

6:30 p.m. news

Announcer Here in the Bay Area today there were charges of a connection between the assassination of Robert Kennedy and Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt. Jan Legnitto has details:

Legnitto -- For four and a half years a possible conspiracy surrounding the assassination of Robert Kennedy has been the subject of dozens of books, magazine articles and speeches. And now there's someone who claims that a San Quentin prisoner was offered \$25,000 by E. Howard Hunt to murder the alleged assassin of Robert Kennedy, Sirhan Sirhan, who's also imprisoned in San Quentin. Jack Kimbrough, a brewery worker and self-appointed investigator, held a press conference at Rogue's Gallery, a prisoners' organization in Oakland, to publicize his new book on the murder of RFK, and talk about the imminent danger to Sirhan's life. [plays tape insert from press conference]:

Reporter -- What indication do you have specifically that Sirhan is going to be hit in prison ?

Kimbrough -- We were contacted by an inmate who maintains that he was approached with a proposition to hit Sirhan. Now whether that's true I don't know, but it's enough to scare me. Even more [gargled] ... was involved in a conspiracy, we have absolute proof that there was a second gun there. I mean, the autopsy report, the grand jury testimony, eyewitnesses who were there, indicate that Sirhan never got behind Kennedy. [end tape insert].

Legnitto -- San Quentin officials do acknowledge the presence of the man who signed the declaration, claiming to have received ~~him~~ an offer from Hunt. His name is Vladimir Alexander Zadako [phonetic] and he's serving a five-to-life sentence for robbery. The prison's records also show that on Sept. 22, the date of the declaration, Jack Kimbrough did visit Zadako at San Quentin. But beyond that, the story gets very shaky. Zadako's declaration claims that Hunt gave him ~~\$25,000~~ \$25,000 to knock off Sirhan, but he doesn't say when or how. He also claims to have the payoff money deposited in an account in a branch of the Bank of California, but he doesn't say which one. According to Zadako's declaration, all he's waiting for is a U.S. District Court subpoena, or a request from a Congressional investigating committee, and he'll turn over the evidence, which allegedly includes letters from from Hunt himself. As for Kimbrough's claims about Sirhan's innocence in RFK's assassination, he's got a lot of company. Thomas Noguchi, the Los Angeles County coroner, added unwelcome fuel to the fire when his official report contained findings that ruled out the possibility of Sirhan having fired the fatal bullets. Other assassination conspiracy theorists maintain that the presence of a gunman in addition to Sirhan can be documented by a simple counting of the bullets coming from the scene of the assassination. Two were found in Kennedy's head and neck; five were recovered from various bystanders who were wounded by the stray fire; two were recovered from the pantry doors, and one was found in a rear door frame. That makes 10, and Sirhan's revolver only held eight bullets, a fact which the Los Angeles Police Department chose to ignore. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has denied an appeal for a new trial for Sirhan, an appeal which is now going through the federal courts in California, and both Sirhan and E. Howard Hunt are alive and well in prisons ~~XXXXXX~~ 3,000 miles from one another.