



RACING GREEN

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Report put out on RFK killing

Little new data in LAPD summary

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The assassination of Robert F. Kennedy was carried out by Sirhan B. Sirhan, acting alone, and there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the 1968 slaying of the senator at the Ambassador Hotel, according to a police summary of the investigation released Tuesday.

"Sirhan Sirhan fired the fatal shots that killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy and wounded five others," the report concluded about the June 5, 1968,

Excerpts of the investigation summary Page 9

slaying. "This was established beyond any doubt by eyewitnesses and physical evidence," the report said. "There was no evidence of a conspiracy in the crime."

The conclusions arrived at in the report were made in February 1969, prior to the start of Sirhan's trial.

Paul Schrader, a Kennedy campaign adviser and former



ROBERT KENNEDY
Sirhan's target.



SIRHAN SIRHAN
Acted alone

LAPD summary offers few new details in RFK death

KENNEDY from Pg. 1
union official, criticized the summary released by the Los Angeles Police Commission. Schrade contended the remaining 50,000 pages of actual investigative files could contain evidence of a conspiracy and a second gunman.

"First of all, they want their one-gun theory the only theory on record," Schrade said. "They're trying to protect that and they don't want it questioned by anyone."

"I think the public has a right to know these things and I think the files ought to be opened quickly," he added.

Schrade said he would decide in the next few days whether to go to court to get the rest of the investigative file.

"Under the Public Records Act, we have a right to make a request for the records," he said.

Kennedy, a U.S. senator from New York, was gunned down as he walked through the Ambassador Hotel pantry after declaring victory in California's Democratic presidential primary to a crowd of about 2,000 supporters

in the hotel's Embassy Room. He was 42. Sirhan, now 41, was arrested immediately.

The summary contains a graphic account of the killing from eyewitnesses, but discloses few, if any, new details about the assassination or the lengthy investigation.

It also describes various people and groups, including those with Arab, possible communist or right-wing ties, with which Sirhan might have been associated. Sirhan, who lived with his family in Pasadena, is Palestinian. His family fled Jordan when he was a child.

In addition, the report covered the lengthy investigations into various tips received by police after the assassination, including many people who came forward and claimed to either know or be the infamous "girl in the polka dot dress" who supposedly was seen talking to Sirhan before Kennedy was shot.

A witness, whose statements later were discounted by police, claimed also to have heard the "girl in the polka dot dress" run

out of the Embassy Room area after the shooting and shout, "We shot him. We shot him. We just shot Senator Kennedy."

A young woman who authorities believe was the "girl in the polka dot dress" testified at Sirhan's 1969 trial. Police, according to the summary, released Tuesday, discounted various rumors that she was involved in any conspiracy.

The whole report also discounted any theories of a conspiracy, including a "second gun" scenario advanced by several writers and private investigators. Included in the report were accounts of all the theories, along with the investigative efforts and the police conclusion that they were in error.

The heavily censored, 1,453-page summary was released after years of pressure from several fronts and led by Schrade, who was shot in the head in the gunfire that also wounded four others.

Police commission members handed over to Mayor Tom Bradley the task of screening and releasing the remaining

50,000 pages of investigative files that Schrade and others have been seeking for almost 18 years. They also asked the mayor to appoint a special committee to screen the remaining documents and decide when—or if—they should be made public.

"You are doing a public relations gesture by providing this summary," said Schrade, now an American Civil Liberties Union organizer who lives in the Hollywood Hills.

Schrade contended that the actual investigative documents contain a statement from an FBI investigator indicating there may have been a second gunman at the hotel because several extra bullets were found lodged in a door jam.

However, he claimed evidence pointing to a second gunman, including X-rays and the door jam, has been destroyed.

"I don't know that there was two guns firing in there," Schrade said after Tuesday's police commission hearing. "But when there is evidence that this has now been destroyed or suppressed by the Police Department, (it) leads me

to suspect that there is more to this story than the Police Department put in its report that was put out today."

The commission, at a packed hearing at Parker Center, unanimously recommended that Bradley appoint City Archivist Hynda Rudd, City Librarian Wyman H. Jones and Dr. Amarjit S. Marwah, president of the Cultural Heritage Commission, to the committee.

Bradley pledged to follow the commission's recommendations and said he would appoint other people to the committee, which also would establish a timetable for the release of the remaining documents.

"I'll act as quickly as I can," Bradley said later while attending a political event at Olvera Street in downtown Los Angeles.

Sirhan was captured in the hotel pantry just after the shots that felled Kennedy and the others were fired. He was tried before a jury in Los Angeles Superior Court and convicted April 17, 1969.

His writings that were found in his home reveal the assassi-

nation plan and express hatred for Kennedy's pro-Israeli stance.

Sirhan was sentenced to die in the gas chamber on April 23, 1969. However, his sentence later was changed to life imprisonment after the California Supreme Court struck down the death penalty law in 1972.

Sirhan has been denied parole eight times. His next hearing before the California Parole Board is scheduled for March 27.

The report released by the police commission concluded that Sirhan acted with premeditation and was legally sane when he fired the bullets into Kennedy at close range.

Police commission Vice President Barbara Schlei said the delay in releasing the summary occurred because the commission wanted to establish guidelines protecting privacy for the eventual release of the actual investigative material.

Daily News staff writer John Marelius also contributed to this story.

These nearest the suspect immediately grappled with him as he continued to fire. Five additional persons were wounded by the fusillade of bullets. Instantly, the scene degenerated into one of pandemonium and mob hysteria. The hysteria quickly spread as news of the shooting reached Kennedy workers and supporters still massed in the adjoining ballroom. Police response was quick and shortly involved in excess of four hundred officers.

The ramifications of Sirhan's act so profoundly affected the political atmosphere in the United States that a thorough assessment of its significance can probably not yet be made. Moreover, the international consequences of Kennedy's death, seen as a political assassination in most parts of the world, could not be ignored. His death followed the recent assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King and the murder of President John F. Kennedy. The massive task confronting this department must be viewed in this light... it was obvious that history would look upon the results of our investigation to ascertain if we had exhausted all possible means to uncover the complete truth about the event.

Senator Kennedy
(Los Angeles Police) Department personnel became involved with Kennedy campaign activities during a motorcade in downtown Los Angeles on May 29, 1968. On May 28th, the department received a telegram from a Kennedy aide advising that a motorcade was planned for the next day. No request for security was made to this department. The incidents which occurred at that motorcade illustrated the Kennedy party's attitude toward the police.

Officers of this department were assigned to observe the course of the motorcade and to insure the free flow of traffic along the motorcade route. Several violations were observed during the motorcade as William motorcycle officers blocked

tempted to assist the senator back to his vehicle when it appeared to him that Kennedy needed help. Kennedy and his aides berated the sergeant and told him that they had not asked for the assistance of the police. Several other incidents occurred along the route of the motorcade involving this department's officers and Kennedy aides. At one point, (deleted) shouted obscenities at several officers who were attempting to keep the crowd from becoming unmanageable and spilling onto the street. These remarks were highly inflammatory and the officers considered making and arrest (deleted) disturbing the peace.

The identification of several persons in the motorcade was obtained for the purpose of making applications for complaints for various criminal and vehicle code violations. The applications were withdrawn in the interest of justice after the assassination.

Personal Security
William Barry, an ex-FBI agent, acted as sole security for Senator Kennedy. His primary assignment was to act as personal bodyguard for Kennedy and he was responsible for liaison with local law enforcement agencies. Barry did not contact the department to request security for the senator for June 2-4, 1968.

After the assassination, Barry advised investigators that he had been concerned about Senator Kennedy's security. He had observed security problems at other events and had intended to speak to Kennedy on their return to New York. Barry told investigators that Kennedy was very difficult to protect because of his desire to allow supporters to be close to him.

Plans for Senator Kennedy's movements prior to the election were made by Barry, Dutton and Richard Tuck, another Kennedy aide. Rater Johnson had joined the Kennedy staff a few weeks prior to the assassination to assist in crowd control. Dutton advised investigators that police were not used for Ken-

wife and four of their children arrived at Orange County Airport to begin the final two days of his campaign to win the California Democratic Party presidential electors being selected in the June 4th primary election.

In the course of those two days he addressed a festival in Orange County, visited Disneyland, traveled to San Francisco for a rally, returned to Long Beach for a speech and a motorcade to Venice, fled (sic) to San Diego for an appearance, spent the day of the election at the home of a friend in Malibu. At 8 p.m., on June 4th, he was driven to the Ambassador Hotel to await the election returns and his anticipated victory...

Sirhan activities
Several witnesses came forward who had seen and spoken to Sirhan the night of June 4, 1968. From their statements, investigators were able to closely establish the whereabouts of Sirhan from 6 p.m. until the time of the shooting. A similar chronology was made, based on statements of witnesses, for the period of June 2-4, 1968.

On June 4, at 6:10 p.m., Sirhan had coffee with an ex-school friend at Bob's Big Boy restaurant in Pasadena. He and the friend went to the Pasadena City College cafeteria and met three other men whom they both knew. Sirhan discussed various innocuous subjects with them and left at approximately 7:15 p.m. The witness reported that Sirhan appeared normal and very friendly.

Sirhan was next seen by an electrician at the Ambassador Hotel at approximately 8:45 p.m. He and Sirhan conversed generally and Sirhan asked him if he had ever seen Kennedy. Sirhan was holding a glass with a milky-looking liquid and he was very talkative. The electrician reported seeing Sirhan speak to a fireman; however, investigators could not determine his identity.

Between 9 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., Sirhan spoke to two young Mexican men in the Palm Court Room of the hotel. Sirhan allegedly spoke critically of Kennedy and described him

her telephone machine in the Colonial Room. After the shooting, the operator saw the police taking Sirhan from the hotel. She believed that Sirhan recognized her as he was taken from the hotel. A hotel waiter also reported seeing Sirhan later, around 10 p.m., in the Palm Court room.

Judy Royer, a Kennedy staff worker, reported asking Sirhan to leave the pantry area twice during the evening prior to the shooting. Robert Klase, a Kennedy supporter, was standing in the anteroom to the kitchen at about 11 p.m., when Sirhan attempted to enter a nearby door; he tapped Sirhan on the shoulder and asked him to leave. Sirhan turned back into the Embassy Room.

Klase and Royer walked through the pantry area just prior to the shooting and did not see Sirhan. Sometime later Jesus Perez, a kitchen helper, was standing in the pantry as Kennedy was finishing his speech. Perez noticed that Sirhan was standing in the pantry. Sirhan asked the assembled employees several times if Kennedy would be coming through the pantry. They responded that they did not know.

Perez recalled that Sirhan was twisting or folding some papers in his hands and that he appeared nervous.

The Victory Speech
Jesse Urnich, (then) speaker of the California Assembly, spoke to the enthusiastic crowd. His legislative assistant, Jack Cross, had gone to Senator Kennedy's fifth floor suite to ask the Senator to come down to the ballroom...

The small group accompanying Kennedy took a service elevator to the kitchen area at Kennedy's request so that they could avoid the crowd in the lobby of the hotel. They then walked through the employee's lunch area and Kennedy stopped to shake hands with numerous people and he autographed a poster for an admirer. Kennedy entered the Embassy Ballroom through an honor guard of Kennedy Girls, and (walked)

looked away and turned toward Kennedy.

The Shooting
Kennedy stopped to shake hands with a hotel waiter and then with DiPiero. As he let go of the hand of Jesus Perez, another hotel employee, a man moved toward Kennedy; his right arm fully extended, he fired four shots quickly at the senator. Kennedy raised his arms over his head and two of the shots entered under his right arm. The first shot had struck him in the head behind the right ear; the second went through the padding of Kennedy's coat and struck Paul Schrader, a United Automobile Workers Union official, in the head.

Witnesses' recollections of the shooting varied. One thought the man was going to shake hands with the senator. Another saw the man raise a pistol and saw an "angry and determined" look in his face. One witness saw the man push the gun toward the back of Kennedy's head but could not identify the suspect because of the chaos that followed. A 13-year-old Kennedy worker saw the man holding the gun and then he saw a flame come from it.

Uecker immediately grabbed the man as he fired the first shot. He continued firing at Kennedy and one witness recalled that "he had a tremendous look of concentration on his face." He fired eight shots; the last four while the confused crowd tried to apprehend him. Five others were wounded in the shooting.

Many witnesses thought that they heard balloons popping and others thought the sounds were firecrackers. The accounts of the distance from the suspect and Kennedy varied. A hotel busboy thought the gun was three feet from Kennedy's head. Another witness thought the first shot came from point blank range. Subsequent laboratory examination placed the distance of the first and fatal shot at one inch.

The Capture
Karl Uecker swung around as Kennedy fell to the floor. Uecker seized

1. Sirhan Sirhan fired the fatal shot that killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy and wounded five others. (This was established beyond any doubt by eyewitnesses and physical evidence).

2. Sirhan fired these shots with the intent to kill Senator Kennedy and his act was premeditated. (All evidence indicated that Sirhan took the necessary steps to prepare himself for the assassination and to put himself in a position to kill Kennedy).

3. Sirhan was not under the influence of a drug or intoxicant at the time of the shooting. (Of the many police and lay witnesses in close contact with Sirhan (in) the minutes immediately following the shooting, not one observed any objective symptom of intoxication. Experienced officers found his pupil reaction to be normal and his mental condition alert and responsive.)

4. Sirhan was legally sane at the time of the incident. (This conclusion is established by available psychiatric evaluation reports. The issue of his sanity has not been raised by the defense.)

5. There was no evidence of a conspiracy in the crime. (A complete chapter of the report deals with this subject and makes conclusive statements regarding each specific allegation).

6. The Kennedy Staff did not request any police protection from the Los Angeles Police Department nor was any offered by the department. (The investigation revealed that his personal security was provided by a bodyguard and his various aides who functioned in crowd handling situations. Staff members confirmed that the senator did not desire police security present at public appearances such as the Ambassador rally.)

Conviction
Sirhan Sirhan was convicted of first degree murder on April 17, 1969, and sentenced to death on April 23, 1969. The death sentence was later overturned by the state Supreme Court.