

NO EVIDENCE OF Plot Found in Kennedy Slaying

Conclusion Disclosed by
Younger After Intense
Inquiry by Authorities

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BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

There is no credible evidence to support a conspiracy theory in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger said Wednesday.

He also labeled as "absurd" defense charges that his office reneged on an agreement not to seek the death penalty for Sirhan B. Sirhan and he described as "over-kill" defense psychiatric testimony during the trial.

Law enforcement agencies, including the Los Angeles police, FBI and his office, reached the conclusion that there was no conspiracy on the basis of more than 4,000 interviews of possible witnesses to any of the events which might have had some bearing on the slaying, Younger explained.

Younger made the statement at the first formal press conference he has held on the matter since shortly after Sen. Kennedy was shot June 5 by Sirhan. He said he could not comment on the case until now because of a court-imposed "gag" order.

Possibility Studied Immediately

Sirhan was sentenced to death a week ago today by Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Younger said the possibility that Sirhan was "a member of a conspiracy whose objectives were not satisfied by the elimination of one political leader" became a concern immediately following the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

No possible avenue of information, he said, was considered unworthy of investigation. Every allegation of a possible conspiracy was investigated in depth and will continue to be as they arise in the future, Younger added.

He noted that the information

presented during the trial by both the prosecution and defense did not exceed 2% of the combined work product of the police and FBI investigators.

So that any doubting members of the public can satisfy themselves with the finding that Sirhan acted alone, a full disclosure of the results of the investigation will be made available "now that the constitutional rights of (Sirhan) cannot be jeopardized by publicity, Younger said.

Duplicate copies of all documentary and photographic evidence will be available in the county clerk's criminal division located in the Hall of Justice, he revealed.

Police Chief Roger Murdock, according to Younger, also has agreed that "the interest of the public in law enforcement" can best be served by a full disclosure of all aspects of the investigation conducted by a special task force of police detectives.

Plea Bargaining Explained

The Los Angeles Police Department, he said, has "literally tons of information" in its files, all of which will be available for public review "to the fullest extent that security precautions and administrative resources will permit."

Commenting on the prosecution of Sirhan, Younger said, "It proved that our system of justice works."

The prosecution was willing to enter into so-called plea-bargaining negotiations early in the case, Younger explained, because at that time "it was my opinion and that of highly competent men on my staff" that the jury would not render a death verdict.

This, he said, was based primarily on the findings of the prosecution psychiatrist.

They did not at the time have the complete reports of defense psychiatrists and had no way of knowing then that defense psychiatric testi-

mony which he said included "far-reaching and absurd propositions"—would turn out to be as disastrous as it was, he said.

Younger said the jury arrived at the proper verdict and he committed his office to doing all it could to sustain the death penalty in the case.

It was not unusual for the prosecution to contact the Kennedy family regarding the handling of the case, Younger said,

because his deputies often consult with interested parties, particularly the families of victims, to determine how they will react to proposed dispositions.

He said he believed it is a good policy to allow members of a victim's family to express their opinion on the outcome of any case in which they have an interest.

Asked if he thought Sirhan would ever be executed, Younger replied, "You know the track record on that as well as I do."

He said, however, that he did not anticipate that the appellate courts would find any deficiency in either the trial or the conviction of Sirhan.

In answer to a question regarding the role of former Coroner Thomas Noguchi in the case, Younger said he is satisfied that the autopsy on Sen. Kennedy was conducted in a proper manner.

The problems and pressures incident to the successful prosecution of Sirhan in many respects were without parallel in the history of American jurisprudence, according to Younger.