

BOX NO. 4

FOLDER NO. 83

photocopy of exhibit

19:

Transcript of grand jury proceedings

People v. Sirhan Sirhan

7 June 1968

part 2

RFK Assassination 2017-0108

1 THE FOREMAN: Permission granted.

2 Q BY MR. HOWARD: I'd like to show you Grand
3 Jury Exhibit 9, if I can.

4 Are you familiar with the person depicted
5 in that photograph?

6 A Yes. It looks like --

7 Q Does this appear to be the person that you
8 have identified by a first name and as a heavy set
9 individual, to your knowledge, shot in the head --

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q -- and fell upon you?

12 Will you return to your seat, please?

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

15 Q As near as you can, will you recall for
16 the Jury the events immediately after the shooting? What
17 happened?

18 How did the crowd react, what you saw, and
19 with particular reference to the person identified as in
20 3-A and 3-B?

21 A Well, the suspect turned almost immediately;
22 and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to
23 escape.

24 He was trying to escape. He tried very,
25 very hard to get away.

26 But Mr. Rafer Johnson -- and by this time

1 Mr. Grier and Mr. Uecker were all holding him against the
2 heater. It's the stainless steel table.

3 And people were trying -- were hitting him
4 and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean,
5 everyone was trying to kill him.

6 There were very few -- at that time there
7 were only four of us around the Senator. There was -- the
8 busboy was holding his head, another gentleman with
9 glasses, and myself, and two other people on the other
10 side of him.

11 And we were trying to, you know, see if
12 we could help him in any possible way.

13 But all we could do was unbutton his shirt
14 and see -- try to get the people back.

15 At that time Mr. Unruh pushed me out of the
16 way, and at that time I tried to help keep the suspect
17 subdued, but it was, you know -- wasn't really worth it
18 because everyone else grabbed him already and were beating
19 up on him.

20 Q But he was apprehended at this time?

21 A Yes, almost instantly.

22 Q Did some police officers arrive?

23 A Yes, they did, but at the time involved,
24 I have no idea.

25 Q The passage of time?

26 A The passage of time, I have no idea.

1 Q Were you there when the police arrived?

2 A Yes, I was.

3 Q Did they take custody of this person?

4 A Yes.

5 They took him out through the Colonial
6 Room, which was where the Senator was going to have his
7 press conference.

8 Q And they got him out as quick as they could?

9 A Yes, sir, they did.

10 Q At the time of the shooting, could you tell
11 us anything about the gun that you saw in the suspect's
12 hand?

13 A Yes.

14 It was -- well, I don't know how you
15 describe the gun, but it's -- it wasn't much longer than
16 maybe four to five inches long.

17 And I thought, at first, it was a .25
18 caliber pistol because I had seen a .25 caliber pistol
19 once before that a friend had.

20 And at the time, I didn't know what it was.
21 I just knew it was a gun.

22 MR. HOWARD: With the Foreman's permission, may we
23 mark and envelope and content, the revolver, as Grand
24 Jury Exhibit 7?

25 THE FOREMAN: Permission granted.

26 MR. HOWARD: We have just gone through it, Mr.

1 Foreman. It's the kind of gun that you cannot break,
2 but there is nothing in it.

3 Q Would you examine Grand Jury Exhibit 7?
4 Does this appear to be similar to or appear to be the
5 gun that you saw in the hand of the suspect?

6 A The same gun. The reason I say it is --
7 the reason is it had the funny little corkscrew here.

8 Q That is in the front of the gun, below the
9 barrel?

10 A Yes, sir. It's the same thing I saw.

11 Q That's the gun you saw in the hand --

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q That's the gun that did the shooting?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q You say you got blood from the Senator?

16 A I think it was the Senator. I'm not sure.
17 But all I can remember was I couldn't see,
18 and one of the other waiters yelled across at me, "Are you
19 all right, are you hit or what," because he didn't know.

20 And I just -- it was all over my face.

21 Q When the police officers left, you said that
22 there were certain people that had hold, or they were
23 holding the person identified in the picture.

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Did you recognize one as Roosevelt Grier?

26 A Yes. Mr. Grier was bent over the man,

1 holding him.

2 Q And did you know -- or was Rafer Johnson
3 identified to you?

4 A Rafer Johnson was one of the first people
5 to touch him.

6 He kind of grabbed him around the waist.
7 It looked as though he had great hold of him.

8 And Mr. Uecker had him around the neck, and
9 he was holding the arm out with the gun.

10 Q Did you see what happened to the gun, how
11 the gun was removed from --

12 A No. I think -- I think it was Mr. Johnson
13 who tried to get the gun.

14 Everybody's hand was all over him. When
15 they got him on the table, everybody's hands -- and then
16 someone started stepping on everybody's hands, which wasn't
17 too smart.

18 Everybody, you know, was trying to hold it
19 down.

20 Q Now, the shots that you heard, were they
21 fired in rapid succession?

22 A The first shot was definitely a distinct
23 shot. I mean, it was a pause in between the next three.
24 It was three rapid ones that were fired.

25 The first one I saw, you know, I was
26 stunned after that. I tried to -- by the time I tried to

1 jump him, the person, the other fellow was in my arms and
2 got shot in the head.

3 And after that, I couldn't see very much
4 because I had the blood all over.

5 I took my glasses off, which was, you know,
6 it had blood on it. That's all.

7 I tried then to subdue the person.

8 MR. HOWARD: May we mark the photograph as
9 Exhibit 2-A?

10 THE FOREMAN: So ordered.

11 Q BY MR. HOWARD: I'd like to direct your
12 attention, if I may, to a photograph that we have now
13 marked on the back as Exhibit 2-A.

14 Would you study that for a moment?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Can you tell us, first of all, if you are
17 familiar with any individual depicted in that photograph?

18 A Two -- Mr. Uno, U-n-o.

19 Q Will you stay with the red and --

20 A This is -- do you want me to write on the
21 picture?

22 Q Write on the picture. It won't come out,
23 is that correct?

24 A That's true.

25 Q Will you try my ballpoint --

26 A GRAND JUROR: Here is one.

1 THE WITNESS: A felt pen?

2 MR. FUKUTO: Here is a felt pen in red.

3 Q BY MR. HOWARD: You are indicating the left
4 of the picture, there is an individual shown there
5 standing, is that correct?

6 A Yes.

7 Q That's Mr. Uno?

8 A Yes, sir. He is the Manager of the Food
9 and Beverage Department.

10 Q Keep it loud, now.

11 A Yes. This is Mr. Uecker, here.

12 Q All right. Would you identify him?

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

15 THE WITNESS: I don't know how to spell his name.

16 Q BY MR. HOWARD: All right, I will get it
17 for you in a minute. U-e-c-k-e-r.

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

20 Q BY MR. HOWARD: That's the individual shown
21 full face in approximately the center, is that correct?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Who is Mr. Uecker?

24 A He is the Assistant Maitre d' at the hotel,
25 assistant to my father.

26 Q Is there anyone else there that you

1 recognize?

2 A No, sir, not at this -- not in this photo.

3 Q Did you see the individuals that you have
4 identified appear to be holding someone down, is that
5 correct?

6 A Yes. Mr. Uecker is still holding onto his
7 arm -- looks as though it's his arm.

8 Q By reference to that picture, can you tell
9 us what is occurring at that time?

10 A There -- at that time, there looks as
11 though they keep trying to keep the gun. The man on the
12 right side is trying to hold down the gun.

13 Q Did you see that occur?

14 A No. I did not see this particular photo --
15 I did not see the scene at all.

16 Q You did not see that?

17 A No, because I was on the opposite side.

18 Q Fine. If we may go back --

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q After the police left the scene, did you
21 stay there?

22 A Yes, sir, I did, for a moment, because the
23 officer -- I don't remember his name -- put me into the
24 chef's office with the cook and the busboy. The three of
25 us were in this one room.

26 We were taken away from the crowd.

1 Q Other than the two people that fell near or
2 upon you, did you see other people that were shot?

3 A Yes, sir, I did.

4 I saw two other additional people, other
5 than the Senator.

6 The Senator. -- there was one man behind him
7 who was kind of heavy set.

8 Then there was the man who fell on top of
9 me and the boy who got shot in the leg.

10 Those are the only four people I saw.

11 Q Now, going back to just before this shooting,
12 you observed a nice looking girl?

13 A Yes, sir, I did.

14 Q Could you identify her again if you saw her?

15 A To some degree, yes, sir, I could.

16 I would never forget what she looked like
17 because she had a very good looking figure -- and the dress
18 was kind of -- kind of lousy.

19 Q Flousy?

20 A Lousy.

21 Q Now, after the shooting, you remained at
22 the scene; did you happen to see this girl again?

23 A No, after the shooting I did not see her.
24 I only saw her before.

25 Q You didn't ask her her name or anything?

26 A No, sir, I didn't.

1 Q Did any of the fellows or guys you work
2 with by any chance --

3 A No, no one had, other than myself, had seen
4 her, I don't believe.

5 Q You have inquired around, I take it, since?

6 A I have only talked to one fellow that was
7 across from me, that had seen me, that was with me the
8 whole time.

9 I asked him, and he said that he had seen
10 her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name
11 was.

12 Q Could you describe what she was wearing?

13 A Yes. It looked as though it was a white
14 dress and it had either black or dark purple polka dots
15 on it.

16 It kind of had -- I don't know what they
17 call it -- but it's like -- looked like a bib in the front,
18 kind of went around. It's like that (indicating).

19 A GRAND JUROR: A lace dickey, probably.

20 THE WITNESS: It was like over the material itself;
21 it was the same as the clothing.

22 And then she was -- she -- the person who
23 is accused of shooting him was -- like I say, they were
24 both on the -- standing together.

25 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Back of the tray stand?

26 A Yes.

1 And what happened, he looked as though he
2 either talked to her or flirted with her because she
3 smiled.

4 This is just before he got down.

5 Q So, at least, their association, in
6 proximity of the tray, they are smiling, perhaps --

7 A Together, they were both smiling. As he
8 got down, he was smiling.

9 In fact, the minute the first two shots
10 were fired, he still had a very sick looking smile on his
11 face. That's one thing -- I can never forget that.

12 Q Where was Mr. Unruh, if you know, at the
13 time of the shooting?

14 A I don't know.

15 Q Mr. Salinger, if you know?

16 A No, I didn't see him -- either one.

17 MR. HOWARD: That's all we have, Mr. Foreman.

18 Q This person identified in 3-A and 3-B, he
19 was not known to you, was he?

20 A No, he wasn't.

21 Q He did not work at the hotel?

22 A As far as I know, no.

23 Q Would you have an explanation how he
24 arrived at and was standing in the kitchen?

25 A The only possible conclusion I can come to
26 is he was one of the -- what I thought at the time --

1 well-wishers.

2 And I thought he got in there just the
3 way all the other people.

4 Q In other words, this party was jammed --

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q -- is this a fair statement?

7 A Yes.

8 Q They were following the Senator anywhere
9 he goes?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And probably even the pantry, the kitchen
12 area, the rampways were just a mass of humanity?

13 A Yes, sir, every exit in there was jammed
14 with people.

15 Q Would you describe the facial characteristics,
16 first of all, of this girl?

17 A Yes. She had dark hair that was cut, I
18 would say, just above the shoulders, just around in here
19 (indicating).

20 And it just kind of looked like it was
21 messed up, at the time, I mean. She could have changed
22 that -- she could have come with curls.

23 I don't know, it was just messed up at the
24 time.

25 Her face -- facial expression, she had what
26 looked like a short nose. She wasn't too -- facially,

1 she wasn't too pretty; she was not that pretty.

2 And like I say, figure -- she had a very
3 good figure.

4 MR. HOWARD: I think that's all we have. Wait
5 a minute.

6 Q After the Senator had completed his talk
7 to the crowd, did you know the Senator was going to come
8 back and follow the path that you have described on the
9 diagram?

10 A Yes, I did, because I was right next to Mr.
11 Minasian when he said we are going to have to change it.

12 I asked -- you know, I had -- I asked
13 him, "Which way are you going to take him?"

14 He said, "Through the back of the stage."

15 I says --

16 Q Where were you when you asked that -- at
17 what position?

18 A Oh, I was by the door, the same position
19 then.

20 Q S-1?

21 A S-2.

22 Q S-2?

23 A S-2.

24 Q Did you see the person identified in 3-A
25 or 3-B at that time?

26 A No, sir.

1 The moment I noticed him was when I walked
2 through the swinging doors.

3 Q But is it a fair statement that you knew
4 that the Senator was coming out through the rampway?

5 A Yes, I knew because ---

6 Q Did other people seem to know it?

7 A No, no. Everyone was quite surprised
8 because all of the Kennedy Girls had lined up to make a
9 pathway out of the same door that he had entered.

10 Q Did you have guards on the door that would
11 prevent other than employees to go into the pantry or
12 kitchen area?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 There were two security guards that I
15 remember seeing in the pantry area from the hotel.

16 There were two security guards from the
17 hotel, and he was --- one was stationed at the opposite
18 door and one was stationed at the door that the Senator had
19 to go through.

20 Q Can you explain to us how these thirty,
21 forty, or fifty people --

22 A They were either news reporters or
23 representatives from the Kennedy people that were there
24 or were friends of the reporters that somehow had gotten
25 in with them at the time people were coming, before the
26 Senator had come down.

1 People were flowing through there freely.
2 They were allowed to pass freely because no one knew the
3 time the Senator was coming until about five minutes before.

4 Q When you came in, as you indicated, through
5 the back or service area, was there a guard there?

6 A I had to pass the guard by the door. He
7 tried to stop me.

8 And then one of the waiters recognized me
9 and he said, "It's all right. He is with the hotel."

10 Q So there was some type of control?

11 A Yes, sir, there was.

12 Q Internal?

13 A Yes.

14 Q But from your observation, was it effective?
15 Was the area kept clear of people?

16 A No. It was congested with people.

17 MR. HOWARD: That's all we have.

18 THE FOREMAN: Any further questions?

19 It is my duty to caution you and warn you
20 not to impart to anyone or discuss with anyone any of the
21 proceedings that went on in this room this morning.

22 THE WITNESS: Yes.

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

24 MR. HOWARD: Could we hold on?

25 THE FOREMAN: Did you say something? One more
26 question?

1 Q BY MR. HOWARD: You asked someone what route
2 the Senator would take?

3 A Mr. Mirasian. I asked Mr. Minasian.

4 Q And he works with your dad?

5 A Yes. He is also an assistant to my father.

6 Q Did you tell anyone the Senator was coming
7 in?

8 A No, sir, I didn't.

9 MR. HOWARD: Thank you.

10 THE FOREMAN: That will be all. Thank you very
11 much.

12 (Whereupon the witness was excused and
13 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

14
15 MR. HOWARD: Ira Goldstein.

16
17 IRA GOLDSTEIN,
18 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
19 as follows:

20 THE FOREMAN: Would you stand right there, please,
21 and raise your right hand?

22 (Whereupon the witness complied with the
23 request of the Foreman.)

24 Do you solemnly swear that the testimony
25 you are about to give in this matter pending before the
26 Grand Jury of the County of Los Angeles shall be the

1 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so
2 help you God?

3 THE WITNESS: I do.

4 THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please. For
5 the record -- pull your chair just a little forward -- for
6 the record, would you give us your name?

7 THE WITNESS: Yes. My name is Ira Goldstein.
8

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. HOWARD:

11 Q Can you hear me all right, Mr. Goldstein?

12 A Yes.

13 Q If you get in any distress or pain, will
14 you tell us?

15 A No, I feel fine.

16 Q Will you tell us your age?

17 A I am nineteen and a half.

18 Q Your business or occupation?

19 A I am a news reporter for Continental News.

20 Q May I direct your attention to election
21 evening and the early morning of July 5th. That would be
22 Tuesday night -- I'm sorry -- June 4th and June 5th.
23 Were you at the Ambassador Hotel?

24 A Yes, I was.

25 Q Were you there at the -- we will call it
26 the Kennedy celebration?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And did the Senator arrive?

3 A The Senator arrived around 12:00 o'clock
4 to make a speech.

5 He was in the hotel at the time, but he
6 didn't come on to the Embassy Room until about 12:00
7 o'clock. I looked at my watch.

8 Q Are we talking about the area of the Embassy
9 Room, is that correct?

10 A Yes. This was the podium that was set up
11 for his television broadcast.

12 Q And he arrived and did address his following
13 there, is that correct -- a correct statement?

14 A Yes, right.

15 Q Where were you at the time of the address?

16 A At the time of the address, I was walking
17 around, looking at a monitor. I stood on a table for a few
18 minutes, trying to see if I could see him.

19 And then someone mentioned that there was
20 sandwiches in the kitchen for the press, so I hadn't had
21 dinner, so I walked into the kitchen to see if I could
22 find them.

23 I walked to the end of the kitchen and
24 I didn't see anything.

25 In fact, I didn't even see this man here
26 (indicating).

1 So I started walking back, and all of a
2 sudden, the Senator started walking through.

3 Q So you tried to see him in the ballroom
4 and missed him, and you saw him coming into the kitchen?

5 A Completely by accident. I didn't expect
6 him to be coming through that soon.

7 Q Was the Senator coming towards you?

8 A He was walking towards me, yes.

9 Q Did you perhaps do something at this time
10 or attempt to go up and shake his hand?

11 A Well, we were walking by him. This young
12 lady I was with, she shook his hand. The Senator's
13 eyebrows kind of raised when he saw her.

14 I was about to shake his hand, but he was
15 moving too fast, so he just passed by.

16 Q He passed by? You were going in opposite
17 directions?

18 A We were walking towards each other.

19 Q And you passed him?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What occurred next?

22 A Well, about five or ten seconds after I
23 passed him, I started hearing gunshots.

24 At first, I thought they were balloons just
25 popping. There were a lot of balloons around.

26 About the second or third shot, I realized

1 that he was being shot at -- someone was being shot at.

2 Q Did you turn around at this time?

3 A I never once turned around.

4 Q What did you do?

5 A I moved sharply to the left. I had stepped
6 over Irwin Stroll, who was just hit. He was laying on the
7 ground, bleeding.

8 I stepped over him and moved to the left.

9 Q What occurred next?

10 A Next, I was just barely skinned by a bullet;
11 by the way, my pants were in the other room, my slacks I
12 was wearing;--and I was just barely skinned by the third
13 or fourth bullet.

14 I could feel the air go through. It didn't
15 hit me.

16 Then, the fifth or sixth bullet did make
17 contact.

18 Q Were you struck by a bullet?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Where, sir?

21 A In the left thigh.

22 Q And did you receive medical treatment for
23 that?

24 A Yes, I did.

25 Q Before we go into that, how many explosions
26 or shots or sounds did you hear?

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

1 A A minimum of five. I can't

2 Q Could there have been more?

3 A Yes, I know there were more.

4 Q But you can recall at least

5 A I can recall at least five.

6 Q After you heard these five shots, did you
7 happen to turn around and see the Senator or what occurred?

8 A I never did.

9 By the way, the shots had the same tone to
10 them.

11 I don't think they were from two guns, two
12 different guns.

13 Q At least, they sounded

14 A They sounded the same, yes.

15 Q The sequence of shots, how long did it last,
16 a minute, a half minute, seconds?

17 A Fifteen seconds at the most. Oh, you want
18 to know what happened after?

19 Q Right.

20 A Well, I kind of this last person that
21 was in here, he told me that, you know, I leaned against
22 his shoulders or something and I did fall against a wall,
23 I did crash into a wall.

24 Then I staggered over to a chair that was
25 facing the opposite way in other words, the way the
26 Senator came in.

1 And the first thing I said was, "How is
2 Senator Kennedy? What happened to him?"

3 And this woman walked by, and she said to
4 me, "How dare you talk about my husband that way," and
5 she slapped me across the face.

6 And I said, "I am sorry, lady, but I was
7 shot, too. I'd like to know how the Senator was -- " or
8 " -- is."

9 And she said, "Oh, I am sorry, Honey,"
10 and kissed me. This was Mrs. Ethel Kennedy.

11 At that time she was not in tears. She was
12 a little hysterical though, but she wasn't crying.

13 Q Did you remain in that chair until you were
14 taken for medical treatment?

15 A Yes, I did, and that took about ten minutes.

16 Q Did you see some police officers arrive?

17 A I didn't see a police officer until I was
18 wheeled out of the hotel.

19 Q Did you hear sounds of struggling behind
20 you?

21 A There was a lot of confusion, that's about
22 all I heard.

23 Q Now, the fellow you fell against, was he
24 the chap that we brought in here on the wheelchair?

25 A Yes. I fell against him and I knocked him
26 to the floor.

1 Q But you saw him here this morning?

2 A Yes. I was chatting with him.

3 Q So there is no doubt that that was the
4 fellow you were talking to?

5 A Yes, uh-huh.

6 THE FOREMAN: Is that the one in the wheelchair?

7 THE WITNESS: No. This was the one that was just
8 in here.

9 The one in the wheelchair, I saw him laying
10 on the ground with the blood on his head.

11 Q BY MR. HOWARD: You did not fall against --

12 A I didn't fall against the Irwin Stroll who
13 was in here in the wheelchair.

14 Q The last witness that testified before you
15 came in was Vincent Di Pierro?

16 A Yes. He was the one in the blue suit. Yes,
17 he was wearing a blue suit.

18 THE FOREMAN: Any questions?

19 There being no further questions, I must --

20 MR. HOWARD: Wait a minute, we do have one.

21 Q You indicated there was a young lady with --

22 A Yes.

23 Q A friend of yours?

24 A Yes. I had known her -- well, through some
25 other friends, and she was kind of following me around that
26 night.

1 Q Will you describe what she had on?

2 A She had a white dress on, kind of short,
3 lacey -- I believe, white stockings.

4 Q What color hair?

5 A Brown.

6 She was sitting outside, by the way.

7 The Senator fell against her and got some
8 blood on her dress and on her face.

9 She was the young lady that shook his hand.

10 MR. HOWARD: Thank you very much.

11 THE FOREMAN: There being no further questions, I
12 must caution and also warn you not to impart to anyone or
13 discuss with anyone any of the proceedings that went on
14 here in this Jury Room this morning.

15 THE WITNESS: I understand it, yes.

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

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

18 THE FOREMAN: I hope we haven't tired you too much.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 THE FOREMAN: Watch the step down.

21 (Whereupon the witness was excused and
22 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

23
24 THE FOREMAN: Let's take a five-minute recess.

25

26 (SHORT RECESS.)

1 MR. HOWARD: We'd like to call Placencia. He is
2 one of the arresting officers.

3
4 ARTHUR PLACENCIA,
5 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
6 as follows:

7 THE FOREMAN: Would you raise your right hand,
8 please, sir?

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

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

16 THE WITNESS: Yes.

17 THE FOREMAN: Would you be seated, please, and for
18 the record, would you give us your name?

19 THE WITNESS: My name is Arthur Placencia.

20
21 EXAMINATION

22 BY MR. HOWARD:

23 Q What is your business or occupation?

24 A I am a police officer for the City of Los
25 Angeles, working out of the Rampart Patrol.

26 Q Are you one of the arresting officers in

1 this case?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q Did you work with another officer, a
4 partner?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q His name?

7 A Travis White.

8 Q Did you arrest the person shown on the
9 Exhibits 3-A and 3-B, immediately before you?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Did you arrest that individual at the
12 Ambassador Hotel?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q Would that be on the early morning of the
15 Wednesday following the election? That would be June 5th?

16 A Yes, sir.

17 Q Were you and your partner on duty that
18 evening and that early morning?

19 A Yes, sir. We worked the mid-watch, from
20 6:00 p.m. to 3:00 a.m. in the morning.

21 Q Were you in a patrol car?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 Q Did you hear a call coming over the radio?

24 A Yes, sir.

25 Q Did that indicate some kind of difficulty or
26 trouble or police problem at the Ambassador Hotel?

1 A Yes, sir.

2 Q And were you near the hotel?

3 A Yes, sir. We were on Eighth and Vermont.

4 Q That would be a matter of blocks?

5 A Yes, sir.

6 Q Did you respond to the call?

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q What time would you judge you arrived at
9 the hotel?

10 A We got the call around 12:20. It didn't
11 take us more than ten minutes -- around 12:30, I think.

12 Q Were you, upon arrival, directed to a
13 certain area within the hotel itself?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Was that by people that obviously were
16 familiar with the hotel?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Probably people that worked there?

19 A Yes, sir.

20 Q Where were you directed, generally?

21 A When we got off the car, sir?

22 Q Yes.

23 A Some ramp -- we went up a ramp. It was in
24 the side -- it was in the side of the Ambassador.

25 Q Did you arrive though in the interior of the
26 hotel, in a certain area that you could describe? Would

1 it be like an office area?

2 A A kitchen area.

3 Q Kitchen area. Did there seem to be some
4 excitement going on in that kitchen area?

5 A Yes, quite a bit.

6 Q And you had received a report, had you not,
7 there had been some type of trouble.

8 What information did you have upon your
9 arrival in that kitchen?

10 A Well, all we knew was what came out of the
11 radio, that came out, an ambulance, shooting, man down,
12 3400 Wilshire, so we responded to the call.

13 And when we got there, we got off the car,
14 and then people started directing us and telling us, "He
15 is over here, he is over here --- the man that shot him is
16 over here."

17 So we just started following people up this
18 kitchen area and that's ---

19 Q You finally arrived at a location within
20 the kitchen.

21 Did you see some type of struggle going on
22 or occurring?

23 A Yes, sir. When we got up to this area where
24 we got the suspect, there were people holding this suspect
25 down on top of this sheet metal table, I guess you could
26 say.

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

1 Q That suspect is the person identified in,
2 shown --

3 A Yes, sir.

4 Q -- in Exhibits 3 before you, is that
5 correct?

6 A Yes, sir.

7 Q Were there a lot of people or more than one
8 person holding this suspect?

9 A Yes, sir. There was -- well, I couldn't
10 exactly tell you how many.

11 There was quite a few. I remember one
12 distinctly of --

13 Q Pretty big, large fellow?

14 A Colored guy. It turned out later to be
15 Rosie Grier.

16 Q When you saw this happening, were you
17 apprehensive about the safety of the person?

18 A That was the first thing we thought of.
19 We seen all the people around there. We knew we'd have
20 to get him out fast.

21 Q What did you do? Did you take one of them
22 off?

23 A Yes, I took Rosie Grier off.

24 Don't laugh. It wasn't funny.

25 Q And your partner, White, did he take someone
26 off?

1 A Yes. He took two persons. One had him in
2 an arm strangle, and another person, which turned out to
3 be Rafer Johnson, grabbed him from the arms, I think.

4 And he took him off, and we got him off
5 the table. We cuffed him ---

6 Q Were you in a police uniform ---

7 A Yes, sir.

8 Q --- telling everyone you were taking him
9 into custody?

10 A We had to keep telling 'em, "We are police,
11 step aside."

12 And after a while we got tired telling
13 them. We just started pushing.

14 We got the suspect off the table and
15 handcuffed him and proceeded to take him out.

16 Q Now, after you took the person into custody,
17 did you attempt to get him out of the location as quickly
18 as you could? Is that a fair statement?

19 A Yes.

20 Well, like I said, we knew we had to get him
21 out there fast because everybody was hollering, you know,
22 "He did it. He is the one that shot him."

23 We didn't know who he had shot. We just
24 knew he had shot somebody.

25 All we knew was that he was a suspect.

26 Q Knowing, when you left, there were other

1 officers arriving, and arriving in response, also?

2 A Yes, because when we were driving into
3 the big driveway, we were talking to the taxicab driver
4 that was taking other people, I guess, gotten injured, and
5 another patrol car came in right behind us.

6 And I seen about three or four about half
7 a block away, so when we ran in, I remember there was only
8 four of us that ran in there, four police officers.

9 Q Now, after, did anyone go with you, if you
10 recall, from the area of the hotel to the station?

11 A Yes.

12 Q Do you know who that person was?

13 A Jesse Unruh, I think.

14 Q The person identified as Jesse Unruh?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Was there some reason he went with you?
17 Did he say something?

18 A What do you mean, "Did he say something"?
19 You mean why he thought he should go?

20 No, he just was tagging along, I guess.

21 We never asked him to come. He had ahold
22 of the suspect.

23 My partner had him from the right, from my
24 partner's right, and the suspect's left, and Unruh was on
25 the other side -- kept hollering, "We don't want another
26 Oswald, we don't want another Oswald."

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1 Q With those remarks, did that indicate to
2 you the subject of the shooting?

3 A No. I wasn't thinking about who he had shot.
4 I was just thinking of getting him out of
5 there because these people were -- were, like I say, were
6 really -- looked to me like they were really out to get
7 him.

8 Q Now, after, you took the subject in the
9 pictures into custody to the station, is that a fair
10 statement?

11 A Yes, sir.

12 Q Did you keep him in your custody for a
13 period of time?

14 A Well, we had him in our custody from the
15 time we got him off the table all the way until we got to
16 Rampart Station.

17 Q Was he handcuffed at that time?

18 A Yes, sir, all the time.

19 Q Now, upon your arrival, or during, perhaps,
20 the trip, did you attempt to locate the name or ask this
21 person his name?

22 A The suspect's name?

23 Q Yes.

24 A Yes, I asked him, you know, "What is your
25 name?"

26 And he wouldn't say anything.

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1 'Cause I knew I was going to have to make a
2 report on him, I asked him, just like any other suspect,
3 I asked him, "What is your name?"

4 He didn't say anything.

5 Q Would he communicate at all with you on the
6 ride to the station?

7 A Well, when I was giving him -- Travis
8 turned around, my partner, White, and told me, "You better
9 give him his rights, Partner."

10 Q For the subject -- or the suspect, of his
11 constitutional rights?

12 A Yes. So I took out my officer's Field
13 Notebook, and I started reading off the rights.

14 And after I read them off, I asked him,
15 "Do you understand your rights?"

16 And he looked at me, and I asked him again;
17 and then he mumbled something.

18 So I told him, "Look, I will give them to
19 you again."

20 So I read them off again. Then I asked
21 him again, "Do you understand your rights?"

22 Then he looked at me and said, "Yes."

23 And then I said, "Do you wish to remain
24 silent?"

25 And he just didn't say anything.

26 Then he looked at me again and he said,

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1 "Yes."

2 Then I said, "Do you wish an attorney
3 present?"

4 Then at that time he just said, "Yes."

5 So after that I didn't ask him any more.

6 And then, after that, I asked Jesse Unruh,
7 I said, "By the way, who did he shoot?"

8 And he goes, "Bobby Kennedy."

9 And I said, "Oh."

10 Then I looked at him and I go, "By the way,
11 who are you?"

12 He goes, "Jesse Unruh."

13 I said, "Oh," so we just kept going to the
14 station.

15 Q Upon your arrival at the station, is it
16 customary to search or make a search of a person in
17 custody like this individual was?

18 A Well, it's customary to search him before
19 we usually handcuff him.

20 At that time I didn't think it was right
21 to do it there, so as soon as we got to the station we
22 took him into the Interrogation Room and we emptied all
23 his pockets.

24 Q And is it customary to make police reports
25 of what you find?

26 A Yes, sir.

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1 Q Can you recall what you found when you
2 emptied the pockets of the subject?

3 A We found four \$100.00 bills, I think one
4 \$5.00 bill, four \$1.00 bills, some change, paper clipping --
5 two paper clippings, and a key, two unused .22 bullets,
6 one -- then there was one with the head of the bullet --
7 I don't know what you call it, and he had a white sheet
8 there, some kind of a Kennedy yell -- I guess it was their
9 yell for that night -- and then he had a key.

10 I think that's about all he had.

11 Q You took those into your possession, is
12 that correct?

13 A Yes, my partner and I did.

14 Q Were these items booked into evidence?

15 A Yes.

16 MR. HOWARD: May we have one moment?

17 THE FOREMAN: Surely.

18 MR. HOWARD: We are trying to locate one exhibit.

19 Q Do you recall, you said you found an
20 article, is that correct, when you searched him, when you
21 searched --

22 A We found two paper articles.

23 MR. HOWARD: May we have one minute?

24 May we mark, with the Jury's permission,
25 an exhibit that is entitled, "This Man is Your Man," for
26 identification, as exhibit next in order, Grand Jury 10?

1 THE FOREMAN: Permission granted.

2 MR. HOWARD: May we mark what appears to be a
3 political comment in a newspaper as Grand Jury's 11?

4 THE FOREMAN: So ordered.

5 Q BY MR. HOWARD: May I direct your attention
6 to Grand Jury Exhibit 10 and 11. Would you examine those?

7 First of all, 10 being what appears to be
8 a typewritten piece of paper containing -- is that --

9 A Yes.

10 Q Is that what you said was a cheer or --

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you take that from the possession of
13 the suspect after his arrest and upon his search?

14 A Well, when we searched him, this was -- he
15 had -- Officer White is the one that marked it.

16 Q But you were there?

17 A Yes, we marked -- I seen him mark it.

18 Q May I show you 11. Will you examine that?

19 A Yes. This is the one of the paper
20 clippings.

21 Q And that was also taken upon your
22 examination of the suspect, is that correct?

23 A Yes, sir.

24 Q Now, will you describe again -- you say you
25 found two bullets, is that right?

26 A Yes, sir.

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

1 Q Were they .22 type bullets?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 Q You are familiar with that, is that correct?

4 A Yes, sir.

5 Q Would you examine what we have heretofore
6 marked, a gun that we marked Grand Jury Exhibit 7?

7 Would you be familiar with that gun?

8 A No, sir.

9 Q Could you tell it's a .22 by looking at it?

10 A Is it a cylinder? Yes, sir.

11 Q Is this a .22?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q What did you do with the items that you
14 took, Exhibits 10 and 11? Did you book them into evidence?

15 A Yes, sir.

16 Q Did you also book the two .22 shells?

17 A Yes, sir.

18 Q Would they go over normal routine business
19 to the Police Laboratory for ballistic tests, or would you
20 know that?

21 A Well, unused shells, I really don't know,
22 but we booked it as evidence.

23 Q You didn't go back to the scene or anything;
24 you stayed with the subject?

25 A The night of the shooting --

26 Q Right.

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

1 A -- or the morning? Yes, sir.

2 Q Would you direct your attention, Officer,
3 to what we have marked as Exhibit 1? Could you step over
4 here and look at it?

5 There has been testimony of the nature that
6 this appears to be a portion of what we'll call the kitchen
7 facilities adjoining and serving the Embassy Room of the
8 hotel.

9 There has been testimony, for example, that
10 this area would be a pantry, there would be a ramp down
11 here into an area for storage of -- shelves -- dishes and
12 things necessary for a banquet, down through an area of a
13 serving kitchen.

14 Would that be -- generally, looking at that,
15 would you be familiar that this would depict the scene that
16 you effectuated the arrest?

17 A No, sir.

18 Q You wouldn't recognize it? Would you
19 recognize this, generally, as being the area you went to,
20 with that description?

21 A Well --

22 Q Speak up loud.

23 A This area over here on this side is the
24 area where we made the arrest.

25 Q But visualizing the whole thing as one unit,
26 I was going to ask you this, where was the arrest made?

DONALD L. OSTROV, C.S. 2., OFFICIAL REPORTER

1 A Well, we came in through the east passage-
2 way.

3 Q All right. Can we do this, we have used
4 the color red. I guess we will stick with another --

5 THE FOREMAN: Use the pencil.

6 THE WITNESS: Is all this one floor?

7 Q BY MR. HOWARD: Right. Will you show us
8 where you came?

9 A Yes. We came in up a flight of stairs
10 which, I guess, would be these (indicating).

11 And my partner and myself, we came this
12 way (indicating).

13 I know there is a little room in here.
14 It's a manager's office, right here.

15 And the other two officers came through
16 here (indicating).

17 They had the suspect on the first table
18 right here. My partner came around, and here, and then
19 I came around to this side, so there was two of us here
20 on this side.

21 The suspect was here and Rosie Grier was
22 here, and Rafer Johnson was here.

23 And there was another man on top of the
24 table which had him in a headlock, who I don't know who he
25 was, but I remember the headlock.

26 Anyway, from here, this is where we got him

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1 from, and we took him out east, which would be that way.

2 We took him straight out through these hall
3 doors which was, now, I guess, the Colonial Room, and from
4 the Colonial Room ---

5 Do you want to know which way we got out of
6 the place?

7 Q No. I think that would be sufficient.

8 A We got out through the Colonial Room, and
9 the Colonial Room faces --- we were walking out this way,
10 and then I made a right turn and I went out through two
11 more doors.

12 And I remember that --- these doors because
13 there was a red carpet and --- there was a red carpet.

14 I made a left turn to some --- it's a big
15 lobby; I remember the two pillars on the side, the corner
16 pillar, and there was the other pillar which cause a
17 little passageway.

18 We made a left turn on that passageway and
19 we were going down, and then to the right there are some
20 stairs, sort of wind down into the lobby.

21 We went down those stairs into the lobby,
22 and I remember this because --- what is his name? --- Unruh ---
23 he was with us and he hollered back, and he goes, "Slow
24 down, slow down. This isn't a race," and all.

25 And I looked back and I seen all these
26 people behind my partner, and these people --- and all I

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1 can think of is getting the suspect out of there.

2 And here is this Unruh -- "Slow down, slow
3 down, it's not a race."

4 And I just looked and I said, "Come on,
5 Partner, let's go," you know.

6 So we just kept on running down the stairs,
7 and then -- which was -- came into this main entrance
8 where the canopy is, and we walked out through there.

9 My partner and I put the suspect in the car.

10 I went around to the other side of the car.
11 I jumped in.

12 My partner run around to the front. He
13 jumped in.

14 When we got in the car, the next thing we
15 know, Jesse Unruh is in the car with us. That's how he
16 got in the car. We didn't ask him. He just got in.

17 There was people all the way through from
18 the time we were taking the suspect out, the people
19 hollering, "That's him. That's him. Kill him. Kill him.
20 That's him. That's him. He did it."

21 Q That's why you moved as quick as you did?

22 A Yes, sir.

23 MR. HOWARD: Fine. Would you return to the stand?

24 (Whereupon the witness complied.)

25 MR. HOWARD: That's all we have unless there is a
26 question from the Jury.

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1 THE FOREMAN: Does anyone have a question he'd
2 like to ask the officer?

3 There being no further questions, it's my
4 duty to caution you and also warn you not to impart to
5 anyone or discuss with anyone any of the proceedings that
6 went on in this room today.

7 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

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

9 THE WITNESS: It's my pleasure.

10 (Whereupon the witness was excused and
11 withdrew from the Grand Jury Suite.)

12
13 MR. HOWARD: Karl Uecker, please.

14
15 KARL UECKER,
16 called as a witness before the Grand Jury, was duly sworn
17 as follows:

18 THE FOREMAN: Would you raise your right hand,
19 please?

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

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

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1 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.

2 THE FOREMAN: Would you sit down there, please,
3 Mr. Uecker, and for the record, would you give us your
4 name into the microphone so they can all hear it?

5 THE WITNESS: My name is Karl Uecker.

6 THE FOREMAN: How do you spell that last name?

7 THE WITNESS: U-e-c-k-e-r.
8

9 EXAMINATION

10 BY MR. FUKUTO:

11 Q Mr. Uecker, what is your business or
12 occupation?

13 A I am the Assistant Maitre d' in the
14 Banquet Department in the Ambassador Hotel.

15 MR. HOWARD: May I interrupt? Will you talk slow?
16 I am having a little difficulty following you, and I
17 think maybe the reporter is. We are getting tired now,
18 it's not you, so will you talk slow for us?

19 THE WITNESS: I am the Assistant Maitre d' at the
20 Ambassador Hotel in the Banquet Department.

21 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: And were you working there
22 on election night and the following morning?

23 A Yes, I was.

24 Q And were you present during the time some
25 shooting occurred at that location?

26 A Yes.

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

1 Q That was on the second floor by the
2 Embassy Room, is that correct?

3 A At the Embassy Room pantry.

4 Q Pantry?

5 A Right.

6 Q You see the diagram which is next to you,
7 Mr. Uecker, and which has been marked Grand Jury Exhibit
8 Number 1. Can you see it from your angle?

9 THE FOREMAN: You may get up and walk over.

10 THE WITNESS: Number 1?

11 Q BY MR. FUKUTO: The whole diagram is the
12 exhibit.

13 A Yes..

14 Q Do you recognize that sketch?

15 A Yes, I do..

16 Q Is that a diagram of the pantry of the
17 Embassy Room?

18 A Must have been right here, yes, in through
19 here.

20 Q You are indicating the area where the
21 serving tables are located, is that right?

22 A Yes. It's what we call a pantry.

23 Q Pantry?

24 A Yes.

25 Q And this has been designated as a place where
26 Senator Kennedy made a talk to the public, is that correct?

1 A Right, yes.

2 Q And I am referring to what is labeled
3 "Stage Anteroom" and the area where the serving tables
4 are located. You call that area -- it's --

5 A Pantry.

6 Q Pantry.

7 A Embassy pantry, yes.

8 Q Now, were you in the area of the pantry
9 when Senator Kennedy came into that location sometime
10 after 12:00 midnight?

11 A Yes. I took Mr. Kennedy from the stage
12 into this area by my left hand.

13 Q By your left hand?

14 A Holding him on his right hand.

15 Q You kind of escorted him then?

16 A Right.

17 Q Did you go from the stage through the doors
18 immediately to the north of the stage?

19 A To the north, right.

20 Q And you went through the hallway toward
21 the pantry, is that correct?

22 A Right.

23 Q And did you proceed with Senator Kennedy
24 through the swinging double doors?

25 A Right. I was leading him through. I went
26 first, and he was right behind me.

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1 Q Were there a number of people behind you
2 at that time?

3 A Yes. People were following us.

4 Q Were there people inside the pantry area
5 when you led Senator Kennedy through there?

6 A I didn't -- except Mr. Uno Timanson, I
7 didn't see anybody else.

8 Q Were the press and reporters and
9 photographers there at that time?

10 A Not at the time, I didn't see anybody.

11 Q Then you proceeded into the pantry area,
12 is that right?

13 A Right.

14 Q What happened after you got there?

15 A After I got -- let me show you -- I --

16 THE FOREMAN: Would you keep --

17 THE WITNESS: Right after we came through the
18 sliding doors, he got loose of my hand and shook hands
19 with somebody around here, in this area (indicating) --

20 MR. FUKUTO: May I --

21 THE WITNESS: -- before it goes into the kitchen --
22 it must have been right here.

23 MR. FUKUTO: May I make that K-1, Mr. Foreman?

24 THE WITNESS: Yes.

25 THE FOREMAN: Here, do you want to mark --

26 MR. FUKUTO: With a blue pencil. All right.

1 Q That's where Mr. Kennedy got loose from
2 your hand, and he shook hands with some individual, is
3 that right?

4 A Right.

5 Q Where were you at that time?

6 A I was standing right in front of him. He
7 was on the left side

8 Q Then what happened after that?

9 A After he finished shaking hand with one
10 of the kitchen people there, with one of the dishwashers,
11 I took his hand again, and we went few steps farther
12 until we got on this corner here, where we have the
13 heaters, the steam -- the steam heaters.

14 Q Those are tables that keep the food warm?

15 A Right.

16 Q And are there three of them there in that
17 pantry?

18 A Three, right.

19 Q And they are indicated by these diagrams
20 then, is that correct?

21 A Right, yes.

22 Q And you stood right next to the place which
23 has already been marked with an "X" and the initials R.F.K.,
24 is that right?

25 A Right, yes.

26 Q Slightly to the right of that diagram?

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1 A Right.

2 Q What happened then?

3 A He got loose of my hand again and shook
4 hands again with one of the dishwashers.

5 And then I took his hand again, and while I
6 was pulling him, I was trying to get -- because too many
7 people came behind us at that time.

8 Mr. Uno was in front of us -- Mr. Timanson --
9 and he was calling, waving over, and I was trying to get as
10 fast through the kitchen area there, through the pantry, as
11 I could.

12 And while I was holding his hand, I was
13 turning to my right towards -- to the Colonial Room where
14 the press room was.

15 At the time something rushed on my right
16 side. I -- at that time I didn't recognize what it was,
17 and I saw some paper flying. I don't even remember what
18 it was, paper or white pieces of things.

19 Then I heard the first shot and the second
20 shot right after that, and Mr. Kennedy fall out of my hand.
21 I lost his hand.

22 I looked for him, and I saw him falling down.

23 And I turned around again, and I saw the man --
24 right standing next to me.

25 The arm, was holding the gun in, push the
26 arm down or towards the steam heater, and my right arm I