

% 2349 North Early Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22302  
July 4, 1977

Editor  
New York Times  
229 West 43rd Street  
New York, New York  
10036

To the Editor:

I have recently been shown a copy of the New York Times article of May 27, 1977, entitled "Possibility of Two Gunmen In Robert Kennedy Killing Discounted by Investigator." This article is little more than a collection of inaccuracies and misleading statements. As one who has followed this case and was present at the meeting in question, I am astonished by the continued level of coverage of this controversy by the New York Times.

A few examples from this particular story:

1.) The article refers to testimony before "a special committee of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors." ~~There is not now, and never HAS BEEN, ANY SUCH "COMMITTEE."~~ The testimony referred to came as a scheduled agenda item at a regular board meeting.

2.) The article refers to "charges that there had to be another gunman because photos taken shortly after the shooting seemed to indicate more bullets had been fired than Sirhan B. Sirhan's pistol could hold." Photographs alone, in fact, are scarcely the beginning of the evidence of extra bullets. Affidavits on record from a Los Angeles police sergeant, former Ambassador Hotel employees, private individuals, and the present coroner of Los Angeles County, among others, all support the presumption that one or more bullets were present in door frames. Page 48 of the official FBI report on the crime scene identifies four separate "bullet holes" beyond what the one-gun theory allows the Los Angeles Police to accept.

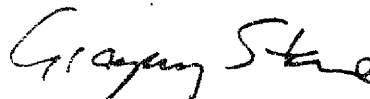
3.) The article states that "seven top firearms experts ruled out the possibility of a second gun in 1975." This assertion is nonsense to anyone with the slightest knowledge of the firearms panelists' reports. As (accurately) summarized in the account carried in the New York Times on February 8, 1977, "The experts said results of the ballistics tests... were inconclusive and neither supported nor refuted the second gun theory."

The Times story also solemnly echoes the claim that "eyewitness reports" support the official theory of Sirhan's lone guilt, and the palpably inaccurate assertion that "no one present in the pantry... reported seeing a second gunman." Obviously, your reporter was either uninterested in the facts at issue or completely incapable of grasping them.

The discrepancies in the police theory of this case have become increasingly grave and were outlined very lucidly at another May board meeting by former congressman Al Lowenstein, shooting victim and past Kennedy coordinator Paul Schrade, and Dr. Robert J. Joling, former president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences. The efforts of these men and others to deal responsibly with the current evidence have been repeatedly hamstrung by the kind of inaccurate "reporting" illustrated by the Times account.

Active or intelligent journalism would require the Times to investigate this case independently. Responsible journalism would require at least that you refrain from filling your reports with falsehoods about it. If both these standards remain beyond your grasp, you might, if nothing else, desist from undercutting those who are concerned about the truth, and publish nothing at all.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory Stone