

# Unruh and Grier Tell Dramatic Details of Kennedy's Slaying

Former Ram Football Star Describes How He Held Senator's Accused Slayer

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The killing of Robert F. Kennedy and the capture of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were retold in dramatic detail Monday by former Assembly Speaker Jess Unruh and former football star Roosevelt Grier.

It was the massive Grier who gave spectators in the court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker a thoughtful moment when he described the way he subdued the diminutive Sirhan.

Said Grier: "I folded his leg around my arm and put him on top of a table."

Grier, who retired from the Los Angeles Rams last year and now hosts a weekly television show, stands 6 feet, 5 inches and weighs about 290 pounds. Sirhan, 24, is a shade over 5 feet 2 inches and weighed 112 pounds at the time of his arrest.

## Crowd Violence Feared

Both Grier and Unruh told of their concern that a frenzied mob in the narrow kitchen corridor of the Ambassador June 5 might kill Sirhan after Sen. Kennedy was fatally wounded.

Unruh, now Democratic leader in the California Assembly, said he was "terribly aware that we could have a repeat of the Oswald situation," and shouted repeatedly, "Don't kill him, don't kill him, we've got to keep him alive."

Unruh testified that he also shouted, "If the system works at all, we are going to try this one"—presumably Sirhan.

Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy in November, 1963, was murdered before being brought to trial.

## Tells of Defending Sirhan

Grier amplified on Unruh's account of Kennedy aides' concern to save Sirhan. Soon after he grabbed Sirhan, Grier testified, he saw "one guy hurting his leg and some people coming at him from the front, so I swung on them and kicked the guy back and they seemed to realize we were trying to save the guy, so they stopped."

Defense questioning of both Grier and Unruh brought out that Sen. Kennedy's detour through the kitch-



Roosevelt Grier  
Times photo

en corridor where he met death was a last minute change of plan.

Defense attorney Emile Zola Ber- man asked Unruh if, as chairman of both the Kennedy campaigns in California and the Kennedy delega- tion to the Democratic National Convention, he wouldn't have been privy to such sudden changes in plan.

Unruh replied: "Yes, but politics changes very rapidly, my friend—as we discovered on June 4."

Defense questioning of an earlier witness focused renewed attention on the much-discussed "girl in the polka dot dress" who was first reported running out of the hotel shouting "We shot him".

Vincent DiPierro, a part-time waiter at the Ambassador, acknow- ledged that he had told of seeing such a girl and further acknow- ledged that on July 1 he admitted his story was false.

Monday DiPierro testified that he had seen a girl in a polka dot dress earlier that night, and that after talking to another witness, Sandra Serrano, he had "injected" the girl into the events immediately sur- rounding the shooting.

At that time both Miss Serrano and Di Pierro described the girl as wear- ing a black and white polka dot dress and stand- ing near Sirhan, perhaps even talking to him or smiling at him.

Dept. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts produced seven photographs of Valerie Schulte of Goleta, whom Di Pierro said he believed was the same girl. In the photographs, however, Miss Schulte's dress was of yellow polka dots on a green background. No further connection was made between Miss Schulte and the shooting scene.

Miss Schulte was sched- uled to be called this

morning as the first wit- ness for the prosecution.

Other prosecution wit- nesses Monday were John W. Gallivan Jr., an ad- vance man for the Kenne- dy campaign; Jesus Perez, an Ambassador Hotel kitchen worker; Martin Patrusky, a hotel barten- der, and Frank J. Burns Jr., a Kennedy campaign worker.

All gave eyewitness ac- counts of the slaying, Per- ez and Patrusky testifying that Sirhan had loitered in the corridor for about half an hour before Sen. Ken- nedy came through, repea- tedly asking if they knew whether he planned to come that way.

Gallivan, like previous witnesses, said the first

gunfire sounded like fire- crackers to him. "The sound didn't seem impor- tant enough to be shots, if you know what I mean," he said.

Asked if he could still recreate the scene in his mind, Gallivan said, "I've been trying to forget this scene, as much as possible. But I haven't been very successful."

Other witnesses for the prosecution scheduled to- day include William Bar- ry, Sen. Kennedy's body-

guard, and Rafer Johnson, former Olympic star and a member of the Kennedy entourage.