159

SIRHAN 9/1/71

LOS ANGELES(CNS)--THE OFFICIAL VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY WAS CHALLENGED AGAIN TODAY BY SOMEONE WHO SAYS HE DOUBTS THAT SIRHAN SIRHAN ACTED ALONE.

THE LATEST ASSASSINATION THEORY WAS ADVANCED BY FERNANDO FAURA, A FORMER NEWSPAPER REPORTER WHO SAID A WITNESS EXISTED WHO WAS TOLD IN ADVANCE ABOUT AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.FAURA HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE AT THE LOS ANGELES PRESS CLUB WHERE HE CHARGED "THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY AND POLICE FAILED TO INVESTIGATE."

FAURA ALSO FILED A LAWSUIT ASKED THE SUPERIOR COURT TO ORDER ANOTHER GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF THE JUNE 1968 ASSASSINATION "TO DISPEL THE THEORY THAT SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN WAS ACTING ALONE."

FAURA CHARGED THAT POLICE FAILED TO INVESTIGATE THE CONSPIRACY ASPECTS BECAUSE "IT WAS TOO MUCH TROUBLE. THEY ALREADY HAD A KILLER."

SIRHAN, AN IMMIGRANT FROM PALESTINE, WAS ARRESTED AT THE SCENE OF THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL SHOOTING, WHICH OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT ONE JUNE 5, 1968.

HE WAS TRIED THE FOLLOWING YEAR, CONVICTED AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH. AUTHORITIES CLAIMED THERE WAS NO CONSPIRACY AND SIRHAN ACTED ALONE WHEN THE SENATOR WAS KILLED.

HOWEVER, AT THE NEWS CONFERENCE, FAURA PRODUCED VARIOUS DOCUMENTS WHICH HE CLAIMED CAME FROM POLICE AND FBI FILES IN WHICH WITNESSES CLAIMED TO HAVE SEEN A MYSTERIOUS "GIRL IN A POLKA-DOT DRESS" AFTER THE ASSASSINATION. SHE REPORTEDLY SAID, "WE SHOT KENNEDY."

DURING SIRHAN'S TRIAL, THE PROSECUTION CALLED TO THE WITNESS STAND A YOUNG WOMAN WHO SAID SHE WAS AT THE RALLY THAT NIGHT AND WAS WEARING A POLKA-DOT DRESS. SHE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE KILLING.

THE WITNESS A BLONDE, HAD INJURED HER LEG AND WAS WEARING A CAST THAT NIGHT. FAURA CLAIMED IT WAS NOT THE SAME GIRL WHOM THE OTHER WITNESSES SAID THEY HAD SEEN.

INSTEAD, FAURA SAID, THE MYSTERIOUS GIRL WAS THE SAME YOUNG WOMAN WHOM THE SALESMAN, JOHN FAHEY, SPOKE TO AT THE HOTEL DURING THE DAY OF JUNE 4, 1968.

FAHEY, FAURA CONTENDED, WAS TOLD BY THE WOMAN:

"THEY ARE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF MR. KENNEDY AT THE WINNING RECEPTION."

2ND ADD SIRHAN 159 XXX RECEPTION."

FAURA ALSO SAID FAHEY CLAIMED THE WOMAN, WHO TOLD HIM SHE SPOKE ARABIC, ASKED HIM TO GET HER A PASSPORT BECAUSE SHE WAS GOING TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID FAHEY CAME TO HIM ON JUNE 12, 1968, AND TOLD THE STORY. FAURA CLAIMED HE TOOK THE MAN TO POLICE TO REPEAT HIS STORY.

HE ALSO SAID HE VOLUNTARILY TURNED OVER THE TAPE RECORDING OF THE INTERVIEW WITH FAHEY TO POLICE AND AFTER THE TRIAL, ASKED THAT IT BE RETURNED.

THE POLICE, HE SAID, DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE TAPE RECORDING.

FAURA PRODUCED A PHOTOCOPY OF A DOCUMENT WHICH PURPORTEDLY WAS AN FBI INTERVIEW WITH FAHEY ON JUNE 6, 1968.

HE ALSO PRODUCED TWO PHOTOCOPIES PURPORTEDLY OF POLICE INTERVIEWS WITH FAHEY THE FOLLOWIN SEPTEMBER. ONE SAID FAHEY WAS GIVEN A LIE DETECTTOR TEST AND IN THE EXAMINER'S OPINION, SOME OF THE ANSWERS CONCERNING THE WOMAN AND SIRHAN WERE "UNTRUTHFUL."

(MORE)

TT1220PM

SIRHAN 9/1/71

3RD ADD SIRHAN 159 XXX "UNTRUTHFUL."

THE OTHER PHOTOCPY OF THE PURPORTED POLICE DOCUMENT SAID FAHEY HAD CALLED THE DEPARTMENT AND SAID:

"...FERNANDO FAURA IS CONSTANTLY CALLING AND VERBALLY HARASSING HIM ABOUT HIS CHANGING HIS STORY. FAURA ALSO WENT TO SUBJECT'S PLACE OF BUSINESS AND THREATENED SUBJECT FOR TELLING HIM A PHONY STORY."

FAURA, HOWEVER, CLAIMED THAT UNDER THE SPONSORSHIP OF LIFE MAGAZINE, HE HAD A LIE DETECTOR TEST ADMINISTERED TO FAHEY ON AUG. 30, 1968, CHRIS CUGAS, WHO WORKED FOR PROFESSIONAL SECURITY CONSULTANTS OF BEVERLY HILLS.

CUGAS, FAURA SAID, WAS OF THE OPINION THAT FAHEY WAS TELLING THE TRUTH.

FAHEY REPORTEDLY WORKED FOR CAL TEX INDUSTRIES AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION AND LIVED AT 1030 N. HARPER AVE.

FAURA AT THE TIME WORKED FOR THE OLD HOLLYWOOD CITIZEN-NEWS. HE SAID HE IS NOW SELF-EMPLOYED AND RUNS AN ORGANIZATION CALLED THE PACIFIC PRESS SYNDICATE.

FAURA'S SUIT WAS FILED BY ATTORNEY RICHARD A. ROCHA, WHO ALSO ATTENDED THE NEWS CONFERENCE.

HE SAID HE HAD CHECKED INTO FAURA'S BACKGROUND AND FOUND HIM "REPUTABLE."

FAURA SAID HE WENT TO ROCHA ONLY "VERY RECENTLY."

HOWEVER, WHEN ASKED WHO WAS PAYING THE ATTORNEY'S BILL, HE REPLIED, "I DON'T CARE TO ANSWER THAT."

HE ALSO DECLINED TO REVEAL THE SOURCE OF THE PHOTOCOPIES OF FAHEY'S ANOTHER OTHERS' STATEMENTS.

"THEY WERE HANDED TO ME BY THIRD PERSONS," HE SAID.

THE COUNTY GRAND JURY LATE LAST MONTH ENDED AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE COUNTY CLERK'S HANDLING OF EXHIBITS OF THE SIRHAN TRIAL. THE GRAND JURY SUBSEQUENTLY WROTE A LETTER HIGHLY CRITICAL OF COUNTY CLERK WILLIAM SHARP AND HIS OFFICE.

THE BOARD HAS APPOINTED A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE OPERATIONS OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

TT1226PM

SIRHAN 9/1/71

4TH ADD SIRHAN 159 XXX OFFICE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOSEPH P. BUSCH JR. DECLINED TO COMMENT ON FAURA'S ALLEGATIONS, EXPLAINING HIS OFFICE PRESENTLY WAS INVOLVED IN INVESTIGATING ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE SIRHAN CASE.

THIS ASPECT IS THE ACCUSATIONS BROUGHT BY ATTORNEY BARBARA WARNER BLEHR AGAINST FORMER POLICE CRIMINALIST DEWAYNE (CAPS D W) WOLFER.

SHE HAS CLAIMED ERRORS WERE MADE IN THE BALLISTICS EXAMINATIONS, ALLEGATIONS WHICH PROMPTED THE GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION OF SHARP'S OFFICE.

BUSCH WAS NAMED AS A DEFENDANT IN FAURA'S SUIT, ALONG WITH MAYOR SAM YORTY, POLICE CHIEF ED M. DAVIS, STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL EVELLE J. YOUNGER AND OTHERS.

YOUNGER WAS LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY WHEN THE ASSASSINATION OCCURRED.

TT3238PM