

BOX NO. 4

FOLDER NO. 87

interview transcript: Sandra Serrano

5 June 1968

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RFK Assassination 2017-0108

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Description:

Transcript of recorded
interview of Sandra
Serrano, Altadena,
Calif on 6/20/68

INTERVIEW WITH SANDRA SERRANO

1 TRANSCRIPT OF TAPE RECORDED INTERVIEW OF SANDRA SERRANO
2 2212 NORTH MARENGO, ALTADENA
3 TAKEN IN ROOM POLY B, PARKER CENTER
4 THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 1968, 10:15 P.M.
5 QUESTIONED BY: SGT. ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ #7101, S.U.S. UNIT
6 TRANSCRIBED BY: STELLA C. ROTH, INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
7 ASSISTED BY: SGT. ENRIQUE HERNANDEZ
8 SGT. THOMAS STRONG, JR. #5972, S.U.S. UNIT

9 * * * * *

10 SGT. HERNANDEZ: I want to get into some of the
11 preliminary stuff. Now, my name, as you know, is Sgt. Hank
12 Hernandez. We're in Room B on the fourth floor of the
13 Police Administration Building, and I'm talking to Miss
14 Sandra Serrano. The time is 10:15 p.m. The date is June
15 20th, 1968. And now, Sandra, I'm going to ask you some
16 questions just so we can get the true facts on the previous
17 statements that you made before. You know that you shouldn't
18 be afraid, and I hope you're not. The whole thing that we
19 are trying to resolve here is what actually happened at the
20 Ambassador Hotel on June the 4th, the evening that Senator
21 Kennedy was assassinated; and I well understand, as you have
22 explained to me, that this thing was magnified out of
23 proportion with people that you said messed you around up
24 there. So if you will tell me the truth about what happened,
25 and I could ask you questions--

26 A Uh huh.

Q --and you can answer me. But I would rather
start with you telling me the truth, just the truth, just
what happened that night. Now, you went to the Ambassador

1 Hotel with some other people; is that right?

2 A Right.

3 Q Who did you go with?

4 A Greg Abbott.

5 Q Will you speak up?

6 A Greg Abbott, Irene Chavez, George Fredericks, and
7 Michael Churchak (phonetic).

8 Q Okay.

9 A Patchett.

10 Q Patchett?

11 A Patchett.

12 Q Okay, now when you arrived at the hotel, did you
13 all split and go to separate locations?

14 A Yes.

15 Q You did. Did you eventually wind up in the main
16 ballroom--

17 A Uh huh.

18 Q --of the hotel. And I understand you had some-
19 thing to drink there?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What did you drink, Sandra?

22 A A screwdriver.

23 Q A screwdriver. Just one screwdriver?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q And sometime during the course of the evening,
26 you said about 11:30, you went out to the stairway?

1 A Uh huh, outside.

2 Q Outside. And you sat down on that stairway?

3 A Yeah, I think I did.

4 Q Okay, now, we have statements here that obviously
5 are incorrect that people took possibly because you thought
6 you were being misquoted, for whatever reasons, but I think
7 we have to rectify these statements. Number 1--

8 A Well--

9 Q Pardon me?

10 A Both statements were given but they were given
11 after people messed me up.

12 Q How was that?

13 A Well, stupid people. Well, I don't know how to
14 say it. They--just in all the commotion and everything
15 like--I was supposed to know more than I knew. That is what
16 it amounted to, I was supposed to know more than I knew.

17 Q I understand. Well, to make it simple, now, first
18 of all, Mr. Ambrose, I think, is a person that you had
19 described previously as having talked with you?

20 A Uh huh.

21 Q And do you remember what you told Mr. Ambrose?

22 A Yes. I told him that I heard the people say,
23 "We shot him," or "they shot him," or something. And I
24 remember telling him that I had seen these people on the--
25 on the stairway.

26 Q Uh huh.

1 A And if that was important or not--

2 Q Uh huh.

3 A --you know, do you suppose that it had anything--
4 something about that there was some people out there that
5 nobody knew about it, and it seemed obvious, weird to me
6 that nobody knew about it when I went in.

7 Q Did you describe this person as being--one of the
8 people as being a female in a white dress?

9 A Right.

10 Q You told him this and then sometime later, I
11 think, you heard the kid--some kid mention something about
12 a white dress and polka dots--

13 A Right.

14 Q --is that right?

15 A Right.

16 Q Was this where you got the idea or where some--

17 A I don't know.

18 Q --somebody misquoted you?

19 A I don't know. I guess. Uhm, I don't know.

20 Q Okay, now earlier, also, you said--or previous to
21 tonight, somebody had quoted you as saying that you had seen
22 this same woman, who you saw with the white dress, that then
23 was described as a white dress with black polka dots and
24 which, in fact, was only a white dress that you saw?

25 A Uh huh.

26 Q Right. Is that right?

1 A Yes.

2 Q And then somebody misquoted you or stated that you
3 had said that this girl had told you to the effect, "We have
4 shot him?"

5 A Uh huh. Right.

6 Q And you said, "Who is--who did you shoot?" And
7 that they told you, "Kennedy." Now this is also--

8 A --I didn't say--

9 Q --out of proportion here?

10 A Right.

11 Q Is that right?

12 A Right.

13 Q And in effect what you have told me previously
14 is that this person told you "he shot Kennedy" or "they
15 shot Kennedy"; is that right?

16 A Um, something or something about shooting
17 Kennedy, yeah.

18 Q Well, also before you had stated that you had
19 heard some shots?

20 A No, I never said I heard shots.

21 Q You never said that. Well, now, somebody quoted
22 you as saying that you had heard shots.

23 A No, I never said I heard shots.

24 Q Okay.

25 A I heard backfires of a car, and I know they were
26 backfires from a car, I know they weren't gunshots.

1 Q You know for a fact they were not gunshots?

2 A I know it.

3 Q Okay, also, where was it that you saw the waiter,
4 the waiter--the kid that was a waiter in the kitchen? Where
5 did you see him and hear his statement?

6 A Upstairs.

7 Q In the Embassy Room?

8 A Uh huh.

9 Q Okay, now, why had you before said that you hadn't
10 been up to the Embassy Room?

11 A I hadn't until they took me up.

12 Q Oh, until the police took you up?

13 A Until the police took me up.

14 Q And is that when you heard the kid say something?

15 A Right.

16 Q About a woman?

17 A Right.

18 Q In a white polka dot dress?

19 A Right.

20 Q So that's where that thing about--

21 A I guess. I don't know.

22 Q --the polka dot dress, that's where it was
23 started?

24 A I guess. Well, I think so because that was the
25 day they took me down to the Ambassador, and Ambrose said,
26 "When did you tell me it was a polka dot dress?" And I said,

1 "I don't know; when did I tell you?" "Wasn't that outside
2 in the parking lot"? "Yeah, I think so; okay."

3 Q Well, regardless of what was said before, now we
4 know that it was a girl in a white dress that you saw?

5 A Right.

6 Q And then you heard the kid up in the Embassy Room
7 after the police took you up there, you heard him say
8 something about a girl with a black polka dot or white dress
9 with black polka dots?

10 A Right.

11 Q That's the first time you saw or heard anything?

12 A Right.

13 Q About polka dots. Now, just to clarify your
14 statement which is now a truthful statement; right?

15 A Right.

16 Q Is that when you said earlier that you had seen
17 a woman coming down the stairs with another man, as a matter
18 of fact you saw a lot of people coming down the stairs.
19 About how many people did you see would you say, just
20 roughly?

21 A I don't know. Three or four.

22 Q Could it have been more than four?

23 A Couldn't have been more than five, I know.
24 Couldn't have possibly have been more than five.

25 Q All right. Okay. Also, I think you said
26 something about you called home after you had heard?

1 A Right.

2 Q About Kennedy being shot?

3 A Right.

4 Q Do you remember after you got con--made contact
5 with your parents, do you remember telling them anything
6 about, or not telling them anything about knowing who had
7 shot or anything?

8 A No, I didn't.

9 Q Did you mention anything about that to them?

10 A No.

11 Q Okay, Sandra, just for the purpose of possible--

12 A I just told them that he was shot.

13 Q Yeah, that he was shot?

14 A That nobody knew about it. I think I mentioned
15 that to them that nobody knew that he was shot, or something.

16 Q I wonder if you can tell me, Sandy, if you will,
17 in your own words, why it is that this thing was magnified in
18 your mind to the proportion when you first knew either
19 through television or through the newspaper media?

20 A To everything?

21 Q To everything that you saw.

22 A Right.

23 Q When was the first time that you knew that this
24 was a pack of mistruths, and somebody else had misquoted or
25 printed?

26 A When I went down to the police station.

1 Q Which one, this police station?

2 A Rampart.

3 Q At Rampart, okay. What did you hear at Rampart
4 that you knew was not true on that date?

5 A What did I hear?

6 Q Yeah, what did you hear? You knew this is
7 starting to magnify, right?

8 A It was already magnified,

9 Q It was already magnified at that time?

10 A Yeah, it was already magnified.

11 Q What were they saying?

12 A Well, while I was back there they were asking
13 questions, yes. Yeah, it was a man in a waiting seat. Yeah,
14 yeah, yeah, you know--I don't--fifty people--I don't know,
15 around fifty--actually there were about five--four, you know,
16 people were asking me questions at the same time; and all I
17 knew that was when I was sitting there, I knew from what I
18 said--well, you put this and this together, and you've got
19 it. "Leave me alone now, and then we can all go now."
20 That's it.

21 Q Why didn't you correct them at that time, Sandy?

22 A I don't know. After--well, two reason, so I
23 didn't want to look like a fool, which I look like now.
24 Another reason, because everybody figures--everybody thinks--
25 they say, "Yeah, let's go; that's right." You know, know--
26 I was sitting there hearing descriptions and descriptions

1 of these people, of these people, of these people. Oh, God,
2 no, maybe that's what I'm supposed to have seen. Did I see
3 this woman? You know, I thought I was supposed to see more
4 than--more than I did. I was really going to believe that.
5 It messed me up, that's all; and I figured, well, they must
6 know what they're doing--I mean, they are police--after all
7 they have to know what they're doing, and I just figured
8 they knew what they were doing. That's all.

9 Q Sandy, just for my own personal edification, now
10 why, when I talked to you earlier this evening, in front of
11 your Aunt Maggie, why didn't you then tell me the truth?

12 A Because I knew I was going to tell you later.

13 Q Did you know you were going to tell me later?

14 A Yes.

15 Q Do you feel better now, Maggie?

16 A My name is not Maggie.

17 Q I mean Sandy?

18 A Yes and no. Well, yes, I feel better. In fact,
19 you know, finally I got--you know somebody and that's why I
20 didn't want it to bother me anymore because I knew that it
21 would keep growing and growing and growing. That's why that
22 day I got so filled with everything over there and they
23 wouldn't even let me talk to anybody, that's what killed me.
24 They wouldn't even let me talk to anybody, and I told them
25 that I wanted to talk to somebody. They wouldn't even let
26 me--uhm, uhm, then put two and two together I figured, well,

1 they must know what they're doing. There must be something
2 out of this, you know. I feel bad for the fact that I
3 didn't--that I didn't stand up in the beginning and say
4 something, and I should have.

5 Q But you are standing up now and saying the truth
6 which is--

7 A Yeah, but it's not that I--the whole thing was a
8 lie; that's it, and I don't know which fellow that I--I
9 really, to tell you the truth, I don't really feel it was my
10 fault. That's what--that's that man in that interview tape.

11 Q All right.

12 A --I didn't even know--I didn't even know I was on
13 television. To tell you the truth, I didn't even know it.

14 Q Remember when you--I understand that you were
15 before some people, some TV cameras or something, and you
16 were looking at some polka dot dresses; remember that?

17 A Yes.

18 Q Why didn't you correct it then? When you were
19 being shown the polka dot--

20 A Because everybody was making me nervous.

21 Q Everybody was making you nervous?

22 A Yeah, you know they didn't have stuff and we were
23 down there, down there a long time and doing nothing. Just
24 doing nothing and that stuff. And, you know, because they
25 came and picked me up at work around 11:15, and I never got
26 home until six o'clock. And we didn't do anything during

1 that time, anything, and then when I finally wanted to talk
2 about it, they wouldn't even let me talk to anybody--"take
3 her home--take her home." And now you're supposed to do this,
4 now you're supposed to do that. They didn't even know what
5 they were doing between themselves. That's what killed me.
6 That's why--that's what it did to me is that I'm not never
7 going to say anything anymore. And that's when if I'm going
8 to have a hassle between myself whether to say anything or
9 not, because you--you say something, and it turns out to be
10 something else, and you know it but it's so involved or it's
11 so messed up that you can't say anything. You really feel
12 you can't say anything, and you know you're supposed to say
13 something. But I'll tell you what, and I don't know--I
14 guess everybody feels that way, and I get kind of nervous,
15 that's all. And I think it was the first cop's fault. I
16 want to put the blame on somebody. I want to shift it from
17 me or something.

18 Q Tell me--tell me about that, about the first cop.

19 A Nothing--nothing--nothing like the one I have.

20 Q That first policeman that you talked to?

21 A The first policeman that I talked to was Ambrose,
22 and he talked to me about the kid following me, I remember
23 that much. "What do you see, a bunch of people following
24 you?" I said, "Oh, what in--yeah, I guess so." Yeah, you
25 know now everything was a hassle. Everything was in a daze,
26 I told him that I was in a daze, and I knew I was in a daze.

1 Q Uh huh.

2 A Because you can't--because I've been in front of
3 TV cameras before; and you know when the cameras are on you
4 because you can feel that heat, and I didn't feel anything.

5 Q Well, at least you're being a decent, honest
6 woman right now; aren't you, you know?

7 A Yes, yes, yes. I don't think I'm very decent.

8 Q Well, you are being decent. You're telling the
9 truth now.

10 A Yeah, in a way. You know what I think? Some
11 changes should be made.

12 Q For example?

13 A Well, for example, first, when somebody sees
14 something, let them go--I mean, you don't--don't feed
15 something to them which I really thought was being done to
16 me.

17 Q Fed information about the people?

18 A Yeah, and you know when somebody sees something,
19 keep them away from other people who have seen it. Because
20 you don't know--you don't know what happens, anything that
21 while that you really thought seeing something. I under-
22 stand that, that you know that everything was quite messed
23 up, and you know you can't be as careful, you know, and all
24 that stuff; but I really think--I mean--I'm really sorry that
25 it happened.

26 Q Sure, I think most people are sorry, and that I

1 think that we know that we're trying to do the best job we
2 can in this final investigation on this thing.

3 A Yeah.

4 Q And you see all the man-hours that we're going--

5 A --well, you see another thing, too, you know that
6 is that that other newspaper came out with that somebody else
7 had seen it, and then I--and then I seen it on television
8 somebody else had seen the girl in the white dress, and I
9 thought maybe that girl did have something to do with it,
10 you know. I kept thinking to myself, maybe--you know, gee--

11 Q But when you saw the big difference was that the
12 one you saw was a white dress and the one that somebody says
13 that they saw was a white dress with black polka dots, and--

14 A --someone saw--

15 Q --and regardless of what they saw, you know we
16 just want to get the facts, and the facts that you saw were
17 partly, apparently, were misquoted, or misprinted, or
18 mistelevised to the actual true facts?

19 A Well, they can't have been mistelevised because
20 I said that. I actually said that. None of them--

21 Q What you--

22 A --I don't know. Somewhere I heard it. I don't
23 know why I said it, but it just fitted. Then it happened
24 that it all fitted in, and I couldn't understand it, you
25 know. Then, yeah, I really thought there was something
26 behind it. I was scared. I tell you I've been scared all

1 this time.

2 Q Okay, well, don't be scared anymore; okay? I'm
3 going to stop this, and I'm going to be right back. I'm
4 going to catch my call, and I'm going to see if your aunt--
5 your auntie's back.

6 A Where did she go?

7 Q Well, I think they took her up for a coke or
8 something, or coffee or something. Just bear with me for
9 a couple of minutes.

10 A Well, please tell me what's going to happen or
11 something.

12 Q Oh, yes. Excuse me a second. Okay?

13 A You could have left that. I wouldn't look at it.

14 Q I knew you wouldn't but I just want to look at
15 it myself.

16 (Short time lapse here of about three or four
17 minutes)

18 Q Okay, Sandy, they tell me you have got a talent?

19 A Oh, really?

20 Q For the purposes of the interview now, we're
21 completing this interview at 10:35 p.m.

22 A It's not on.

23 Q 10:35 p.m., and everything you have told me now
24 is the truth that you remember?

25 A Right.

26 Q Ah--

1 A How can I tell all these people that?

2 Q What we're going to do, Sandy, is I'm not going
3 to tell your aunt anything. I think we should decide how
4 we're going to handle it. Will--will you--do you want to
5 tell her yourself? I don't want to tell her unless you want
6 me to.

7 A No, I don't want to.

8 Q Okay, then, in the event that there is any--

9 A I don't want anybody saying anything.

10 Q Well, to her you mean?

11 A Just to her.

12 Q Well, I'm not going to tell anyone here. Of
13 couse, we're going to have to cancel--

14 A --I know that.

15 Q --all these reports, you know that.

16 A I know that.

17 Q But in the event that I have to talk to--to you
18 again, can I have your phone number for the purposes of this
19 tape? Now, where you can be reached. Your address is what?
20 Where you're staying now?

21 A 2212 North Marengo, Altadena.

22 Q 2212 North Marengo in Altadena, California.

23 A I don't know my phone number.

24 Q You don't know your phone number there at the
25 place?

26 A No, we just had it changed.

1 Q Okay, where--oh, you mean the new phone number?

2 A The new phone number.

3 Q Okay, we'll get that from Maggie then. What about
4 the phone number at work?

5 A I don't know it either. I just started working
6 there.

7 Q What's the name of the place where you work?

8 A Martin Luther King Westside Study Center, 19--
9 1948 North Fair Oaks.

10 Q 1948 North Fair Oaks, and it's the Martin Luther
11 King Study Center.

12 A --Westside Study Center.

13 Q Westside Study Center. Okay, now, I will not--

14 A --what if I lost my job over this damn stupid
15 thing, and I lost pay and everything?

16 Q But the thing is this, that if we have to contact
17 you, I will call you myself; okay?

18 A Yeah.

19 Q And I hope that we won't have to talk to you
20 again. I don't think that we will. Okay?

21 A Yeah, yeah.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Oh, well, you said you were going to tell me
24 what's going to happen--about what's going to happen.

25 SGT. HERNANDEZ: Let's go back into the other
26 side.

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1 **STATEMENT OF SANDRA SERRANO, TAKEN JUNE 5, 1968, 4:00 A.M.,**
2 **ROOM 318, PARKER CENTER, LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

3 **INTERROGATED BY: SERGEANT F.J. PACHETT, 7872,**
4 **RAMPART DETECTIVES**
5 **SERGEANT A.B. MELENDRÉS, 3814**
6 **RAMPART DETECTIVES**
7 **JOHN E. HOWARD, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

8 **REPORTED BY: RON HOWLACHER, J8772, HOMICIDE DIVISION**

9
10 o o o

11 **BY MR. HOWARD:**

12
13 Ron, I don't know if you met. This is Sandra
14 Serrano, S-e-r-r-a-n-o if I spelled it correctly.

15 **BY MISS SERRANO:**

16
17 A Serrano, S-e-r-r-a-n-o.

18 **BY SGT. MELENDRÉS:**

19
20 Q Is it Sandra or Sindra?

21
22 A Sandra.

23 **BY MR. HOWARD:**

24
25 This is Sgt. Melendres and this is Sgt. Pachett. He
26 will do the talking.

27 **BY SGT. PACHETT:**

28
29 Q Do you have a middle name Sandra?

30
31 A Yes.

32
33 Q What is that?

34
35 A Soladad.

36
37 Q Can you spell it?

38
39 A S-o-l-a-d-a-d.

40
41 Q Where do you live Sandra?

42
43 A 2212 North Marengo, Altadena.

1 Q And your home phone number?
2 A 794-6514.
3 Q And what's the name of the company you work for?
4 A United Insurance Company of America, 727 West 7th.
5 Q And that phone number?
6 A 627-9134.
7 Q And you are also a student at Santa Monica City
8 College?
9 A No, Pasadena.
10 Q Pasadena City College?
11 A Right.
12 Q And you go to school, what, nights?
13 A Yes, I only take one class.
14 Q And you are part of the Youth for Kennedy?
15 A I am chairman of the Youth for Kennedy in the
16 Altadena, Pasadena area.
17 Q What time did you get to the Ambassador?
18 A 9:15 about.
19 Q Did you go by yourself or with someone?
20 A No, I didn't. I went with friends.
21 Q Were these friends present when this incident
22 occurred?
23 A No.
24 Q Okay, you arrived there at what time?
25 A 9:15 about.
26 Q Did you go into one of the rooms at the Ambassador?

1 A I went into the main where everybody was at and we
2 looked for everyone else and we all agreed to meet at a
3 certain place at a certain time. We all split up.

4 Q When was the first time that you saw the Senator?

5 A That night?

6 Q Yes.

7 A That night, when he came into the main room talking.

8 Q Okay, this was not at 9:15?

9 A No.

10 Q This would be about what time?

11 A Oh, when he came and made his main speech about
12 midnight or so -- before midnight.

13 Q This was his speech?

14 A Right.

15 Q What did that speech concern, just briefly?

16 A Something about -- he said something about non-
17 violence or something.

18 Q Was he talking about the returns of the election at
19 that particular time?

20 A Yes, I didn't listen to him because I've seen him
21 so many times, so I went out on the terrace. And then I went
22 out and then up the stairway, a staircase outside, and a
23 policeman was chasing everybody away but he didn't see me so
24 I just stayed there.

25 BY SGT. MELLENBUE:

26 Q Just one thing. Where did the Senator make his speech
at the Ambassador Hotel, what room?

4
1 A I don't know what room that was. That was the main
2 room where everybody, one, was in.

3 Q Not the Coconut Grove though?

4 A I'm not familiar with --

5 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

6 -- Okay, go ahead.

7 BY SGT. PAGEITT:

8 Q You went into that room then around midnight, is
9 that correct?

10 A It was before midnight and you know, they are saying,
11 "He's here. He's here," and all this and I said, "Well, I'm
12 not going to fight the crowd." I stayed by the door, you know,
13 and I looked and I listened a while and then I just went up
14 the stairway outside. It was outside. There was a stairway
15 going up, leading probably up to a terrace, and I was standing
16 there when I seen these three people come up and I seen two
17 of them come back.

18 Q How -- this is a very crowded room, is that correct?

19 A That was the main room where they was at.

20 Q Yes, and it was just packed with people?

21 A Right.

22 Q What called your attention --

23 A I didn't want to hassle with the crowd.

24 Q Okay, now these three people that you saw --

25 A Well, I went outside. I went outside.

26 Q On the terrace.

1 A On the terrace. There was like I was on a -- there
2 was a level here and a stairway and a level here, and I was
3 in the middle of the stairway, just sitting there, and
4 thinking how nice it is to be cool again.

5 Q Were you alone?

6 A Yes, I was.

7 Q Were these people --

8 A They were coming up from down there.

9 Q Were they all men or --

10 A One woman and two men.

11 Q All right, let's take a moment and describe these
12 people. Let's start with the woman.

13 A Okay, the woman was a Caucasian, about 5'6", nice
14 figure, probably, you know, whatever 5'6" would weigh.

15 Q She would be slim, nice figure?

16 A Yes, she had a white dress on.

17 Q Excuse me, about how old -- what is the youngest
18 she could possibly be?

19 A The youngest she could possibly be?

20 Q The very youngest?

21 A 23.

22 Q Not younger than that?

23 A No.

24 Q What is the oldest that she could be possibly?

25 A 27.

26 Q Definitely in that age group?

1 A Yes.

2 Q How tall are you?

3 A I'm 5'1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

4 Q Do you have a friend that is 5'6" that you know?

5 A Yes, I have a couple of friends 5'6".

6 Q And they would be about the same height?

7 A Yes, they would be about the same height.

8 Q And she had an attractive build?

9 A Right.

10 Q Okay, how about her hair?

11 A Well, my length, I call this short; some people don't.

12 Q It doesn't quite come to the shoulders?

13 A No.

14 Q Is this a straight cut or wavy?

15 A It was nicely combed, you know, not like --

16 Q Would it be combed straight or was there some curl?

17 A A bouffant job like.

18 Q Just on the ends it was curled?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Now, what was she wearing again?

21 A A white dress, a voile. I know exactly what the
22 dress was because I just babysat for someone who had an exact
23 dress like that.

24 BY SGT. MELLENDRE:

25 Q Voile you say?

26 A Yes, voile, it's called a voile.

1 BY SGT. PACHETT:

2 Q Voile?

3 A Yes, voile.

4 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

5 Q V-o-a-l-e, or how do you spell this?

6 A V-o-i-l-e I think.

7 BY SGT. PACHETT:

8 Q Okay, anything on the dress?

9 A Yes, black polka dots.

10 Q Large or small?

11 A Sort of like the walls, this type of thing.

12 Q Very small dots?

13 A I don't think those are small.

14 Q You don't think those are small?

15 A No.

16 Q About the size of dots --

17 A -- on these walls.

18 Q So we are talking about something perhaps an eighth
19 of an inch big?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay, how about the shoes?

22 A Black shoes.

23 Q High heels or flats?

24 A I don't know.

25 Q You are not sure?

26 A No.

1 Q Is this the type of a dress that is an A-frame,
2 hangs right down or is tailored?

3 A Hangs down, A-frame, bib collar.

4 Q Bib collar. Short sleeves?

5 A Long sleeves.

6 Q Long sleeves?

7 A Or three quarter length, one of the two. They are
8 not way up to --

9 Q Between her elbow and her wrist?

10 A Right.

11 Q Any jewelry that is noticeable?

12 A No, nothing.

13 Q Did she wear a lot of make up?

14 A No, she didn't.

15 Q Very plain looking?

16 A Yes.

17 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

18 Q What color was her hair?

19 A Dark brown.

20 BY SGT. PACHETT:

21 Q Okay, the two men, let's take one of them and refer
22 to him as "A", okay?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Tell me about "A". Would he be Guinean?

25 A No.

26 Q What, Latin?

1 A He's a Mexican-American I would think.

2 Q All right, would he be dark skinned or light skinned?

3 A He was my coloring.

4 BY SGT. MELENDRIS:

5 Q Olive.

6 A Maybe a little darker.

7 Q Would you call it olive?

8 A I don't know, what do you call it, I don't know.

9 BY SGT. PACHETT:

10 Q What would be the youngest he could possibly be?

11 A 21.

12 Q The very youngest?

13 A Yes.

14 Q What is the oldest?

15 A 24.

16 Q 24. Was he taller than the girl?

17 A 25 I'd say.

18 Q Between 21 and 25. Was he taller than the girl?

19 A No.

20 Q He was shorter than the girl?

21 A Right.

22 Q By about how much?

23 A An inch or two, an inch, an inch and a half.

24 Q Okay, how about his build? Heavy?

25 A He was overweight I know that, but he wasn't fat.

26 He's overweight, probably about 160.

1 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

2 Q 160, you call him overweight? He looked overweight?

3 A Yes.

4 BY SGT. PACHETT:

5 Q How about the color of his hair?

6 A Dark, black.

7 Q Was it straight or curly?

8 A No, straight.

9 Q Was it long?

10 A Yes, I would say it's long, needs a haircut.

11 Q Hippie like?

12 A No.

13 Q Not hippie length?

14 A No.

15 Q Does he have sideburns?

16 A I didn't notice, but I did notice that his hair
17 was like straight and it came out in peaks like and it was
18 awfully greasy.

19 Q You don't know about a part in the hair?

20 A No.

21 Q Was it combed to one side or straight back, or do
22 you recall?

23 A Well, he had -- it was falling you know, so I don't
24 know how he had it.

25 Q How about his clothing?

26 A Dark trousers.

1 Q Dark trousers.

2 A Light sport shirt, probably white. I think it was
3 white.

4 Q Short sleeve or long sleeves?

5 A He had a gold sweater on so I don't know. You know,
6 an open sweater with buttons on it.

7 Q Down the front?

8 A Right.

9 Q This was bright gold?

10 A No.

11 Q Autumn gold?

12 A Autumn gold, yes.

13 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

14 Q This is a sweater?

15 A Yes.

16 Q What color do you call it?

17 A Autumn gold.

18 BY SGT. PACHETT:

19 Q How about the buttons on the sweater, did they
20 stand out?

21 A No, I didn't notice the buttons, but I know it was
22 a --

23 Q Was he wearing a tie?

24 A No, he wasn't.

25 Q How about the shoes, did you happen to notice the
26 shoes?

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A No.

Q Did you notice any jewelry on his hands?

A No, I didn't.

Q Did he wear glasses?

A No, he didn't.

Q Did he have a mustache?

A No, he didn't.

Q No -- he looked like he was clean shaven?

A He looked pretty good.

Q Okay.

BY SGT. MELENDRES:

Q Would you say he was handsome?

A Ah, cute.

Q Not handsome?

BY SGT. PACHETT:

Q All right, let's talk about the third fellow who we referred to as "B". He would be a male what?

A Well, to me he looked like a boracho.

Q Can you define "boracho?"

A Well, just like somebody that had had a few, maybe. He didn't look drunk but sort of messy.

Q No, no, no.

BY SGT. MELENDRES:

Q He looked like he had been drinking?

A No, he was just messy, dirty or something.

1 BY SGT. PACHETT:

2 Q Well, would he be a Latin or a Caucasian?

3 A Oh, Latin.

4 Q Definitely a Latin?

5 A Oh yes, he was Latin.

6 Q What's the youngest he could possibly be?

7 A 22.

8 Q 22 ? And the oldest he would be then, what?

9 A 25.

10 Q 25. Now about his height in relation to the other
11 two people?

12 A He was even shorter. He was probably about 5'5".

13 Q All right, how about --

14 A 130.

15 Q A fairly slim fellow?

16 A Yes, he was a little man, to me.

17 Q How about his hair?

18 A He had a lot of it. Curly, bushy.

19 Q What color? Dark?

20 A Yes, bushy-curly like.

21 Q Would his hair be as dark as your's, a little
22 lighter perhaps?

23 A It was dark, because, you know, we were outside and
24 didn't go in so you know it was dark.

25 Q Okay, and it was curly or bushy?

26 A Yes, curly-bushy.

1 Q Was it long?

2 A He needed a haircut I think.

3 Q But not the hippie type?

4 A No, no, not the hippie type!

5 Q Did he have sideburns?

6 A I didn't notice.

7 Q All right, go ahead.

8 A His clothes were wrinkled and he had light clothes
9 on.

10 Q Did he have a coat or a jacket on?

11 A No.

12 BY SGT. PACHETT:

13 Go ahead Mal.

14 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

15 Q By light clothes what do you mean? Can you describe
16 color for us?

17 BY SGT. PACHETT:

18 Q Let's start with the pants.

19 A They were I think maybe they were brown tones like.

20 Q Perhaps beige or a little darker or something?

21 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

22 Q Referring to pants, shirt or what?

23 BY SGT. PACHETT:

24 Q What about his shirt?

25 A His shirt was white.

26 Q Long sleeves or short sleeves?

1 A I don't remember.

2 Q Do you remember anything about the shoes?

3 A No, I don't. I remember he looked messy.

4 Q Any jewelry that you noticed?

5 A No.

6 Q Okay, you say he was borecho, he was drunk?

7 A No, not drunk, but he looked like he didn't belong
8 there.

9 Q Did he look like he had had a drink?

10 A No, I don't think so.

11 Q He just looked messy and he didn't fit in with the
12 rest of the crowd?

13 A That's it, he just didn't fit in.

14 Q Okay now --

15 A Seedy looking.

16 Q Seedy? What does seedy mean to you?

17 A Like you don't, you know, like maybe you need some-
18 body to make you over, ha ha.

19 Q Mothering?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay, of the three people we talked about, is there
22 anything that we haven't discussed that in your mind is
23 unusual or outstanding about them?

24 A No.

25 Q All right, let's take the woman. When we talk about
26 the woman, what's the first thing that comes to your mind?

1 A The white dress.

2 Q The white dress. With the dots?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And this is because you have a friend --

5 A Yes.

6 Q Okay, let's go back to this fellow "A" who is
7 medium in height, a little shorter than the girl. What's the
8 first thing that comes --

9 A Gold sweater.

10 Q The gold sweater, and the last fellow?

11 A Wrinkled clothes.

12 Q The wrinkled clothes. Okay, now in relation -- let
13 me ask you this first -- you are sitting on the stairs --

14 A Uh hum.

15 Q -- and these stairs are above the room somewhat,
16 where the crowd is, and yet you are not up to the point where
17 the balcony is?

18 A No.

19 Q Did these people come in from the balcony?

20 A No, they came down the stairs.

21 Q Did they have to walk past you?

22 A Yes, they had to walk past me. They said, "Excuse
23 me."

24 Q In walking past you then they are walking up to the
25 balcony, away from where the Senator is?

26 A No, well, I don't know if he was upstairs or not at
this time.

1 Q You don't know where he was?

2 A No, at this time I do't know where he was at.

3 Q He had not come in the room yet?

4 A When I was sitting on the stairs he was talking to
5 the main crowd down in the main ballroom or whatever it is,
6 you know, and he made a victory speech or something.

7 Q Let me ask you this. Are you familiar with the
8 compass, north, south, east and west?

9 A I know what a compass is and I know --

10 Q Let me do this. Seeing as we don't know what room
11 you are in, let's say that this is north, which will be to
12 your right, okay?

13 A Uh hum.

14 Q South is to your left. East is the wall behind
15 you and west is facing me, okay?

16 A Okay, here we go.

17 Q Now, where were the stairs where you were sitting
18 in relation to the entrance?

19 A The back.

20 Q Where would the entrance be, let's start there, to
21 this room?

22 A Well, there's so many turns in that place, it's hard
23 to say.

24 Q Okay, I didn't want to pin you there, where would
25 the balcony be?

26 A Outside over here, but there's a main room over here.
This is where everybody was at.

1 Q The main room would be north then or to your right?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay.

4 A Then -- then over here is like a lobby and they had
5 a bar set up here and a bar set up here, and then there's the
6 main hall over here and then there's some telephones here,
7 and then there's annex and then there's some more rooms.
8 Right over here.

9 Q How can you see?

10 A Then up here goes like a balcony, goes up, something
11 goes up there. And that was right about there, and up here is
12 the second level.

13 Q All right, then the balcony would be --

14 A I wasn't on the balcony, I was on the stairs.

15 Q You were on the stairs?

16 A Right.

17 Q The stairs would be west, the main room where the
18 speaking occurred would be north, is that correct?

19 A From the way we drew it, yes.

20 Q All right, and the entrance where you first observed
21 these people --

22 A Right there.

23 Q Which way were they coming from, the north or south?

24 A I was here and -- there's like a parking lot out here
25 and I remember I saw some kind of truck here with food on it
26 and they and they came from that area here.

(Discussion off the record)

BY SGT. PACHETT:

Q Let's get back on to it then. Here we go.

You saw these people then walking to the entrance, walking from north to south towards you?

A Yes.

Q Did they walk past you up to the terrace?

A Yes, they did.

Q All right, after they walked up to the terrace did you see where they went?

A No.

Q All right, what is the next thing that occurred, if you recall?

A I was sitting there for a while and then I thought it was a backfire of a car, and I thought, to me, I thought I heard six shots; six backfires.

Q What did you do then when you heard this noise?

A I just looked around, looked for a car, you know, I just looked for a car and then about half a minute later this girl comes tearing down the stairs saying -- she said, "We shot him. We shot him." And I said, "Who did you shoot?" And she said, "Senator Kennedy."

Q Now, what did this girl look like?

A That's the same girl.

Q This is the same girl that you saw walk --

A Right, that walked out.

1 Q -- in with the two men?

2 A Right.

3 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

4 Q In the blue and the white dress?

5 A Right.

6 BY SGT. PACHETT:

7 Q With the black dots?

8 A With the black dots.

9 Q Where did she go then?

10 A Well, she went past me. I don't know where she
11 went after that.

12 Q How would you describe her, hysterical, happy, sad,
13 glad, what?

14 A "We finally did it," like, you know, like, "Good
15 going."

16 Q Did she seem pleased?

17 A Yeah, pleased, and look, the guy was following her.

18 Q Which guy?

19 A The one in the gold sweater.

20 Q That would be "A"?

21 A Yes.

22 Q All right now, did you see them again that night?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you see "B"?

25 A No.

26 Q You never saw "B" either?

1 A No.

2 Q Okay, fine. Would you remember the girl if you saw
3 her again?

4 A (Nods "yes".)

5 Q Would you remember "A" if you saw him again?

6 A (Nods "yes".)

7 Q You are nodding you head "yes" to both of these?

8 A Yes.

9 Q All right, "B", the last fellow, would you remember
10 "B" if you saw him again?

11 A Probably, but he looked like -- to me he was a
12 stereotyped Mexican-American, you know --

13 Q Okay.

14 A -- so it would be a bit more difficult with him.

15 Q To identify him?

16 A Yes.

17 Q Were these people walking real fast or running?

18 A She was running. He was walking rapidly.

19 Q Did he make any statements?

20 A No, he didn't.

21 Q Did they talk to anybody else?

22 A No.

23 Q Was there anybody else around you that heard this
24 statement?

25 A Yeah, there was some people just, you know, standing
26 there, and then, you know, I just got up and I walked and I

1 said -- I stopped an officer and I asked him if it was true
2 and he said no, it wasn't, that, you know, he didn't know
3 what I was talking about.

4 BY MR. HOWARD:

5 Q What did you ask the officer?

6 A I said, "Is it true that they shot him?" And he
7 said, "Shot who?" And I said, "Shot Senator Kennedy." And he
8 goes, "I don't know what you are talking about," you know.

9 BY SGT. PACHETT:

10 Q All right, the next thing, when did you find out
11 that the Senator had been shot?

12 A I was talking to my parents on the telephone.

13 Q Your parents?

14 A Right, in Ohio.

15 Q In Ohio?

16 A In Ohio.

17 Q And somebody came by and said that --

18 A Well, I went to a telephone and I said to somebody,
19 "He's been shot. He's been shot." And they said, "Who's been
20 shot?" "Who's been shot?" And I said, "Senator Kennedy is
21 shot." And somebody said, "You are crazy."

22 Q How did you know this?

23 A Because they told me.

24 Q Somebody in the crowd?

25 A No, no, those people. They said they shot him.

26

1 BY SGT. MELENDEZ:

2 Q You mean the people that you have described to us?

3 A Yeah, the people that I described to you.

4 BY SGT. PACHETT:

5 Q So you then you got on the phone to call your
6 parents and tell them?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q That the Senator had been shot?

9 A Right.

10 Q But --

11 A I had trouble getting through the lines.

12 Q But at this time you didn't know that he had been
13 shot?

14 A No.

15 Q Okay, fine. Can you think of anything else?

16 BY SGT. MELENDEZ:

17 Q I want to ask one question. Did you actually see
18 Mr. Kennedy get shot?

19 A No, no, no. I wasn't there at all.

20 Q All right.

21 BY MR. HOWARD:

22 Q Time-wise from the time you heard these backfires
23 until you heard, "We shot him," they shot him was the
24 conversation, how long was that?

25 A About half a minute.

26 Q Half a minute?

1 A Right.

2 Q Was there some type, like, of activities in the
3 ballroom? Could you hear people shouting or screaming during
4 the half minute?

5 A Oh no, nobody knew about it down there. Nobody
6 knew about it. I think I was probably the first person to
7 say anything in that area.

8 BY SGT. PACNETT:

9 Q Can you recall how you heard these six backfires or
10 six shots? Were they two at a time, three at a time, four at
11 a time, all six real close together or --

12 A I don't know.

13 Q -- spread out or what?

14 A I don't know. All I know it just seems to me there
15 was about six of them. I know there were more than three. I
16 know that for a fact.

17 Q Do you remember hearing a noise and then a pause and
18 then a noise again?

19 A I can't say at this time.

20 Q Okay then, very good.

21 BY MR. HOWARD:

22 That's good for me.

23 (Discussion off the record)

24 BY SGT. MELENDRES:

25 Q Now, let me ask you something else. You said that
26 these people were coming down a stairway when you saw them?

1 A Right.

2 Q And they ran into -- you were on the stairs --

3 A Right.

4 Q -- and they were coming down the stairway --

5 A Right.

6 Q -- into the main room, huh?

7 A I don't know where they went.

8 Q But they were coming down the stairway?

9 A Right.

10 BY SGT. PACHETT:

11 Q Did they address their remarks to you specifically
12 or were they just talking like to everybody like, "I just
13 won a thousand dollars!" or did the girl look at you to speak
14 or was she just saying this to everybody around?

15 A I don't know, sir. Thing is I was sitting down.

16 BY SGT. MCLENDRES:

17 Q All right, that's all for now Miss Serrano. Like Mr.
18 Howard, the District Attorney, told you, we might have need to
19 call you later and talk to you again.

20 BY SGT. PACHETT:

21 Q Two other short things. Did the girl have anything
22 in her hands --

23 A No.

24 Q -- as she was going down the stairs?

25 A No.

26 Q You could see her hands?

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A Yes.

Q No purse?

A No purse.

Q What about the fellow in the gold sweater? Where were his hands, do you recall?

A No, don't recall.

Q You don't recall?

A She didn't have nothing in her hands.

Q She had nothing and you are not sure about him?

A No, I don't.

BY SGT. PACHETT:

Thank you very much.

RAMPART DETECTIVE DIVISION

INTERVIEW - JUNE 7, 1968

KENNEDY SHOOTING

DR 68-521 466

INTERVIEWED: SANDRA SERRANO

INTERVIEWED BY: C. A. CALVERT

C. F. HUGHS

1-67

Witness SANDRA SERRANO at the Ambassador Hotel went thru her actions for reporting officers FBI agent BURRIS, SECRET SERVICE agent SHERMAN. She stated that she was sitting on the rear steps (which lead from the s/w corner of EMBASSY ROOM) getting some fresh air. Two men and a woman came up the stairs and the woman stated "excuse us please". Twenty to twenty-five (20-25) minutes later she heard what sounded like six quick back fires, and about 30 seconds later the same woman (Polka Dot Dress) and the taller of the two men came down the stairway. The woman was running ahead of the man and said "we shot him, we shot him". The witness asked "you shot who"? and the woman replied Senator Kennedy. The witness then went into the hallway of the Ambassador Room and saw a uniformed security and asked "did they shoot Senator Kennedy" and he stated "your drunk". The witness then confronted a group of people and asked them the same question. They replied your crazy". The witness then went into the Sunset Room, back thru the Ambassador Ante Room into the hallway to a phone booth, she then called her mother in Lorraine, Ohio telling her that Senator Kennedy was shot. The phone used by the witness was one of five booths. She pointed out two booths, of which one was the one she used. Phone numbers 3860824, 3869837. Descriptions of suspects some as given by witness on original interview. There was no guard on duty at the Embassy Room south rear door at time of shooting or prior to shooting.

See attached Floor Plans of Ambassador Hotel.

RAMPART DETECTIVE DIVISION

I-94

INTERVIEWS - JUNE 8, 1968 KENNEDY SHOOTING DR 68-521 466

INTERVIEW OF SANDRA SERRANO
2212 North Marengo
Altadena
Ph: 794-6514

INTERVIEWED BY E.H. HENDERSON, 7695
J.E. Chiquet, 5233
HOMICIDE DIV.
INTERVIEWED ON 6-5-68, 2:35 AM/2:55 AM

TAPE FT. - 158/273

- No. 1. Fe Cauc, 23/26, 5-6, 122/27, Drk Brn Hair (short) Brn eyes
Turned up nose, good figure, wht dress w/blk dots, blk shoes.
- No. 2. M Mex, Amer, 22, 5-5, 160, Blk hair, Drk eyes, Wht shirt,
gold sweater, long sleeves-button type, Drk pants, greasy hair
(straight)
- No. 3. M Mex Amer, 23, 5-5, 130/135, Bushy Blk hair, seeding appearance
Lt. sport shirt (wrinkled) beige pants.

I saw the three above person walking up the stairs together. No one else was around them. They were not talking but they appeared to be together. About 15/20 minutes later, the female and the better dressed man came running down the stairs. The female told me, "We shot him, we shot him." I asked her who they shot and she said, "Senator Kennedy." I thought she was joking and didn't take her serious. I don't know where they went.

INTERVIEW OF MIKE MARCUS
435 S. Mariposa
Ph: 380-8501
Dep. Dist. Attorney

INTERVIEWED BY E.H. HENDERSON,
J.E. Chiquet
INTERVIEWED ON 6-5-68, 3:25 AM/3:36 AM

TAPE FT. - 366/453

Heard six shots, was ahead of Senator Kennedy, never saw suspect.

INTERVIEW OF RICHARD TUCK
3918 Beverly Blvd.
L.A.
Bus. Address: 2000 L St., N.W., Washington D.C.

INTERVIEWED BY E.H. HENDERSON, HOMI
J.E. Chiquet, HOMI
INTERVIEWED ON 6-5-68 6:10 AM/6:14 AM

TAPE FT - 0/023 - Good Sam. Hospital, 9th Floor

I heard several shots but I never saw the person who did the shooting, I went to assist the Senator who was lying wounded on the floor. I never saw the susp. or the gun.