

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/12/68

ROBERT THOMAS JAMES, Counterman, Coffee Shop, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at his place of employment and advised that he was at the hotel from approximately 4:00 p.m. June 4, 1968, until 12:04 a.m., June 5, 1968, after which time he departed for home. While on duty, he remained in the coffee shop the entire time, took no breaks, and never went upstairs near the Embassy Room.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was displayed to JAMES but he was unable to state that he had seen this individual in or about the hotel on June 4, 1968, or June 5, 1968.

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On 6/10/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

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by SA EARL E. BOYD/alm Date dictated 6/11/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/11/68

ALFRED TODD JONES, 845 South Burnside Avenue, Los Angeles, California, home telephone number WE 5-4971, was interviewed at his place of employment, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, where he is counter manager of the hotel coffee shop. JONES furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, JONES arrived at work at approximately 7:00 AM and worked at the coffee shop counter until approximately 3:00 PM, when he left the hotel grounds.

JONES could furnish no information relative to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. JONES stated that he was at home and had retired for the night at the time of the shooting.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, dated June 5, 1968, bearing Los Angeles, California, Police Department Booking Number 495 139, was displayed to JONES. After examining the photograph, JONES advised that to his knowledge he has never seen SIRHAN.

JONES further advised that he was born on October 9, 1909, at Cairo, Illinois.

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by SA JOSEPH A. KRAHLING/sjg/HMS Date dictated 6/8/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/12/68

WALTER KOPEC, Counterman, Coffee Shop, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at his place of employment and advised that he was on duty from 3:00 p.m., June 4, 1968, until approximately midnight on that date. KOPEC advised he left the hotel shortly after midnight and went home. He was in the coffee shop the entire evening and never went near the Embassy Room upstairs.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN was displayed to KOPEC but he was unable to state that he had seen an individual resembling SIRHAN in the hotel on June 4, 1968.

On 6/10/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SA EARL E. BOYD/alm Date dictated 6/11/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/12/68

MANUEL MORA, laundry room employee at the Ambassador Hotel, advised as follows:

He worked at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4, 1968, and got off duty approximately 5:30 p.m. He left for home at that time and did not stay around for the KENNEDY victory celebration. MORA was shown a photograph of SIRHAN SIRHAN and he advised that he had never seen the person before.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/10/68

VERA PATTEN, 6566 Fountain Avenue, Hollywood, California, home telephone number HO 4-5289, was interviewed at her place of employment, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, where she is a switchboard operator. PATTEN furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, PATTEN worked from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. After getting off of work at 8:00 PM, PATTEN remained at the Ambassador Hotel until approximately 10:00 PM, spending most of the evening in and around the Embassy Room. She left the hotel at about 10:00 PM, went out for dinner, after which she went home. She did not return to the Ambassador Hotel again until 4:00 PM on June 7, 1968.

PATTEN advised that she had no information relative to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, dated June 5, 1968, bearing Los Angeles, California, Police Department Booking Number 495 139, was displayed to PATTEN. After viewing this photograph, PATTEN advised that she has never seen this person.

PATTEN advised that she was born on January 11, 1919, at Auburn, New York, and that her Social Security Number is

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/10/68

KATHERINE ROBERTSON, 1110 Wilshire Boulevard, Apartment 208, Los Angeles, California, home telephone number 481-2579, was interviewed at her place of employment, the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, where she is a switchboard operator. ROBERTSON furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, ROBERTSON arrived for work at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 12:30 PM. She took her position at the Ambassador Hotel switchboard at 12:45 PM and worked until 8:45 PM. ROBERTSON left the hotel, via taxi cab, from the front door at approximately 9:00 PM and went to her residence.

ROBERTSON did not return to work again until Saturday, June 8, 1968.

ROBERTSON could furnish no information relative to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, dated June 5, 1968, bearing Los Angeles, California, Police Department Booking Number 495 139, was displayed to ROBERTSON. After examining the photograph, ROBERTSON advised that she does not recall ever seeing this individual.

ROBERTSON advised that she was born on May 20, 1909, at Louisville, Kentucky, and that her Social Security Number is .

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 6/12/68

ALFRED VIGIL ROYBAL, parking lot attendant, Eighth Street Parking Lot, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, was interviewed at his employment and advised that he was on duty from 7:30 a.m., June 4, 1968, until 3:30 a.m., June 5, 1968. ROYBAL was shown a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and stated that he was unable to state whether he had seen an individual resembling SIRHAN in or about the parking lot during June 4, 1968, through June 5, 1968. ROYBAL stated that he never left the parking lot and was never in the hotel.

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1Date 6/12/68

Mrs. GLADYS SARAH SHARRETT, Waitress, Coffee Shop, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, was interviewed at her place of employment and advised that she was on duty from approximately 12 noon until 8:45 p.m., June 4, 1968, and worked the same duty schedule June 5, 1968. Mrs. SHARRETT stated that she spent the entire duty period in the coffee shop and was never upstairs near the KENNEDY For President Campaign Headquarters.

She was displayed a photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and stated that she had never seen an individual resembling SIRHAN in or about the hotel on June 4, 1968.

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1Date 6/11/68

RUBY REBECCA TRUM (Mrs. JOSEPH TRUM), 1136 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cornwell, Los Angeles, California, home telephone number 225-5862, was interviewed at her place of employment, Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, where she is a waitress in the hotel coffee shop. TRUM furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, TRUM arrived at work at about noon and worked until 8:00 PM. At approximately 8:30 PM that day, she left work and went home.

TRUM could furnish no information relative to the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY as she was home at the time of the shooting.

A photograph of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, dated June 5, 1968, bearing Los Angeles, California, Police Department Booking Number 495 139, was displayed to TRUM. After viewing the photograph, TRUM advised that she has never seen the individual in this photograph.

TRUM advised that she was born on December 11, 1909, in Ireland.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/12/68

FRANCES A. TUNISON, laundry room employee at the Ambassador Hotel furnished the following information:

She worked at the Ambassador Hotel on the afternoon of June 4, 1968, and she went off duty at approximately 8:45 p.m. She went right home from work and did not stay around for the KENNEDY victory celebration. TUNISON was shown a photograph of SIRHAN SIRHAN and she advised that she has never seen him before.

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1Date 6/12/68

IRENE WISHNUCK, laundry room employee at the Ambassador Hotel, furnished the following information:

She started work on June 4, 1968, at 11:00 p.m., and got off duty at 7:00 a.m., the next morning. She stayed in the laundry room the whole time, and never went upstairs. She had no firsthand knowledge as to the shooting that occurred upstairs. WISHNUCK was shown a photograph of SIRHAN SIRHAN and she advised she had never seen him before.

The only unusual incident that WISHNUCK could recall happening in the last several weeks was that some time during the afternoon of June 3, 1968, a Negro male over six feet tall, medium build and about 30 years old, asked for a busboys uniform but he did not have the necessary card with which to obtain the uniform. When she told him he had to have such a card, he said nothing and just walked away. She had never seen the man before, and she has never seen him since then.

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ADDITIONAL INTERVIEWS OF INDIVIDUALS
IN AREA OF SHOOTING

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date ~~June 12, 1968~~

ROOSEVELT GRIER, 1148 South Spaulding, Los Angeles, California, telephone 936-6441, furnished the following information to Special Agents JAMES CAGNASSOLA, JR. and WILLIAM P. CRAWFORD from the FBI:

At approximately 7:30 p.m. on June 4, 1968, GRIER arrived at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, and went directly to the coffee shop. GRIER was alone at this time. At approximately 8:00 p.m. he observed Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY walk past the coffee shop followed by his wife ETHEL and other unrecalled individuals. ETHEL KENNEDY observed GRIER and invited him to the KENNEDY suite on the fifth floor of the hotel. GRIER did not go directly upstairs at that time but rather went to the "press room" where he was interviewed by members of the news media. He then went to a ballroom which was downstairs and which was occupied by KENNEDY campaign workers. GRIER thereafter went to the fifth floor of the hotel and arrived there at approximately 9:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Upon arriving at the KENNEDY suite he went to the room which was being used by KENNEDY officials. This room was located to the right of the room being used by Senator KENNEDY and his family. During this time he spoke with Mrs. JOHN GLENN, JOAN BRADEN who was in charge of the Women for KENNEDY campaign in California and BLANCHE WHITAKER (phonetic) who is the wife of JAMES WHITAKER, a friend of the KENNEDY family and RAFAEL JOHNSON. GRIER spoke to Senator KENNEDY about the California primary election returns and relayed a message from PIERRE SALINGER who requested that he tell KENNEDY that he, meaning KENNEDY, was leading with 50 percent of the votes returned in San Francisco. KENNEDY asked GRIER if SALINGER wanted to talk to him and GRIER replied no.

At an unrecalled time Senator KENNEDY left his suite and went to the fourth floor to be interviewed for television. GRIER noticed that neither BILL BARRY, KENNEDY's personal body guard, nor RAFAEL JOHNSON ~~was~~ in the area at this time and GRIER decided to escort KENNEDY to the fourth floor. At the

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fourth floor KENNEDY conducted two or three television interviews and during the second interview GRIER observed BARRY join Senator KENNEDY and he decided to go downstairs to one of the ballrooms. Prior to his departure BARRY told GRIER "Don't go too far because the Senator is coming down". Senator KENNEDY also asked GRIER if he was leaving and GRIER indicated he would return in a short while. GRIER left the fourth floor at approximately 11:00 or 11:30 p.m. and went to the door of the press room. At this time he heard the security guard talking to some individuals, identities unknown, informing them that they could not enter the press room without a pass. As GRIER looked at the security guard, the guard motioned to the right with his head indicating to GRIER that he could gain access to the room by entering the door to the right of the main doors. GRIER turned and entered this door, proceeded to a kitchen area and entered the press room from a rear or side entrance. He remained there for an unrecalled period of time. GRIER thought that it was strange that the main entrance was guarded yet a person could pass through the kitchen and enter the rear or side door of the press room without being stopped.

After completing his business in the press room GRIER returned to the KENNEDY suite on the fifth floor and observed that the Senator was preparing to go to the ballroom to deliver his victory speech. BARRY told GRIER that the party would be leaving the suite and requested that he, GRIER, escort Mrs. KENNEDY. The party proceeded towards one group of elevators on the fifth floor and then towards a second group and finally the decision was made presumably by BARRY to take the freight elevator instead of the passenger elevator. GRIER believes that this elevator was chosen since the passenger elevators were occupied and the freight elevator could accomodate the members of KENNEDY's party. At this time the KENNEDY party consisted of Senator KENNEDY, ETHEL KENNEDY, JESSE UNRUH, RAFAEL JOHNSON, BILL BARRY, BILL or FRANK DUTTON (phonetic) and GRIER. When the elevator doors opened on the first floor, GRIER recognized that they were in the kitchen or serving area of the hotel. BARRY was the first person off the elevator and he was followed by two other individuals, identities unrecalled, and they in turn were followed by Senator KENNEDY, Mrs. KENNEDY and GRIER. While

walking through the kitchen or serving kitchen area en route to the ballroom, Senator KENNEDY stopped and shook hands with several kitchen employees. GRIER recalls that he saw five or six men dressed in white clothing who were presumably kitchen workers. Members of the KENNEDY party did not notice that the Senator had stopped and were continuing towards the ballroom. GRIER immediately told Mrs. KENNEDY that the Senator had left the group and he walked over to where Senator KENNEDY was standing to act as his escort. The Senator then turned away from the kitchen employees and entered the Embassy Ballroom through the curtains which separate the ballroom from the kitchen area. Senator KENNEDY immediately went onto the stage.

In reference to the location of the stage and the manner in which the group went onto the stage, GRIER explained that the stage was directly in front of the curtains and that if the stage was viewed from the center of the ballroom, Senator KENNEDY would have entered the stage on the right side. Once on the stage, Senator KENNEDY stood behind the podium, JESSE UNRUH was standing to his right, Mrs. KENNEDY was standing to his left and slightly behind him. GRIER was stationed behind Mrs. KENNEDY and RAFAEL JOHNSON was standing near the right side of the stage to prevent additional people from joining the group.

While Senator KENNEDY was speaking, BILL or FRANK DUTTON (phonetic) who was one of the Senator's staff members, told GRIER that Senator KENNEDY would be escorted from the stage from the left side since preparations had been made for his movement through the crowd. When Senator KENNEDY finished speaking, which GRIER recalled was shortly after Midnight, BARRY and GRIER positioned themselves along side of him. Everyone on stage was aware the speech had ended and the crowd began to move toward the left. GRIER told BARRY that the exit would be from the left side of the stage and BARRY said "no". At this time Senator KENNEDY moved to the rear of the stage possibly at BARRY's suggestion and jumped to the floor. BARRY remained with Senator KENNEDY and GRIER assisted Mrs. KENNEDY

to the floor. When the group had left the stage, they walked behind the curtain and proceeded to the right which was in the direction of the freight elevator which was used previously. GRIER could not see Senator KENNEDY at this time but since the crowd was moving in that direction he assumed Senator KENNEDY was in front of him. GRIER was walking with Mrs. KENNEDY and was acting as her escort. GRIER explained that regardless of which side of the stage KENNEDY left by he would still have to follow the original route in order to reach the elevator.

GRIER walked approximately ten or fifteen feet into the kitchen area when he heard two or three sounds which resembled the sounds of firecrackers. He then saw the group of people in front of him scatter and observed a white male standing in the opening. There were people on both sides of this man and people were standing behind him. This individual was holding a black object in his right hand which resembled a gun. The man held this object at waist level, his elbow was bent and his forearm was parallel to the floor. This man was standing on the floor. After observing this man, GRIER moved to his right and went behind a piece of kitchen equipment probably a garbage container. He then walked behind the container to the opposite end and made his way towards the man who was holding the gun. As he approached this individual, he saw two other men, one of whom was BILL BARRY wrestling with this individual. The man still had the gun in his right hand but he was now pushed back onto the top of a raised counter or table. GRIER observed the gun being knocked from his hand onto the table and at this point turned and tried to locate Senator KENNEDY. When he refocused his attention on the man who was originally holding the weapon, he noticed that this person had retrieved his gun and was holding it in his hand. At this instant GRIER was approximately six feet from him and noted that the individual's arm was extended outward to the side with the gun held in the hand. GEORGE PLIMPTON (phonetic) was now wrestling with this individual and was trying to assist BILL BARRY in seizing the gun. GRIER approached the group and

shouted "I'll take the gun". He then grabbed the man's right hand and placed his own hand over the hammer and around the trigger housing. He twisted the gun from his hand and gained possession of the weapon. GRIER kept the gun in his right hand and immediately tightly grasped this individual around the legs. He recalls that several other people were holding this man.

Once the above individual was subdued, several people came up and tried to punch and hit him. GRIER recalled that he was pushing these other individuals away and trying to protect his prisoner. While holding this individual he observed Senator KENNEDY lying on his back on the floor approximately ten or twelve feet away. GRIER could see blood on the right side of Senator KENNEDY's head and it appeared that he was wounded behind the ear. He could not observe any other blood on Senator KENNEDY's body. He also noted that a second white male was also lying on his back near Senator KENNEDY and he appeared to be bleeding from the left side of his head. GRIER noted that Senator KENNEDY's eyes were partially open, however, he appeared to be in shock.

GRIER continued to hold his prisoner and the gun until some unrecalled person asked GRIER for the weapon. GRIER refused to surrender the gun since he did not think it was safe to give it to anyone at this time. A few moments later another person told him to give the gun to RAUFER JOHNSON. GRIER handed JOHNSON the gun and maintained his hold on the man until police officers arrived at the scene. GRIER immediately surrendered this individual to the police officers.

GRIER did not recall that the individual whom he disarmed made any statements whatsoever while in his presence.

GRIER described the gun which he seized as being a dark colored revolver possibly black with a short barrel. He could not recall the chamber capacity of the revolver nor did he know the caliber of this weapon. It was GRIER's impression that this was an old, rather than a new, gun.

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GRIER could not remember how many gun shots he heard prior to the time he seized the revolver, however, he is certain that no shots were fired while he was disarming the assailant.

GRIER stated that he has seen photographs of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN in the newspapers and on television and is certain that this is the same individual whom he disarmed and held for the police following the shooting of Senator KENNEDY on June 5, 1968.

GRIER was questioned as to whether he observed SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN in the Ambassador Hotel during the evening of June 4, 1968 or prior to the shooting and he said that he had not seen him prior to the time that he disarmed him. GRIER was specifically asked whether he saw SIRHAN in the kitchen or serving kitchen area when Senator KENNEDY walked from the elevator to the stage and he said he did not observe him at this time. GRIER was asked whether he observed anyone run from the serving kitchen after he first heard the gun shots and he said that he did not recall anyone leave the area. GRIER was then asked whether he observed a white female wearing a white dress with black polka dots in the area when the shooting took place and said that he did not see such a person.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/8/68

ROBERT ANTHONY TOIGO, 5728 Ellenwood Drive, Los Angeles, CL 5-9739, advised that he was present during the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY as a member of the staff of State Senator ANTHONY C. BEILENSON.

TOIGO advised that he arrived at the Ambassador Hotel the evening of June 4, 1968 in the company of Senator and Mrs. BEILENSON and Miss BARBARA SHAW, a fellow staff member. He related that approximately one half hour subsequent to their arrival they entered the Embassy Room at approximately the same time that Senator KENNEDY began his victory speech. He related that, due to the highly crowded and uncomfortable conditions in the ballroom, their party decided to leave the auditorium and wait in a more comfortable area to view the departure of Senator KENNEDY and his party. He advised that they located themselves in a corridor between the ballroom and the kitchen. TOIGO advised that he was standing in a corner with his back to the wall, a table to his immediate right beyond which was located a doorway leading to the ballroom. He stated that he was facing a partition which extends half way into the hallway, to the right of which was a table and to the left an ice machine.

He advised that, shortly thereafter, Senator KENNEDY and his party passed directly in front of him, after which his attention was directed to his right. He stated that at that time he heard two noises which he described as "pops", believing them to be firecrackers. He advised that he immediately turned to his left and observed what he could only describe as a "blur of figures", after which more shots were fired and persons began rushing past him to exit through the door to his right. He stated that he became concerned for his personal welfare and jumped beneath the table which was to his right. He advised that, shortly thereafter, the shots subsided and he removed himself from beneath the table and was confronted by Senator BEILENSON who was seriously concerned for the welfare of his wife. TOIGO advised BEILENSON that it was his opinion that his wife

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by SAs DANIEL R. BRAINARD & JAMES M. KELLOGG/DRB/vjh Date dictated 6/8/68

had left the room and he (TOIGO) climbed up on the table to see if he could find Mrs. BEILENSEN in the surrounding crowd. TOIGO stated that, while standing on the table, he recalled seeing several person engaged in some type of struggle to his far left, a man who had been shot in the head lying on the floor to his immediate left, and Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor in between. He advised that straight across the room was a man who appeared to be a newsman who had apparently been shot in his side. He stated that this person was standing close to Mrs. ETHEL KENNEDY, who was attempting to reach her husband.

TOIGO stated that, when he got down from the table, the door to his right had been temporarily closed by individuals who were attempting to keep others from entering the room. He stated that, as soon as the door was reopened, he and Senator BEILENSEN departed the room.

TOIGO advised that he had a very vague recollection of what he saw at the time the first shots rang out and that it was impossible for him to relate what he actually saw other than many persons reacting in a generally confused manner. He explained that he was unable to furnish a more detailed account of the incident as it took him completely by surprise and several seconds had passed before he realized the full effects of what had transpired.

TOIGO advised that he could not recall any specific conversations or commands given subsequent to the shooting other than general commands to "move back". He stated that he was unable to provide the names of any additional persons who might possibly have been witnesses to the above-described occurrence, and reiterated that the only persons present that he could identify were Senator KENNEDY, ETHEL KENNEDY, and previously named members of Senator BEILENSEN's party.

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TOIGO stated that it was difficult to judge the size of the crowd in the kitchen area but feels that there were approximately 40 people present at the time of the shooting.

TOIGO advised that he did not recall seeing a female dressed in a white dress with black polka dots in the kitchen area. TOIGO added that he did not see SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN before the shooting or at any time and would not be able to identify him as the assassin.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/7/68

California State Senator ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN, 4551 Parkridge Road, advised that he arrived at the Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles, California, on June 5, 1968, shortly before the end of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's speech after being the apparent winner of the California Democratic Presidential Primary.

Senator BEILENSEN advised that he and his wife remained only a short period of time in the ballroom where Senator KENNEDY was speaking inasmuch as they found it too crowded, hot and uncomfortable. They returned to the kitchen passageway, positioned themselves in such a position as to be able to see Senator KENNEDY and his party as they came out of the hall. Senator BEILENSEN stated that after seeing Senator KENNEDY walk by he turned his head in the opposite direction to see if he could see some of his friends. He heard popping noises but assumed that these were balloons popping. He never saw Senator KENNEDY or the assailant and was unable to furnish any information concerning anyone else he might have noted in that area.

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

by SA NORMAN P. LE CLAIR:11 Date dictated 6/7/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/7/68

Mrs. DOLORES BEILENSEN, 4551 Parkridge Road, advised that on June 5, 1968, she and her husband, State Senator ANTHONY C. BEILENSEN, arrived at the Hotel Ambassador, Los Angeles, California, where Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY was making a speech after being the apparent winner in the California Democratic Presidential Primary. They arrived shortly before the termination of Senator KENNEDY's speech and went to the ballroom where he was speaking. It was too crowded, however, and they left after remaining there only a short period of time and returned to the kitchen passageway. They positioned themselves in the passageway so as to be able to see the Senator and be able to greet friends as they came out.

Mrs. BEILENSEN stated that after Senator KENNEDY passed her she turned her head back to see if she would be able to see Mrs. ETHEL KENNEDY. She did not see Mrs. KENNEDY and turned her head back in a direction where Senator KENNEDY would have reached at that time. At the same instant she turned her head, she did not observe Senator KENNEDY but instantaneously observed three flashes emanating from a gun which appeared to be held at waist level by a man she described as being of short stature, slim, 25 to 30 years of age, dark coloring, appearing to be of Mexican American extraction. At this point she also heard three popping noises. She does not recall the arm being extended. She stated that she was approximately 20 feet away from the man holding the gun and that she could see the man from his mid-thigh up. She could not recall what obscured her vision of the rest of the man. She added that there was no one in the immediate vicinity of the man. She could not see Senator KENNEDY at this point. Upon hearing additional shots, she immediately left the area.

Due to the fact that her observation of the gunman was momentary, she does not believe she could positively identify him. She does not recall seeing anyone else in particular outside the uniformed kitchen help, Kennedy's staff and friends.

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

by SA NORMAN P. LE CLAIR:il Date dictated 6/7/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

June 12, 1968

Date _____

On June 11, 1968 FRANK J. BURNS, JR. was interviewed at the Ambassador Hotel where BURNS reenacted his position in the kitchen area of the Embassy Ballroom at time Senator KENNEDY was shot.

On June 12, 1968 BURNS furnished the following summary explaining what he saw and did during the pertinent time just prior to and after Senator KENNEDY was shot.

BURNS stated this memorandum was dictated to his secretary. In addition to above BURNS stated that he could not recall seeing SIRHAN SIRHAN prior to SIRHAN SIRHAN's moving across in front of him toward Senator KENNEDY at which time BURNS began struggling with SIRHAN SIRHAN.

BURNS stated while on the platform standing behind Senator KENNEDY during the Senator's speech, he seems to recall overhearing "bits and pieces" of conversation in which a decision was being made whether to take the Senator to the Ambassador Room or the Press Room because of the late hour.

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6/12/68 at 69 File # _____
by SA RICHARD C. BURRIS/mca Date dictated 6/12/68

McKENNA, BURNS AND BLAYLOCK

JOHN F. McKENNA, JR.
FRANK J. BURNS, JR.
ROBERT J. BLAYLOCK

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
650 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017

TELEPHONE
MADISON 4-8506

My name is Frank J. Burns, Jr. I live at 11713 South Atkinson Avenue, Inglewood, California, telephone number 756-8023. I am an attorney and my office is located at 650 South Grand Avenue, Suite 600, Los Angeles 90017, telephone number 624-8506.

On June 4, 1968, I arrived at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 7:00 P.M. and went to the Presidential Suite, which was the headquarters for Speaker Unruh and the Kennedy Campaign staff. Between then and approximately 11:00 P.M., I was either in the Presidential Suite or around the corner in the Royal Suite area, which was occupied by Senator Kennedy and his staff.

At approximately 11:00 P.M. I went downstairs to the Embassy Room and talked to the various members of the campaign staff who were manning the anchor desk which was located to the right rear of the podium. At approximately 11:30 P.M. we decided that it was time for Senator Kennedy to come down, and I went upstairs to get him. The crowd was so dense in the Embassy Room, that I went along the passage way in back of the podium and through the kitchen, exiting into the lobby near the front desk.

As I reached Senator Kennedy's room, Speaker Unruh was just coming out. He told me that they had decided that Senator Kennedy would wait a few more minutes before coming down, but that he, Speaker Unruh, would go down and talk to the crowd right away. I led Speaker Unruh, Mrs. Unruh, Jack Crose, Speaker Unruh's Administrative Assistant, and perhaps one or two other people down to the Embassy Room through the route that I had used to go upstairs.

Speaker Unruh then talked to the crowd for a few minutes. While Speaker Unruh was talking, he told me to get the Senator to come down, and I told Jack Crose to go upstairs and get him. Stephen Smith, Senator Kennedy's brother-in-law, was then introduced, and spoke to the crowd. As he was concluding, Senator Kennedy came into the room from the door immediately to the left of the podium. Jack Crose later told me that he had brought the Senator's party down through the kitchen, the same way that we had come before. He also told me that they had come this way because Senator Kennedy did not want to try to fight through the crowd in the Embassy Room.

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As Senator Kennedy got on the podium, I was standing a few steps back and to the right of the microphone, and as the members of his party moved in, I stepped further back to make way for Mrs. Kennedy and other people that accompanied him down. During most of his speech I was standing at the rear of the podium and slightly to the right of Senator Kennedy, near his press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz.

A pathway had been cleared to the right of the podium leading toward the area where the anchor desk was located. When Senator Kennedy finished speaking, he paused for a moment and said a few words to some people near the microphones, and then started to move to his right toward the cleared path. I turned to my right and at that time I heard a voice coming from my left rear saying that the Senator was going the wrong way, and that he should come off the rear of the platform. Senator Kennedy turned around and passed directly in front of me, to go off the rear of the platform. I turned to my left and saw a man in a tuxedo, holding the curtains back and beckoning to the Senator to follow him. This man stepped down into the anteroom and Senator Kennedy followed him. I followed Senator Kennedy.

The man went out the door at the back of the anteroom, and turned to the right and headed down the incline with Senator Kennedy close behind him. When I came out of the doorway and turned to the right to head down the incline, the man in the tuxedo leading Senator Kennedy was perhaps 10 feet in front of me and moving quite fast. They passed into the kitchen through the left hand door which was open. At about that time I yelled to slow down because they were getting ahead of everyone. I also started to move faster in order to catch up with the Senator. During this time I noticed a number of people in the area, but I am unable to positively identify any of them. My eyes were constantly on the Senator as I was trying to attract his attention.

As I passed into the kitchen, it seemed to me that there were quite a number of people in front of the Senator and moving generally in the same direction he was. As Senator Kennedy approached the area of the serving tables, two people moved toward him. The one nearest the serving table was very short and the other one was about medium height. They both appeared to be dressed in white kitchen jackets. The Senator stopped and turned to his left to shake hands with them. I would judge that he turned slightly more than 90° from his original direction of travel. It was when he stopped to shake hands that I caught up with him and got perhaps a half step in front of him. I also turned to my left and was facing in the same direction as the Senator. It was at this moment that I heard a noise

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sounding like a string of fire crackers going off.

I immediately turned my head to the right. I have an impression of people standing there, but I would not be able to positively identify anyone. The one clear impression I have is of an extended arm holding a gun. This arm appeared to be next to the serving table and the gun would be about even with the front edge of the serving table. The arm did not appear to me to belong to anyone. I immediately glanced to my left toward the Senator and he was falling backward. He had thrown his hands up and his body appeared to be spinning to the left. I looked back toward the gun, and by then the person holding the gun had stepped forward past the edge of the serving table so that he was directly in front of me. He was aiming the gun down toward Senator Kennedy's falling body, and appeared to be shooting at him. My impression is that the noise of the gunfire had ceased by then.

This is the first time I recall seeing the person later identified as Sirhan Sirhan. At that time somebody grabbed Sirhan from behind. Someone else appeared to grab his gun arm and I grabbed him from the side. The struggle then became very confused and we rotated around several times, moving down the line of the serving counter in the direction that Senator Kennedy had originally been traveling. The entire situation was chaotic, and I have only vague impressions of the people who were wrestling with the assassin at that time. The next thing I remember clearly is Bill Barry coming up and plunging into the knot of people, yelling for a rope so that we could tie him up. I remember taking off my belt and handing it to Barry and bending down to grab the assassin's legs so as to get him off his feet. I believe that Barry then left and after further struggle, the assassin was more or less wrestled onto the top of the serving tables.

During the course of the struggle, my vision had momentarily come to rest upon the area where Senator Kennedy had fallen on several occasions. The first time I noticed, it appeared that he was lying on his back and no one was near him. The next time I looked I could hardly see him because there was a dense group of people around him and the third time I noticed, the crowd had been cleared back and he was on his back and someone had opened the front of his shirt. Everyone was screaming and yelling for a doctor.

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The assassin was being firmly held on the table, and I let go and ran to the entrance of what I think is called the Colonial Room to see if either a doctor or the police were coming that way. Then I ran into the passage way between the Colonial Room and the Embassy Room. Some people from the hotel and some uniformed security guards had blocked off the passage way. I asked someone there if a doctor, the police and an ambulance had been called. He assured me that they had, and that they were on their way. I ran back into the kitchen and as I did, I noticed that Mrs. Kennedy and Jean Smith were kneeling beside Senator Kennedy.

I believe I then jumped up on the serving counter to see where the gun was. A number of people were holding the assassin, the most prominent being Roosevelt Grier. I looked down and noticed the gun in Grier's hand, and we exchanged words to the effect that Grier would hang onto the gun. I then jumped off the table and went around to the other side because it appeared that the people that had Sirhan's head were trying to pull it off. He was on his back with his head and upper back off the edge of the table, and I was afraid they would push down and break his back. Grier was leaning across his hips holding him firmly on the table. The only other person that I remember clearly is someone in a tuxedo with blond hair, who had ahold of the assassin's head. I was trying to tell them to be careful, but no one was paying any attention.

About that time, Jess Unruh jumped up onto the top of the table and leaned over Sirhan and started yelling that he should be kept alive because he should stand trial. Unruh was pulling the people off Sirhan and yelling for the police. The police came up to us from the direction where Senator Kennedy was lying. The officers took ahold of the suspect and handcuffed his hands behind his back. Roosevelt Grier was bent over crying, and I remember raising his face up and asking him where the gun was. He said he had given it to Rafer Johnson. I told this to one of the officers.

Unruh then jumped off the table and told the officers to get the suspect out of there before he was killed. I led the officers into the Colonial Room through the doors from the kitchen, and then out the main entrance of the

Statement of Frank J. Burns, Jr.
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Colonial Room into the lobby. There were five or six officers with us and I led them through the lobby, down the stairway and out the main entrance. We were moving very fast and no one was trying to stop us. As we started out the main entrance, there was a police car parked there with its right front door open. There was quite a crowd of people, particularly to my right hand side, and when they saw us coming out with the suspect, they started screaming and surging forward. The officers pushed the suspect in the back seat and Unruh jumped in the front seat and yelled for the officers to get out of there. At this time I was struggling with some people by the right front door of the police car who were trying to get to the prisoner, so I shoved the door shut and the police car took off.

DATED: June 12, 1968.


FRANK J. BURNS, JR.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/11/68

THANE EUGENE CESAR, 1852 Morley, Simi, California, was interviewed at his place of employment, Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, Burbank, California.

CESAR advised he is employed on a part-time basis by the Ace Guard Service, 8720 Woodley Avenue, Sepulveda, California. CESAR stated in connection with this employment, he was assigned as a guard to the Ambassador Hotel on the evening of June 4, 1968.

CESAR stated he arrived for work at the Ambassador Hotel that evening at 6:05 p.m. and was assigned to the Embassy Room for most of the evening. CESAR stated his main function during the early part of the evening was to patrol the entrance to the Embassy Room, control drunks, break up fights, and to keep young children from sneaking into the Embassy Room.

About 10:50 p.m. the Embassy Room was becoming so crowded that CESAR, at the request of the Los Angeles Fire Department, was assigned to the kitchen area behind the Embassy Room. CESAR stated his function at that point was to restrict people from entering the Embassy Room from the kitchen, allowing admittance only to KENNEDY staff members and members of the working press. CESAR stated that it was nearly impossible to control people entering the room since false press badges and staff buttons were prevalent. CESAR stated he noticed no one in the kitchen who was not wearing a business suit and noticed no one loitering in a suspicious manner.

At 11:50 p.m., CESAR was moved to the exit door leading from the Embassy Room into the kitchen area by FRED A. MURPHY, Security Guard, Ambassador Hotel. CESAR stated at this time he was informed by MURPHY the plan was for Senator KENNEDY to leave the Embassy Room through this door after making his victory speech and proceed through the kitchen to the Colonial Room where a press conference was scheduled to be held. At approximately 12:10 a.m., Senator KENNEDY emerged from the Embassy Room into the corridor leading to the kitchen;

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by JOHN M. CALLAGHAN (PLR:jmk/bje) Date dictated 6/11/68

and CESAR, holding Senator KENNEDY's right arm and holding the crowd back with his right hand, began to escort the Senator through the crowd.

As the Senator entered the kitchen from the corridor, approximately ten feet from a steam table, KENNEDY pulled loose from CESAR's grasp and proceeded over to shake hands with a busboy. At this time, CESAR attempted to stay as close to KENNEDY as possible and at the same time, trying to control the crowd. As KENNEDY was shaking hands with a busboy, CESAR looked up and suddenly saw a hand sticking out of the crowd between two camera men and the hand was holding a gun. CESAR continued he was blinded by the brilliant lights and could not see the face of the individual holding the gun. Just as CESAR started to move to jump on the gun, he saw the red flash come from the muzzle. At the same time, CESAR was shoved by an unknown individual, and the next thing he remembered he was on the floor against the ice machine. CESAR stated he was approximately four feet from the gun when it went off and that Senator KENNEDY was approximately two feet from the gun.

CESAR scrambled to his feet, drew his gun, and moved to the Senator. At this time, CESAR stated there were several men on top of the assassin trying to get the gun from his grasp. CESAR stated he took a position next to the Senator's body to protect him from further attack, and about three minutes later was given orders by Ambassador Security Guard MURPHY to get to the Embassy Room doors and keep the crowd out. CESAR took his position at the Embassy Room door inside the Embassy Room and stayed there until approximately 2:00 a.m. controlling the crowd.

CESAR stated he did not see SIRHAN at all during the evening and never saw anyone in the kitchen area that was dressed in anything other than a suit except for one television employee who turned out to be a delivery man.

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CESAR estimated there were approximately fifty persons in the kitchen area at the time of the shooting. This included kitchen help, newsmen, and campaign workers. CESAR recalled the room was in utter confusion but there appeared to be very little movement of people and he cannot recall seeing anyone attempting to flee from the room. CESAR added he cannot recall seeing any female wearing a white dress with black polka dots.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 6/11/68

ELMER M. BOOMHOWER was interviewed at his residence, 10156 Collett Avenue, Granada Hills, a section of Los Angeles, telephone 842-7124. He stated he is employed by the Ace Guard Service, 8720 Woodley Avenue, Sepulveda, California, telephone 344-5717.

BOOMHOWER related that on June 4, 1968, he went to work at 6:00 p.m. at the Ambassador Hotel. He was a security guard in the hall outside Senator ROBERT KENNEDY's suite. This was several floors from the area where Mr. KENNEDY was shot. He stated that he was at a post outside Room 518, which was several doors from the Presidential Suite where Senator KENNEDY was a guest. He could hear a television program concerning the events taking place in the Embassy Room of the hotel and in that way about 12:15 a.m. heard the news that Mr. KENNEDY had been shot. He stated that almost immediately JOHN GLENN, who was in the KENNEDY suite, left that place and immediately went downstairs. Some time later, on orders from the Security Office of the hotel, he reported to the Guard Room on the first floor and still later made a check of the ballroom and other places on the first floor checking hotel property and to help calm down the guests and visitors.

BOOMHOWER stated he did not see anyone resembling SIRHAN SIRHAN. He said he has seen SIRHAN's photograph in the newspapers.

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by SA CARL R. SCHLATTER/sle Date dictated 6/10/68

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/13/68

1

HAROLD L. BURBA, 20503 Osage Avenue, Torrance, California, (phone 371-2966), advised that he is employed by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and is assigned to LAFD Headquarters, 217 South Hill Street, where he can be reached at MA 8-6161, Extension 327.

BURBA advised that he desired to furnish the following information which is in addition to information furnished by him on June 6, 1968.

On the night of June 4, 1968, BURBA was on official duty at the Ambassador Hotel to photograph fire hazards. At the time BURBA estimates to have been approximately midnight, he was sitting in the hall which runs along the north side of the Embassy Room at which time he observed Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and his party pass where he was sitting. They were walking down the corridor in a westerly direction. The Senator passed out of BURBA's sight and he assumed that KENNEDY entered the Embassy Room. BURBA noted that he feels that he is unable to give an accurate estimate of the number of people in the party who passed him, but feels that the number did not exceed fifteen persons.

As the party passed, BURBA recalls seeing several stragglers but cannot recall exactly how many, inasmuch as at that time he did not note each of the individuals following the party. He does recall, however, seeing one white male with dark complexion who was among the stragglers. After viewing the photographs in the "Los Angeles Times" on June 5, 1968, BURBA believes that this particular individual was SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. When he observed SIRHAN among the stragglers it was due to the fact that SIRHAN appeared to turn his head from side to side as if paying unusual attention to the surroundings. At that time, SIRHAN was carrying a rolled up poster in both hands. The rolled poster appeared to be about two feet long and two (2) to three (3) inches in diameter. BURBA noted that inasmuch as SIRHAN carried the poster with both hands, he feels that SIRHAN had nothing else ~~in his hands although he is unable to state as a certain~~

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by SA IRVIN B. WELLS, III/clp/rem Date dictated 6/13/68

fact. BURBA pointed out, however, that he feels positive that had SIRHAN had an object the size of a hand gun in either hand, he would surely have noticed it. BURBA also pointed out that he estimates that when he observed SIRHAN, he was about thirty (30) to thirty-five (35) feet away.

BURBA stated that he is unable to say whether or not SIRHAN was with anybody else, but explained that he does not have the impression that SIRHAN was accompanied by any other persons. He feels that he was a single individual with the group of stragglers. He noted that he saw absolutely nothing to indicate that SIRHAN was with another person. BURBA further pointed out that this was the only time he observed SIRHAN during the entire evening.

BURBA explained that he later became aware that Senator KENNEDY had completed his acceptance speech and left the Embassy Room through the rear anteroom giving access to the same corridor he had walked through when heading toward the Embassy Room. He is unable to estimate the time at this point, although he did become aware that the Senator and the party were walking eastward along the corridor, and he became aware that KENNEDY had been shot.

After BURBA became aware that the Senator had been shot, he made his way down the hall toward where the shooting occurred, from his position toward the Colonial Room where the temporary press room was set up. Although he could not see Senator KENNEDY, he observed a poster being held in the air above the crowd as if to prevent its being crushed. He noted, however, that although the poster appeared similar, he cannot say for sure that it was the same poster which he had observed earlier in SIRHAN's hands. He also explained that his view was obstructed and advised that he could not see who was holding the poster above the crowd.

BURBA concluded by stating that, to the best of his knowledge, he cannot recall any other event that he observed which might now be pertinent in view of the current investigation being conducted.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/12/68

CAESER. CHAVEZ, Director, United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, AFL - CIO, office address 102 Albany Street, Delano, California, mailing address, Post Office Box 130, Delano, California, was interviewed in Room number 6, of the Travelodge Motel, Indio, California, at which time he furnished the following information:

Mr. CHAVEZ last saw and personally talked with Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY in March, 1968.

On the evening of June 4, 1968, Mr. CHAVEZ was going to see ROBERT F. KENNEDY and after the polls closed CHAVEZ left United Farm Workers Organizing Committee Headquarters, 806 Eastman, Los Angeles, California, with Father LUCE of the east side parish of the Episcopal Church. Mr. CHAVEZ arrived at the Ambassador Hotel with Father LUCE, 200 workers from his organization and a Mariachi Band.

Mr. CHAVEZ stayed at the Ambassador Hotel approximately one hour leaving at about 11:00 p.m. without seeing Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He left as his wife had not been able to come to the affair and he was feeling tired due to a back injury. Prior to leaving, Mr. CHAVEZ told one of his associates RUDY AMADA to tell the others he had left.

Mr. CHAVEZ departed with Fathers LUCE and GARBER of the Episcopal Church and they took him by his home where they picked up Mrs. CHAVEZ and then proceeded to the eastside campaign headquarters for RICHARD CALDERON, a candidate for State Senate. CHAVEZ was there approximately ten or fifteen minutes when Senator ROBERT KENNEDY came on television and gave his victory speech. Mr. CHAVEZ watched this speech with his wife, HELEN CHAVEZ and the others at CALDERON's campaign headquarters.

CAESER CHAVEZ stated that he had seen photographs of SIRHAN SIRHAN in the newspaper and on television and did not know him. He did not see SIRHAN at the Ambassador Hotel. He stated he has had no argument with Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY

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by SA THEODORE HINDERAKER/nmb Date dictated 6/12/68

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or the KENNEDY organization at any time. He added he can furnish no information regarding the shooting of Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. CHAVEZ stated that on June 10, 1968, while stopping at his union headquarters in Los Angeles at 806 Eastman, one BILL CHANDLER commented that he (CHANDLER) knew SIRHAN SIRHAN or had gone to school with him in Pasadena, California. BILL CHANDLER is affiliated with CHAVEZ in his labor movement and was at the Ambassador Hotel on the night ROBERT F. KENNEDY was shot. CHANDLER resides at 2827 Winters, Los Angeles, California, phone 262-5479.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/8/68

LARRY J. BECK appeared voluntarily at the Los Angeles FBI Office and furnished the following signed statement:

"Los Angeles, Calif.
6-8-68

"I, Larry J. Beck, furnish the following signed statement to Phillip B. Deily, who has identified himself as a Special Agent of the FBI.

"I reside at 645 Burnside, Apmt. # 18 in Los Angeles. In May of this year, I worked for about a week and a half as a volunteer worker for the Kennedy Organization in Rochester, N. Y. I flew out to Los Angeles on 5-30-68 for the purpose of visiting and seeking employment. Later that day, I contacted the Kennedy Headquarters at 5615 Wilshire Blvd in Los Angeles and made arrangements to be a volunteer campaign worker for Senator Robert F. Kennedy, with my expenses to be paid.

"I worked thursday and all day Friday at the Kennedy Hq. I worked again at Hq. Saturday morning and took the rest of the day off. On Sunday afternoon I was assigned to the temporary Hq. at the Ambassador Hotel. There was a party for Senator Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel Sunday evening but I was unable to attend since my duties took me elsewhere. On Monday morning, June 3rd, I came to Campaign Hq. at 6:45 A.M. and observed a cleaning crew of about three people. I had seen them at the Hq. previously on several occasions. I worked all day at Hq. and returned the following morning about the same time. I observed the cleaning crew again and noticed they had access to the"

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by SA PHILLIP B. DEILY/vjh Date dictated 6/8/68

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"offices, materials, and campaign papers. I had some conversation this particular morning with Steve, one of the cleaning crew, for several minutes and we talked about how dirty the Hq. had become. I had spoken with Steve previously on one or two occasions.

"Steve was a male caucasian, about 23 or 23 years old 5'5" with his cowboy boots on, 125 to 140 lbs, dark eyes and a pimply complexion. He had black, curly hair, worn long, dark eyes and wore blue denim shirt and slacks.

"I left campaign Hq. about 11:00 A.M., 6-4-68 and eventually got to the Ambassador Hotel about 3 or 4 P.M. in the afternoon. I was in the Embassy Room at the time of the shooting shortly after mid-night but did not see the actual shooting of Senator Kennedy. I didn't see Steve of the cleaning crew around the hotel that afternoon prior to the shooting or after the shooting. I spent the rest of the night at the Hotel and saw a picture of Sirhan Sirhan on TV later Wednesday, since he had been accused of the shooting. He, Sirhan, didn't appear to resemble Steve of the cleaning crew then, but later when I was interviewed by the Los Angeles Police Dept. and shown three photographs of the man charged with the shooting of Senator Kennedy, Sirhan Sirhan, I got the impression that Steve of the cleaning crew at Campaign Hq and Sirhan were identical.

"During my conversations with Steve, politics was not discussed and he never commented on how he felt about Senator Kennedy. Generally, Kennedy was well regarded by the campaign workers but his frequent last minute plan changes irked some of the workers frequently. Some jealousy existed between the campaign secretaries and the Kennedy girls because of things like salaries,"

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"travel priviledges and positions. Phil Muller, full time worker at the Campaign Hq. told me he was on LSD, pep pills and tranquilizers. He also told me he had offered pills to some of the Kennedy girls. Some of the precinct chairman were unhappy with the Campaign Hq because they were not getting their fair share of election materials.

"I do not know the last name of Steve of the cleaning crew mentioned above. I do not know the man accused of the shooting, Sirhan Sirhan, unless he and Steve are determined to be identical. I do not have any personal knowledge of the motives for the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

"I have read this statement consisting of this and four other pages, and find it to be true to best of my knowledge.

"Larry J. Beck

"Witnessed:

Phillip B. Deily, Special Agent, FBI, 6/8/68,
Los Angeles, Calif."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 6/11/68

WILLIE S. BELL was interviewed at his residence, 4515 Lexington Avenue, telephone 665-4822. He stated he was working at the Ambassador Hotel as a security guard of the Ace Guard Service, 8720 Woodley Avenue, Sepulveda, California, telephone 894-5717, on the evening of June 4, 1968. He began working about 6:00 p.m., and after about an hour and a half at one post was sent to the hallway near the Press Room and stayed at that post until about 3:00 a.m. on June 5, 1968. He advised that his position was between the Embassy Ballroom and the kitchen area. In order to go from the ballroom to the Kitchen one had to go up some steps and around the corner.

BELL advised that he first learned of the shooting when a woman in a pink dress came from the area of the kitchen sometime shortly after midnight and sat on the steps saying that Mr. KENNEDY had been shot. A woman in a blue dress came up shortly thereafter and sat on the steps also stating that Mr. KENNEDY had been shot. Shortly thereafter he stated he was busy trying to hold closed the doors leading from the Embassy Ballroom to the kitchen area inasmuch as people were attempting to go to the kitchen area to see what was happening.

BELL stated he did not hear any shots but at one time heard a voice whom he assumed to be a newspaper man shout, "The gun is on me. Take that gun if you have to break his fingers", and shortly thereafter another voice shouted twice, "Kill him, ROSEY".

BELL advised that before or after the shooting incident occurred, he did not see anyone who resembled the man who shot Senator KENNEDY who was described to him as wearing a greasy pair of blue jeans and a T-shirt. He stated this description was furnished to him by people coming from the kitchen area where the Senator had been shot. He said he observed a photograph of SIRHAN SIRHAN later on television and in the newspapers, but he did not recognize the photographs as anyone he had seen on the evening of June 4 through 5, 1968.

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by SA CARL R. SCHLATTER/sle/vjh Date dictated 6/10/68

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6/11/68

Date

Mr. GEORGE WILLIAM FULTON, 8320 Springford Drive, Sun Valley, California, telephone RO 73545, advised that he is currently employed as a stage manager for National Broadcasting Corporation and has been employed by that company for the past 16 years.

He stated that during the evening of June 4, 1968, and early hours of June 5, 1968, he was assigned to a television crew at the Ambassador Hotel handling interviews of California Primary Election officials in the Gold Room which is a small side room just off the Embassy Room.

He stated that he was working with RAY BRANNIGAN and during the victory speech by Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, he was on the television ramp in front of the Gold Room and heard the speech from that position. After Senator KENNEDY finished his speech and departed the main stage of the Embassy Room, some five or six minutes later he saw a woman on that side of the Embassy Room crying and observed someone give a signal with his hand as if shooting a pistol into the ceiling at which time he realized something unusual had occurred. He said he did not hear any shots and was not in the area of the kitchen access hallway where he later learned KENNEDY had been shot, but was on the opposite side of the Embassy Room. He stated that of the hundreds of persons trying to exit the Embassy Room, quite a few tried to cut through the Gold Room but were turned away by NBC employee RAY BRANNIGAN.

FULTON stated that some three hours after the shooting, he and BRANNIGAN were interviewed by officers of the Los Angeles Police Department, at which time BRANNIGAN recalled that a man appearing to be of Mexican extraction was trying to locate his wife and had attempted to leave the Embassy Room through the main door of the Gold Room. BRANNIGAN turned this man back and suggested that he leave the Embassy Room by the main door, and he headed in that direction. Upon arriving at the main door of the Embassy Room, this man found that the doors were tied off by a television cable tied through the handles. He attempted to untie the doors but someone yelled to him, "Leave them tied." This man then returned to the Gold Room door where people were being directed to leave the room through

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by SA RICHARD BUCARO:jmk Date dictated 6/10/68

the fire exit, located in the same wall as the Gold Room door but to the south.

Mr. FULTON described this man as follows:

Complexion	Dark
Age	35 - 40 years
Height	5'7½"
Weight	150 pounds
Hair	Dark curly, possibly wearing a mustache
Clothing	Dark suit with white shirt and tie

He stated that he did not actually notice how this man actually departed the Embassy Room and attached no significance to him at the time as he appeared to be only a man trying to get out, more excited than anything else, and seemed to be frantic to locate his wife.

He stated he did not see SIRHAN SIRHAN, whose picture he has seen on television and in the newspapers, before, during or after the shooting of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 6/12/68

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RICHARD ALLEN KLINE, also known as Dick Kline, Public Relations Director, California Campaign for Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY, 5615 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, home address 15967 Miami Way, Pacific Palisades, California, telephone number GL 4-4880, advised that on the evening of June 4, 1968, he was in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles, California. RICHARD KLINE stated that his assignment was to run the "anchor" desk, which consisted of obtaining the election returns from various areas of the State of California, and furnishing this information to the press. RICHARD KLINE stated that in addition to himself on the evening of June 4, 1968, he also worked with PIERRE SALINGER and FRANK MANKIEWICZ. RICHARD KLINE stated that the "anchor" desk was located immediately adjacent to the stage of the Embassy Room where Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY made his speech on the evening of June 4, 1968.

RICHARD KLINE also stated that he was the individual responsible for selecting the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel for the site of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY's speech on the evening of June 4, 1968. RICHARD KLINE stated that two rooms in the Ambassador Hotel were selected, one being the Embassy Room and the other room being one located below the Embassy Room. RICHARD KLINE stated that on the evening of June 4, 1968, the original plan was to only allow 700 people, plus the news media into the Embassy Room, and the rest were scheduled to go to the room located below the Embassy Room.

RICHARD KLINE stated that on the evening of June 4, 1968, the schedule was for Senator KENNEDY to make his speech in the Embassy Room, then to go to the ballroom downstairs, and after that for Senator KENNEDY to meet with approximately 20 selected newsmen in a room on the fifth floor of the Ambassador Hotel. RICHARD KLINE stated this original plan was not workable because the election returns were delayed and the plan was modified so that after Senator KENNEDY made his speech he was to go to the ballroom downstairs, and then go to the Colonial Room of the

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Ambassador Hotel to meet with selected newsmen. RICHARD KLINE stated that on stage, after Senator KENNEDY had made his speech, the schedule was again modified for him to go to the Colonial Room of the Ambassador Hotel immediately after his speech to talk to selected members of the news media. RICHARD KLINE stated that when Senator KENNEDY left the stage he personally was at the "anchor" desk next to the stage, watching the television coverage of the proceedings.

RICHARD KLINE stated that after Senator KENNEDY had left the stage he heard some noises, which sounded like firecrackers, and although he did not know actually what had occurred, he suspected something was wrong, so he commenced clearing the passage way located directly behind the stage. RICHARD KLINE stated that shortly thereafter, he heard the news that Senator KENNEDY had been shot, but he personally did not witness any of the activities relating to the shooting, and did not see the alleged assassin SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN. In addition, RICHARD KLINE stated that he did not notice any unusual activities on the evening of June 4, 1968, or early morning of June 5, 1968, and he could not recall any additional information which he believed could be helpful in the investigation being conducted by the FBI.

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TIMOTHY PAUL RICH, age 22, 5501 South Acacia, telephone O.X. 5-5406, employed as reporter, photographer and proofreader for the "Whittier Daily News", 7037 Comstock Avenue, telephone O.X. 8-2571, was interviewed at his residence.

RICH stated that he had previously covered the KENNEDY campaign at the Biltmore Hotel approximately six weeks before. He covered this campaign from the time KENNEDY arrived at the Burbank Airport until the time KENNEDY made his final speech at the Biltmore Hotel. During this time he took numerous photographs of KENNEDY and his campaigners.

On the evening of June 4, 1968, RICH went to the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, arriving at approximately 11:00 p.m. He drove his 1964 Ford Galaxie 500 and was accompanied by his cousin, WALTER GEORGE RICH, 10812 East Indiana Street, Whittier, California. He parked his vehicle on 7th Street behind the Ambassador Hotel, walked across the parking lot behind the Ambassador Hotel and entered the building. They found themselves in the RAFFERTY campaign area and immediately began to look for the area where KENNEDY would possibly make an appearance. The first people they saw were the "Kennedy Girls". They began to follow these "Kennedy Girls" and finally arrived at the Embassy Room.

They arrived at the Embassy Room approximately 45 minutes to an hour before KENNEDY made his speech. The Embassy Room was very crowded, containing numerous television cameras, newspaper photographers, campaigners and spectators. Several reporters were on the stage. One section of the room located to the righthand side of the stage, was roped off and appeared to be crowded by KENNEDY supporters. RICH went to this area in an effort to locate a "Kennedy Girl" he had met during the previous campaign. He identified this individual as ROTA HERTZBERG, who lives in West Los Angeles.

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To the right and behind the roped off area was an exit leading to a passageway which appeared to run behind the stage in the Embassy Room. As he attempted to look into this passageway, an individual, who apparently was a KENNEDY campaigner, told him that he was in the way. RICH left this area; however, before leaving he noticed that the passageway running to the left apparently led to a flight of stairs which led to rooms on the floor beneath. If one went to the right in this passageway, they would enter a doorway leading into an area, which RICH subsequently determined was the kitchen. RICH advised that he looked into this kitchen area and noticed that there was a small "anteroom", which one had to go through before entering the main kitchen area. In this anteroom were several chairs lining the wall. There were several individuals in this anteroom and the kitchen area; however, RICH took no particular notice of any individual. When asked if he had noticed an individual which he could now identify as SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, RICH advised that he had not taken notice of any particular individual who might resemble SIRHAN.

RICH advised he returned to the Embassy Room and while he was in the Embassy Room KENNEDY came onto the stage and made a speech. RICH watched the activities through television monitors and occasionally made an effort to see the stage through the crowd. Standing nearby was his cousin WALTER RICH.

Toward what RICH felt was the end of KENNEDY's speech, WALTER asked him if he was going to give KENNEDY the pictures he had in a manila envelope. RICH explained that having previously covered the campaign and taken numerous photographs of KENNEDY, he had made a packet of appropriate photographs and intended to give them to the Senator if he had an opportunity. RICH advised WALTER that he did intend to give KENNEDY the packet and the two of them made their way to the passageway behind the stage. While they were in the passageway, an individual asked them to get out of the way. The man extended his arms in an effort to block people from coming into the passageway from the Embassy Room. RICH and WALTER extended their arms and helped this individual form a line in front of which KENNEDY could pass into the kitchen area.

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RICH stated he saw KENNEDY come down the passageway toward the kitchen area. At about that time the crowd was pressing so hard behind him that he was forced into the passageway. He decided that he would attempt to get into the kitchen area to avoid the press of the crowd and as he entered the doorway to the kitchen he noticed that KENNEDY simultaneously had entered the door into the anteroom area with him.

KENNEDY was walking faster than he and passed him by. RICH called out "Senator Kennedy, Senator Kennedy" and received no response. He again called to Senator KENNEDY and at this time the Senator turned his head to look over his right shoulder. RICH handed the envelope to the Senator saying, 'This is for you'. KENNEDY took the envelope and kept on walking toward the main part of the kitchen. RICH turned to go back the way he had come, at which time he heard three 'pops' which sounded like a cap pistol. At almost the same instant he felt a shove from behind and immediately turned, at which time he observed a man, whom he later determined to be PAUL SCHRADE, falling to the floor backwards. He also saw Senator KENNEDY on the floor and noticed that blood was 'all over the place', on the floor, all over PAUL SCHRADE, and in particular under the head of Senator KENNEDY.

RICH advised he is not sure of exactly what he saw or heard for a few seconds after that. He definitely did not see the individual who fired the shots or the struggle over the gun which he subsequently learned ensued after the shots were fired.

RICH advised he does not recall hearing other shots, although he is confident that there were more shots fired because something prompted him to run. He speculated that he felt a gun battle was about to ensue and after seeing KENNEDY on the floor he moved as rapidly as possible toward the Embassy Room. En route he saw one man sitting on the chair at the side of the anteroom apparently shot, and while looking through the doorway he noticed another man fall as if he had been shot.

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While en route to the doorway he noticed his cousin coming into the kitchen area; however, he did not know what his cousin did until he arrived in the vicinity of a wall outside the kitchen and noticed his cousin was right behind him.

After about 30 seconds to a minute, he then saw that someone was closing the door to the kitchen and he immediately moved back into the kitchen area. He climbed up on a metal-top counter along the wall of the anteroom in an effort to see what was going on. Also on the counter was a Negro female whose identity he does not know. RICH advised he stayed on the counter while KENNEDY was being removed from the room and observed the pandemonium going on during the next 45 minutes to an hour. He kept looking for the envelope he had given to KENNEDY, but did not see it after he had given it to the Senator.

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WALTER GEORGE RICH, 10812 East Indiana Street, Whittier, telephone 695-8040, advised that he is a student at the University of Nevada and is home for summer vacation.

On the evening of June 4, 1968, he accompanied his cousin, TIMOTHY PAUL RICH, to the Ambassador Hotel to observe the activities of the KENNEDY campaign. They arrived at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 11:00 p.m.

They worked their way into the Embassy Room where they had determined KENNEDY would possibly make an appearance sometime during the evening.

While in the Embassy Room, WALTER's cousin, TIMOTHY, went to the area near the righthand side of the stage in order to determine where he might be able to get close enough to Senator KENNEDY to hand him an envelope containing photographs taken by TIMOTHY during KENNEDY's last campaign in California. While TIMOTHY was gone to this area, WALTER remained in the central part of the Embassy Room.

TIMOTHY returned to WALTER shortly before Senator KENNEDY arrived to make his speech. They both remained in the Embassy Room where KENNEDY and other members of his staff made speeches. Shortly before KENNEDY finished his speech, WALTER asked his cousin if he was going to give KENNEDY the photographs to which TIMOTHY indicated in the affirmative and they made their way to a passageway at the rear of the stage area.

WALTER stated that behind the stage was a hallway. He did not know where the hallway led if one went behind the stage; however, if one went "to the right" they would enter an area which he subsequently learned was the kitchen.

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