there was two entrances, most of the officers were
7 directed around here, and I came around here.

8 He was on the first table right inside the
9 door.

10 MR. FUKUTO: I will mark that W-1.

11 I think you can take your seat again.

12 (Whereupon the witness resumed his place
13 on the witness stand.)

14 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: Did the suspect have a
15 weapon in his hand at the time you took custody of him?

16 A He did not.

17 Q Did you see a weapon while you were present
18 at that location?

19 A No.

20 Q Did you later learn that Senator Robert
21 Kennedy had been shot there at that location?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Did you know at the time you took the
24 suspect into custody?

25 A No, I did not.

26 Q Did you know who had been shot?

1 A No.

2 Q You did know at least one or more -- at
3 least one person had been shot?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Did you know how many had been shot?

6 A No.

7 Q So what you did was you immediately took
8 the individual out into the patrol car and sped him away
9 from the scene, is that correct?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And did you then book this individual?

12 A No. I retained custody of him at Rampart
13 Station until the detectives took custody of him.

14 Q Did you attempt in any way to interrogate
15 him while you had him in your custody?

16 A Only as to his identification.

17 Q And did he give you any identification?

18 A No.

19 MR. FUKUTO: Mr. Foreman, I have two photographs
20 on one board. May this be marked Grand Jury Exhibit
21 Number 3-A?

22 THE FOREMAN: Permission granted.

23 MR. FUKUTO: Thank you. And I have another board
24 containing two photographs of apparently the same individual.

25 May this be marked Grand Jury Exhibit 3-B?

26 THE FOREMAN: So ordered.

1 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: Officer White, I show you
2 what has been marked Grand Jury Exhibit 3-A and Grand Jury
3 Exhibit 3-B.

4 Is that the individual that you took into
5 custody that morning?

6 A Yes.

7 Q About what time was it when you received
8 custody of him from these eight or so individuals?

9 A I would say right approximately at 12:30
10 a.m. ---

11 Q So that was about ---

12 A --- to 12:35 a.m.

13 Q About how many minutes after you arrived at
14 that general location?

15 A I would say within five.

16 Q And within how many minutes was he away
17 from the location there at the Ambassador Hotel?

18 A I would say maybe another five to get him
19 out of the hotel into the police car.

20 Q Were there a number of people in the area?

21 A Yes.

22 Q Was there any commotion?

23 A Yes, a great deal.

24 Q Did you have to make an effort to keep the
25 crowd away from the individual that you took into custody?

26 A Yes.

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1 Q Were there other police units on the scene
2 at the time you first arrived?

3 A No, sir. We were the first unit.

4 Q You were the first unit to arrive?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Before you took the individual into custody
7 depicted in Grand Jury Exhibit 3-A and 3-B -- had other
8 police units arrived?

9 A Yes.

10 Q About how many, as far as you know?

11 A I believe there were three to four that had
12 arrived right after we stopped at the front of the hotel.

13 These were the people that followed us up
14 the stairs.

15 Q While you were in the kitchen area or at the
16 hotel itself, did you see any individual that appeared to
17 be injured?

18 A No, I did not.

19 Q Did you later either through newscasts or
20 through the papers find out the name of the individual that
21 you took into custody?

22 A It was the next day, before I got off duty,
23 they had found his identity.

24 Q And you have heard him referred to as
25 Sirhan Sirhan, is that correct?

26 A Yes.

DONALD L. GSYROV, C.S.R., OFFICIAL REPORTER

1 Q We are talking about that incident?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Could you just describe in numbers
4 approximately how many people were in the kitchen area at
5 the time you took this individual into custody from these
6 other people?

7 A I would say approximately between seventy-
8 five to a hundred.

9 Q And about how large is that area?

10 A It's -- in the immediate kitchen area,
11 it's, I'd say, approximately a hundred feet long and
12 twenty-five feet wide, somewhere in that neighborhood.

13 Q And was the group of individuals acting
14 in an orderly manner?

15 A No, they were not.

16 Q It was quite confused at that time, is
17 that correct?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q Had any ambulances arrived at the scene at
20 the time you took the person into custody?

21 A No, not to my knowledge.

22 Q And at the time you left, had any -- up to
23 that time, had any ambulances arrived at that location?

24 A No.

25 Q And you feel that you preceded the
26 ambulances to the scene?

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1 A I thought I had then, but later I found
2 out I hadn't.

3 Q An ambulance had been there and had already
4 taken away some individual, is that correct?

5 A Yes.

6 MR. FUKUTO: I believe that's all I have, Mr.
7 Foreman.

8 THE FOREMAN: Do any of the Jurors have a
9 question of Officer White? Do you have one, Mrs. Lensing?

10 A GRAND JUROR: Yes.

11 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: When you took the
12 suspect -- I think we can refer to him, just for the
13 purpose of expedition, as Sirhan -- when you took Sirhan
14 to the patrol car, was it just you and your partner
15 Placencia escorting him to the car and placing him into
16 the car?

17 A No, sir. On the initial decision to get
18 him out of the building as fast as possible, by that time
19 probably one or possibly two other police officers had
20 worked their way through the crowd to my position.

21 And at this time they were helping us get
22 the people off of him in order to take him into custody.

23 Q Did it appear to you that the people were
24 trying to get to him perhaps to take some action against
25 him?

26 A Yes. All the time they were straking at

1 him and trying to tear his clothing and everything.

2 Q These were not police officers that were
3 doing that?

4 A No, they were not.

5 Q And the police officers were trying to
6 protect the individual, is that correct?

7 A Yes.

8 Q And then after you got Sirhan into the
9 patrol car, how many people were in the patrol car when
10 it went to the station?

11 A Four.

12 Q Who were the people?

13 A It was my partner, Jesse Unruh, and the
14 suspect and myself.

15 Q I see. I suppose your partner or yourself
16 sat with the suspect in the back seat?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Had he been handcuffed at any time?

19 A Yes, directly after gaining control of him
20 from the people that were holding him, we handcuffed him
21 at the scene in the kitchen.

22 Q Did he struggle with you as you handcuffed
23 him or as you took him into custody?

24 A No, he did not.

25 Q And then who did you say was in the back
26 seat with him?

1 A My partner, Arthur Placencia.

2 Q And you drove the police car?

3 A Yes.

4 Q With Jesse Unruh seated beside you in the
5 front seat?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Now, at that time, did you know who, if
8 anyone, had been shot?

9 A No, I did not.

10 Q You believed at least one person had been
11 shot, is that right?

12 A Yes.

13 Q But you didn't know who it was?

14 A Only due to the radio call, the ambulance,
15 shooting, and that was all the knowledge I had of the
16 entire happening.

17 Q Did Jesse Unruh make any comments to you
18 about what happened?

19 A Only in the police car, after we left.
20 At this time I didn't even know who he was. I thought he
21 was possibly the hotel security.

22 Q I see.

23 A And at approximately Fifth Street and
24 Alexandria he identified himself.

25 And at that time I asked him who was shot.

26 Q Did he relate to you that Senator Kennedy

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1 had been shot?

2 A Yes.

3 MR. FUKUTO: Any other questions?

4 THE FOREMAN: Any other questions?

5 There being no further questions, Officer
6 White, it is my duty to caution you and also warn you not
7 to discuss or impart to anyone any of the proceedings that
8 went on in this Grand Jury room this morning.

9 With that, thank you for coming in.

10 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

11 (Whereupon the witness was excused and
12 withdrew from the Grand Jury Room.)

13
14 MR. HOWARD: May we call Mr. Perez?

15 THE SERGEANT AT ARMS: Mr. Howard, he'd like to
16 see you a minute.

17 MR. HOWARD: Fine.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26

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1 JESUS PEREZ,
2 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
3 as follows:

4 THE FOREMAN: Would you stand right there, please,
5 and raise your right hand, please?

6 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
7 request of the Foreman.)

8 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence
9 you shall give in this matter now pending before the
10 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the
11 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
12 help you God?

13 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

14 THE FOREMAN: What is the answer?

15 THE WITNESS: Yes.

16 THE FOREMAN: The answer is, "Yes."

17 Would you be seated, please, and into the
18 microphone, give us your name. Talk right into the
19 microphone.

20 THE WITNESS: My name is Jesus Perez.

21 THE FOREMAN: Jesus Perez.

22 EXAMINATION

23 BY MR. FUKUTO:

24 Q Mr. Perez, just relax a bit. I want to ask
25 you a few questions.
26

1 What is your occupation?

2 A I work in the kitchen like helper, like
3 kitchen porter, something like that.

4 Q Where do you work as a helper?

5 A In the main kitchen.

6 Q At the Ambassador Hotel?

7 A At the Ambassador Hotel.

8 Q And what is your home address, sir?

9 A My home address is 1415 South Burlington
10 Avenue.

11 Q In Los Angeles?

12 A In Los Angeles.

13 Q Is there a telephone there where you can be
14 reached?

15 A Well, they have in the building, back in
16 the building, but I not -- let me see in my wallet if I
17 see the telephone.

18 THE FOREMAN: Go right ahead.

19 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: Do the police officers have
20 your home telephone number?

21 A No.

22 Q We can get it from you later, Mr. Perez,
23 I think.

24 Now, were you working at the Ambassador
25 Hotel on election night, last Tuesday?

26 A Yes, I was.

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1 Q Which was June the 4th?

2 A June the 4th.

3 Q And what time did you go to work on that
4 day?

5 A I start at 4:00 o'clock. I work 4:00 to
6 12:00.

7 Q And that's 4:00 o'clock in the afternoon?

8 A Yes, afternoon.

9 Q To 12:00 midnight, is that right?

10 A 12:00 midnight, yes.

11 Q And were you working in the kitchen of the
12 Embassy Room?

13 A No, in the main kitchen.

14 Q In the main kitchen?

15 A In the main kitchen.

16 Q What floor is the main kitchen on?

17 A On the third.

18 Q On the third floor?

19 A On the third floor.

20 Q And the Embassy Room is on the second
21 floor, is that correct?

22 A Embassy Room is in the -- let me -- the
23 Embassy Room is -- is where the kitchen is, on the third
24 floor, because the basement, the Casino, and the main
25 kitchen is the third floor.

26 Q I see what you mean, okay. The main

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1 kitchen is on the same floor as the Embassy Room?

2 A That's right.

3 Q Now, were you there that night when some
4 persons got shot?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Were you still present at the hotel?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Your work ended at 12:00 midnight, but you
9 happened to be there a little bit longer, is that correct?

10 A Yes. I finished 12:00, but I was there,
11 before 12:00.

12 Q Do you know that the Kennedy party were
13 in a particular location at the hotel?

14 A I don't understand the words, sir.

15 Q Did you know that Senator Kennedy's group --

16 A No.

17 Q -- his people --

18 A No.

19 Q -- did you know who they were?

20 A No.

21 Q Okay. Now, you see the two photographs
22 which are in front of you, the two pictures that are in
23 front of you, Mr. Perez?

24 A Yes, I see them.

25 Q For the record, they are Grand Jury
26 Exhibits 3-A and 3-B. Did you see the person that's in

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1 those photographs around the hotel that night?

2 A Yes. He was talking to me about half an
3 hour before the shooting.

4 Q And where were you at that time that he
5 was talking to you?

6 A In the steam table in the front -- in the
7 steam table -- I was there, and he was close to me here.

8 And he asked me about three or four times
9 if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming through that way.

10 And I answer I don't know because -- really,
11 I don't know what way he comes.

12 Q But he asked you about three or four times?

13 A Yes, he asked me about three or four times
14 if Mr. Kennedy come through from there, coming out from
15 there.

16 Q You mean -- where was he pointing to when
17 he said "from there"?

18 A Repeat it, sir.

19 Q What did he mean, "from there"?

20 A If Kennedy come through, out.

21 Q Where you people were standing?

22 A Yes.

23 Q I see. Where were you standing at that
24 time?

25 A On the front -- on the front, the steam
26 table.

1 Q And was that in the main kitchen there?

2 A No, in the pantry, Embassy Ballroom,
3 Embassy Room.

4 Q In the Embassy Room?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Did you later find out where Senator
7 Kennedy was shot, which room he was in when he was shot?

8 A He was in the Embassy.

9 Q In the pantry area there?

10 A Yes, he was in the pantry area.

11 Q Was that the place where you were standing --

12 A Yes.

13 Q -- when this person --

14 A Uh-huh, he was there talking with me and
15 other boys.

16 And some Mexican boy, he said something,
17 and the man was -- he -- he told me, "What he said?"

18 And I tell him, "He is talking about the
19 beautiful girl. He no talking about you."

20 He said, "Oh."

21 Q This was about half an hour before the
22 Senator got shot that night or before the shooting got
23 started?

24 A Yes. We was about half an hour standing
25 there.

26 Q Do you remember when you first saw this

1 person?

2 A Yeah, I remember him. He was there in the
3 steam table, getting some picture, doing something, you --
4 he was standing there.

5 Q How early in the night did you see him
6 there?

7 A I say fifteen minutes before 12:00.

8 Q Fifteen minutes before 12:00?

9 A Yes, or maybe more -- I don't know.

10 MR. FUKUTO: That's all I have.

11 THE FOREMAN: Any questions? Anyone have any
12 question of this witness?

13 There are no more questions, Mr. Perez.
14 I must caution you and warn you not to impart to anyone
15 or discuss with anyone -- not anyone -- any of the
16 proceedings that went on in this room this morning; do you
17 understand that?

18 THE WITNESS: Let me say, you mean I don't say
19 nobody, nothing?

20 THE FOREMAN: "Nobody, nothing." Just tell them,
21 "Shh."

22 THE WITNESS: All right.

23 THE FOREMAN: Thank you very much for coming in.

24 THE WITNESS: You are welcome.

25 (Whereupon the witness was excused and
26 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

1 MR. FUKUTO: Vincent Di Pierro.

2
3 VINCENT THOMAS DI PIERRO,
4 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
5 as follows:

6 THE FOREMAN: Would you stand right there, please,
7 and raise your right hand?

8 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
9 request of the Foreman.)

10 Do you solemnly swear that the evidence
11 you shall give in this matter now pending before the
12 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the
13 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
14 help you God?

15 THE WITNESS: I do.

16 THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please. For
17 the record, would you give us your name?

18 THE WITNESS: Vincent Thomas Di Pierro.

19
20 EXAMINATION

21 BY MR. HOWARD:

22 Q Would you spell your last name for the
23 record?

24 A D-i capital P-i-e-r-r-o.

25 Q Will you talk as loud as you can and talk
26 into the microphone? May we ask your business or

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1 occupation?

2 A I am a student and work part-time at the
3 Ambassador Hotel as a waiter.

4 Q Is your father also employed there?

5 A Yes. He is the maitre d'.

6 Q And I'd like to direct your attention, if
7 I may, to the election, June 4th, 1968; did you have
8 occasion to work or go to the Ambassador?

9 A I had occasion to go to the hotel.

10 Q Did your father call you up?

11 A Yes, he did.

12 Q Did he tell you, in effect, that the
13 Senator was there?

14 A Yes, sir, he did.

15 Q Did you desire to see the Senator?

16 A Yes. I was hoping I'd meet him.

17 Q What did you do?

18 A At 11:15 my father called me and I told him
19 I'd be there in about twenty-five, thirty minutes.

20 And I arrived at the hotel at about twenty-
21 five minutes to 12:00.

22 I arrived downstairs in the Ambassador
23 Ballroom which is directly underneath the Embassy Room,
24 and I talked with one of the waiters.

25 And I asked if he had seen my father; and
26 he said he was upstairs.

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1 So I went through the service entrance,
2 through the kitchen -- through where they wash the dishes,
3 actually, upstairs to the Embassy Room.

4 Q Could we stop right there?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q What floor is the Embassy Room on?

7 A It would be the main floor. It's the same
8 floor that the Cocoanut Grove is on.

9 Q When you say "the main floor," there are
10 other areas though?

11 A There is another area below it.

12 Q Have you been around that hotel some time?
13 You are familiar with it?

14 A Yes, sir, very familiar.

15 Q And both from working there and because your
16 dad is there?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q And you went then up to the area of the
19 Embassy Room, is that correct?

20 A Yes, sir, I did.

21 Q Would you go like I went or would you go
22 through like the back way?

23 A I went through the back ways to avoid the
24 security people as well as, you know, the crowd, because
25 nobody could get through there unless they were an
26 employee.

1 Q At the time you arrived there -- the
2 Embassy Room is kind of like a big ballroom?

3 A It's the biggest ballroom we have.

4 Q Lot of people in it?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Happy people?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q You are going up the ways you'd know, that
9 I wouldn't know, is that right?

10 A Well, it's visible by everyone, but to get
11 to know your way around the hotel -- it would be very
12 difficult if you didn't know where they led to.

13 Q You went up and got into the general area?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Where did you go?

16 A I came up the stairs and proceeded to the
17 ice machine and then made a right-hand turn into the
18 pantry, which is where the Senator was going to walk
19 through eventually.

20 Q Would you step to Exhibit 1 and study it
21 for a second for us?

22 A Sure.

23 Q Now, you notice there is indication at the
24 bottom, Embassy Room, is that right?

25 A Yes.

26 Q At the bottom of the diagram?

1 A Yes.

2 Q North is to the top. Would you recognize
3 that as a schematic drawing of the Embassy Room or a
4 portion of the service rooms in connection with the
5 Embassy Room?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Will you talk as loud as you can?

8 A Yes, yes.

9 Q Where is the ballroom on that general
10 diagram?

11 A The ballroom goes from -- it would be over
12 here. It's right about here. This would be the wall
13 because these are the two swinging doors; the service
14 entrance is right near the rest room.

15 The rest room is located here, which is not
16 shown on the diagram.

17 From here to -- which is not extended on
18 the diagram -- is the whole Embassy Room.

19 Q Then if that was -- the diagram was
20 correct --

21 A It's correct as it can be.

22 Q That is correct as to an area then of the
23 Embassy Room?

24 A Yes, sir, it is.

25 Q Now, the area shown, is that called a
26 kitchen, a pantry -- some name to it?

1 A Well, this -- in this area here is the
2 pantry.

3 Q That is the area to the left portion of
4 our diagram, is that correct?

5 A Yes, sir, it is.

6 Q Would you take a pen and write "Pantry"
7 there for me?

8 (Witness complies.)

9 Q Now, immediately to the right, toward the
10 center of the diagram, there appears to be swinging double
11 doors going into a secondary --

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q -- room, is that correct?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Is there a name that we could call that?
16 We have a pantry now. What is that?

17 A I really could not state. That's our --
18 when we get all the dishes set up, the tables -- there is
19 no set thing. It's just the kitchen.

20 Q It's part of the kitchen?

21 A It's part of the kitchen.

22 Q Racks of dishes?

23 A Yes, racks of dishes -- as they say here
24 on the "Shelves."

25 Q Going straight over to our right then,
26 there seems to be a larger area with certain -- like

1 ice machines.

2 A It's an ice machine, yes.

3 Q What is that?

4 A There's two -- there is three doors that
5 open up. It's an automatic ice machine that we use.

6 Q But looking at that diagram, would that
7 fairly depict the scene of the election night or the
8 morning or early morning thereafter?

9 A Yes, quite obvious.

10 Q At the top there appear to be serving
11 tables. Would you describe that?

12 A This table?

13 Q Yes. First, it says "Table."

14 A This table here is where most of the
15 silverware is usually stored. We have boxes of silverware
16 which we just, you know, grab, to set up the tables with.

17 This cabinet is used for storage, and on
18 top they have the number stands, and this screen was set
19 up so that the people, you know, wouldn't see this.
20 That's what the screen is doing there. That's what the
21 screen was doing there that night.

22 Q Going over further to the right, there at
23 the top of the diagram, there appear to be three other
24 serving tables.

25 A Yes.

26 Q What are those?

1 A Those are where they keep the hot plates,
2 plates warm, or the food; it's the heaters.

3 Q About how high are they?

4 A They are about four feet, I'd say.

5 Q In other words, if you are serving a
6 banquet, you stick the food, or you place the food in
7 there?

8 A That's where the food is kept, to be kept
9 warm. When we get it, the tray is hot.

10 Q Will you show us on the diagram --

11 THE FOREMAN: He has the pen.

12 MR. HOWARD: You have my pen. You have a red?
13 Perhaps we can use the color red.

14 A GRAND JUROR: Here is a red one.

15 MR. HOWARD: Thank you, sir.

16 Q Using the color red, would you show us where
17 you went?

18 You told us you went -- you came in and made
19 a turn at the ice machine.

20 Will you locate and tell us as you do, your
21 path; describe it on the diagram?

22 A Well, when I first entered --

23 Q As loud as you can.

24 A When I first entered the room, I -- there
25 is stairs over here.

26 Q Just "Stairs," yes.

1 (Whereupon the witness complied by marking
2 the diagram.)

3 THE WITNESS: The stairs, to come up from the
4 Ambassador Ballroom, from where they wash the dishes, and
5 I -- do you want me to just draw a line?

6 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Fine, would you?

7 A From here I proceeded this way through this
8 door here.

9 Q Right.

10 A Now, from here --

11 Q That's a door we have already marked S-2,
12 is that right?

13 A Yes.

14 Q You went through S-2?

15 A Okay. And then I took position -- I went
16 through this door here right to the entrance, and I
17 conversed with another fellow waiter and I asked if he had
18 seen my father at that time, and my father walked into the
19 room at that time.

20 Q Would you mark that door, D-1, please?

21 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
22 request of Mr. Howard.)

23 Q You talked to a chap there and --

24 A Yes.

25 Q -- and inquired of your father?

26 Did you see the party or the Senator at that

1 time?

2 A No. The Senator had not come down yet?

3 Q What is your best recollection as to the
4 time or approximate time?

5 A I would say -- well, the last time I looked
6 at my watch was maybe a few minutes before 12:00.

7 And by the time he came down, I suppose a
8 few minutes had elapsed.

9 So it would be around 12:00 or a few
10 minutes after 12:00.

11 Q After your conversation at D-1, what did
12 you do?

13 A I moved over to where you have marked S-1,
14 which I went from here to this door here, and I stayed
15 here until the Senator arrived.

16 Q Did you talk to perhaps a young man there?

17 A The same waiter, he just moved over with me.

18 Q Was there a young chap there though at that
19 time like a guard or --

20 A Yes, he had glasses. I recall he was
21 wearing glasses, dark rimmed glasses.

22 Q Did you talk to him by any chance?

23 A Yes.

24 I said, "Is there any way I can help? I
25 am with the hotel."

26 And I was dressed, and he didn't think so --

1 that I was with the hotel.

2 But then finally, when the Senator came, he
3 asked if I would help hold the people back, and I, you know,
4 I helped them do that.

5 Q How did the Senator come in to the platform
6 for his -- we will call it his acceptance speech?

7 A He came from -- when I saw him, I saw him
8 from here. I had moved over to about here.

9 Q Will you put D-2 to where you went to?

10 A To here (indicating). There was very many
11 people in this area, and I would say thirty, forty people
12 in that area.

13 Q You know the employees. These were other
14 than employees?

15 A Yes, these were other than employees, just
16 people that were there at the time.

17 When I saw him coming from here, I moved
18 back to my stationary position.

19 Q Back to --

20 A This position here, by S-1.

21 And at that time I proceeded to hold the
22 people back.

23 And as the Senator came by, I shook hands
24 with him, and he then proceeded to go up onto the podium.

25 Q And is that where the speech and the
26 comments took place?

1 A Yes, sir, it did.

2 Q About how long did that last?

3 A As near as I can figure, between ten and
4 fifteen minutes.

5 Q You stayed in the general area of the pantry,
6 at S-1?

7 A I stayed at S-1 the whole time of the speech.

8 Q What happened when the Senator completed his
9 talk?

10 A Mr. Minasian was down there, and at the last
11 moment he decided -- or I don't know who decided, actually --
12 but he told me that they were going to take him behind the
13 stage into the Conference Room -- they wanted to hold a
14 press meeting -- instead of bringing him directly down--
15 stairs.

16 Q What happened?

17 A They proceeded to take him from the podium
18 behind through the stage room, through this door -- there
19 is actually no door -- it's just an opening.

20 Q Were there curtains there, do you recall?

21 A I don't recall.

22 He went into the hall and down this incline.

23 Q There is a ramp there?

24 A Well, it's just a little bit of an incline,
25 and he walked through here.

26 At that moment I walked from the door to the

1 Senator's side.

2 Q That's Senator Kennedy's side?

3 A Yes.

4 And I got as close as I could possibly get,
5 which was maybe three feet, and I walked with him up to
6 here, up to the S-2, up to the swinging doors.

7 Q Right.

8 A This door at the time was pushed open.
9 As I went through, I pushed this door inwardly.

10 This one was pushed this way.

11 Q The upper door was --

12 A The upper door was against the cabinets.
13 There are cabinets here, which are not shown.

14 And this door does not open inwardly; it
15 opens outwardly, if you are coming that way, so this door
16 opens going to the inside of the kitchen.

17 I walked through this door past -- there
18 was a bunch of people.

19 And at that time I got separated from the
20 Senator, from Senator Kennedy by about five feet, and I
21 walked with him up to the ice machine.

22 And it was there that I noticed there was
23 a girl and the accused person standing on what is -- what
24 we call a tray stacker, where we had all the trays.

25 Q Would you take and indicate to the Jury
26 the ice machine we are referring to?

1 A This is the ice machine right here
2 (indicating).

3 I was standing -- this wall -- whatever --
4 it doesn't protrude like that; it's not as much -- it's
5 just actually part of the machine.

6 And there is a very small thin space here
7 in between the machine and the wall. It's very little bit
8 of wall.

9 And I was about here at the time.

10 Q Will you put a location there where you
11 were, and will you mark that D-2?

12 A D-3?

13 Q D-3, I'm sorry.

14 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
15 request of Mr. Howard.)

16 Q That's an area to the front and the left
17 front of the ice machine?

18 A Yes, sir.

19 Q In reference to your position of D-3,
20 would the Senator at this time you were at D-3 be within
21 five feet of you?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q And I guess there were crowds?

24 A There were crowds. But there was -- the
25 only way I can describe it is, the last man they picked
26 off the floor, he was shot in the head -- he was standing

1 on my left --

2 Q We will get to that in a minute.

3 A I don't know --

4 Q At the time you arrived at the position
5 D-3, the Senator was quite close to you?

6 A Yes, he was.

7 Q He was shaking hands, perhaps, with people?

8 A He turned to shake hands with a waiter, and
9 then he turned to my side again and shook hands with me for
10 the second time, and then proceeded on to the other side,
11 shaking hands.

12 Q Were you still with him?

13 A Yes, sir, I was. I was within five feet
14 again.

15 Q At the time you were at D-3, did you notice
16 a certain individual in the area?

17 A Yes, sir, two people I noticed. Whether
18 or not the second person was involved, I don't know.

19 Q First of all, did you notice a male?

20 A Yes, sir, I did.

21 Q And will you look at the Exhibits 3-A and
22 3-B before you?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Do you see those exhibits?

25 (Whereupon the witness nodded his head
26 up and down.)

1 Q Did you see that man at the time that you
2 arrived at the approximate position, D-3?

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q Is he the male that we are going to talk
5 about?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Will you speak as loud as you can?

8 A Yes.

9 Q Where was this person identified in the
10 picture 3-A and -B?

11 A He was here (indicating). There is a tray
12 holder which was stationed here.

13 Do you want me to draw it in?

14 Q Yes, would you just put --

15 A A circle?

16 Q Yes, and identify it. And that's on
17 casters, is it?

18 A Yes. It's about four or six inches off the
19 ground.

20 Q If I stood on it, I'd have a six-inch
21 height advantage?

22 A Yes, sir, you would.

23 Q If there were no trays on it, I could stand
24 on it?

25 A Well, they had trays on it and you could
26 actually have a foothold because the trays are oval.

1 Q Where you could still stand on it?

2 A You could still stand on the pipes that
3 support it.

4 Q What did you notice about this person?

5 A The only reason I noticed him, there was
6 a very good looking girl next to him. That was the only
7 reason I looked over there.

8 Q In other words, you looked at the girl?

9 A Yes, I looked at the girl, and I noticed
10 him -- the reason I took note of him.

11 Q We know why you looked at the girl; she was
12 good looking.

13 Why did you notice the fellow?

14 A Because he was grabbing on with his left
15 hand.

16 Q Onto what?

17 A The pipe -- there is a pipe -- there is
18 four pipes that are --

19 Q Part of the tray --

20 A Part of the tray holder.

21 Q He was trying to stand onto it?

22 A He was holding on with his left hand.

23 I could not see his right hand; he looked
24 as though he was clutching his stomach, as though somebody
25 had their elbow in -- had elbowed him.

26 Q Was he in a straight up position or was he

1 crouched or semi-crouched?

2 A Semi-crouched.

3 Q Continue.

4 A Okay. From that moment on, I just looked
5 at the girl, and I saw him get down off the tray stand.

6 And when I went to turn, the next thing I
7 saw was him holding the gun.

8 He kind of moved around Mr. Uecker, which
9 is the Captain at the hotel.

10 He kind of motioned around him and stuck
11 the gun straight out, and nobody could move. It was --
12 you were just frozen; you didn't know what to do.

13 And then I saw the first powdering or
14 plastering. When he pulled the trigger, the first shot,
15 Mr. Kennedy fell down.

16 Q Would you identify on our chart the tray
17 and put the word "Tray"?

18 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
19 request of Mr. Howard.)

20 Q That's where you saw --

21 A That is where he was standing, right here
22 (indicating).

23 Q That's the person that you saw that we have
24 identified from the pictures --

25 A Yes, sir.

26 Q -- 3-A and 3-B? He left the tray and moved

1 toward the Senator?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Where is the Senator at this time that his
4 movement commences?

5 A He must have been in this area
6 (indicating), shaking hands.

7 Q Would you draw a mark there? Would you
8 put "R.F.K."?

9 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
10 request of Mr. Howard.)

11 Q We are keeping you with the color red so if
12 we have other colors, you will be red.

13 A Right.

14 Q How close did -- we will call him the
15 suspect -- get to the Senator?

16 A It couldn't have been more than six feet.
17 It was impossible to be more than six feet away from him
18 because Mr. Uecker was almost right next to him. He was
19 pushing the crowd back.

20 Q How close to the Senator was the suspect
21 when this gun started firing?

22 A Four feet -- four to six feet.

23 Q What did he do?

24 A He kind of went around Mr. Uecker, and he --
25 from here -- he looked like -- though he pulled his hand
26 out from here and came around.