



Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the convicted assailant.

THE MURDER OF ROBERT KENNEDY IS STILL UNSOLVED!

There is abundant evidence that someone other than the convicted killer may have been involved in the assassination of RFK. A concerned attorney reconstructs the scene, making salient points and calling for further investigation.

By Robert J. Joling, J.D.

As were all Americans, I was stunned by the devastating news that Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been shot. Ever since the day of that ruthless assassination, June 5, 1968, I have been vitally interested and have investigated the case of what *really* happened in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. This interest was renewed in February, 1969, when Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was standing trial in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County—and no one was paying any attention to the physical facts surrounding the assassination.

Senator Kennedy may have been the victim of a bizarre crime, unsolved as the result of this inattentiveness. Grant Cooper, then the attorney for Sirhan, had been busy with the Friar's Club case—in which he was personally involved—leaving



the Sirhan case-preparation to others. Yet, even today there is abundant evidence pointing to the probability that someone *other* than Sirhan Bishara Sirhan may have been involved in the assassination of Senator Kennedy.

There exists a need for a thorough re-examination of all the physical evidence in this case if, in fact, there is an interest in the survival of American democracy. Anything less will assist in the perpetuation of doubt as to the reliability of government agencies to state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth regarding any matter of national concern. It is necessary, then, to go back in time, to start once again on the evening of June 4, 1968, in order to evaluate exactly what went on during the early morning hours of June 5, 1968.

A happy moment of victory! The junior Senator from New York had won the California primary, which gave him an excellent chance to be the standard-bearer for his political party. At the very least, the forthcoming Chicago convention would now present a realistic challenge to him, and the White House was no longer an impossible dream.

Bobby Kennedy had finished his victory speech in the Embassy Ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel. He thanked his many supporters, well-wishers, and hangers-on, made a short, humorous quip concerning Mayor Yorty of Los Angeles, and left the rostrum. He exited through the back doorway of the stage en route to speak to the overflow crowd awaiting him in another ballroom below. However, as he went through the doorway to the back of the stage, he did not turn to his left to take the stairway downstairs. Instead, someone called, "This way, Senator!" and he turned right into the hallway behind the stage leading toward the narrow pantry adjacent to the kitchen area. He thought that he was heading for a hastily called news conference in the Colonial Room, located at the far end of the Ambassador Hotel pantry.

Advance men, cameramen, newsmen and others hastened on ahead of the Senator and his immediate entourage. Bill Barry, the Senator's personal bodyguard, lingered to help Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, while Karl Uecker, the Assistant Maître d'Hôtel, Edward Minasian, the Maître d'Hôtel, and others assisted the Senator through the maze of well-wishers into the pantry area.

Immediately in front of the Senator was Karl Uecker, who held the Senator's right wrist in his left hand. Directly to the right of Uecker and slightly forward was Edward Minasian. Behind Minasian were located Frank J. Burns and Richard Lubic. Then came the Senator and Ace Guard Thane Eugene Cesar. Cesar had the right elbow of the Senator in his left hand and was using his right hand to fend off those people in too close proximity on the right of Kennedy. This human wall in

front was followed by another human wall behind, led by Paul Schrade, a close personal friend of the Senator, shielding the Senator on yet another side. Behind Paul Schrade, others pressed forward under the surrounding forces of human flesh—seventy-five to a hundred strong—within the small pantry of the Ambassador Hotel. Among those present were Irwin Stroll, Ira Goldstein, Elizabeth Evans, William Weisel, Thomas Vincent DiPierro, Jeff Brent, Donald Schulman, Roosevelt Grier, Rafer Johnson, and other Kennedy stalwarts, all of whom were to play a major role in the aftermath of the tragedy. In the face of the curious absence of Los Angeles law-enforcement protection, the Senator was led on to his death.

As the procession advanced through the hallway to the rear of the stage leading into the pantry proper, well-wishers were shouting, "We want Bobby! We want Bobby!" Happy faces beamed brightly in victory. The voices of the pantry throng rang with cheers and jubilation. Victory was in the air, but it wasn't to endure. For every action there is a reaction. In this case, it was sudden chaos, sadness, injury, death, and the destruction of political plans, futures, and dreams.

The Senator moved on, his right hand in the grasp of Karl Uecker's outstretched left hand, his elbow in the grasp of his Security Guard's left hand. The entourage now approached the center of the pantry. To the left was the arched entranceway to the general kitchen area. To the fore was the Colonial Room where the press conference was to be held. Ahead and on the left were three steam tables, to the right were huge ice machines. Just beyond the ice machines and on the right side of the pantry was a tray-stacker. The distance between the ice machines and the steam tables was six-feet, three-inches—just enough room to allow two average-sized people to walk side by side while passing through this portion of the pantry.

Standing on the tray-stacker watching the Senator approach was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who appeared transfixed, his eyes almost passive, lips languidly smiling.

Suddenly Sirhan left the tray-stacker, ran to the steam tables, tried to get past Karl Uecker, but being unsuccessful, stretched out his arm with gun in hand. Two evenly spaced shots rang out. Then a series of shots followed—but no one knows how many. One key witness later testified that he heard Sirhan scream, "Kennedy, you sonofabitch!" just before he squeezed off the initial two, deliberate, well-spaced shots in the general direction of Senator Kennedy.

Each of the witnesses closest to Senator Kennedy repeated this account of the well-spaced, deliberate shooting, although one of them did state that there were "two or three" shots before Karl Uecker grabbed Sirhan's gun hand and at the same time placed a headlock on

Sirhan, crashing him and his gun to the surface of the steam table. Sirhan never escaped from this grasp. Even while he continued to shoot his gun which was now on top of the steam table, Sirhan was in the constant armlock and grasp of Karl Uecker. Edward Minasian and other nearby individuals slammed against Uecker and Sirhan. Thereafter, Sirhan was in no position to direct, let alone aim, his revolver in the direction of Senator Kennedy. Meanwhile, chaos broke out in the pantry.

One reporter turned on his tape recorder and began, "The Senator has been shot. Senator Kennedy has been shot, ladies and gentlemen!" Thirty-four seconds after this recording began, the shooting stopped. This tape, when slowed down, reveals that five distinct shots were fired *after* Kennedy had been hit.

During this tragic episode, Senator Kennedy had been fired upon from a distance of from one to three inches. Two bullets penetrated his suit coat under and at the rear of the right armpit. Another penetrated his suit coat just behind the top seam of the shoulder pad and exited about an inch in front of the entry hole, but still behind the top seam of the shoulder pad without penetrating the lining. A fourth bullet, which was fired from a gun held within one inch of his skull, entered his head an inch and a half behind his right ear at the mastoid area.

One of the bullets which entered under the right armpit went unimpeded through the Senator's body, exited above the right chest area at the supra-clavicular area, and went into the suspended acoustical ceiling tiles above. The other bullet which entered the Senator's body was traced from the right armpit to the right of the sixth cervical vertebra in the Senator's neck, where it stopped just below the skin surface. The bullet that penetrated the shoulder pad area of the Senator's coat also ended up in the ceiling tile. None of these shots was fatal.

The fatal bullet struck the Senator behind the right ear. It had been fired from a distance of no more than one inch from his head. When it entered the rear of the Senator's head it split, causing two channels within the brain and scattering innumerable small metal fragments throughout the brain. Irreversible brain damage resulted, causing the death of the Senator about twenty-six hours after he had been shot. The heroic efforts of the best neurosurgeons in the United States could not reverse the fatal effects.

Five other persons were victims of this shooting. Paul Schrade, immediately to the rear of the Senator, had been shot in the topmost portion of his forehead, with the bullet exiting to the rear. He was the first person to fall in the pantry on that fateful morning. With blood flowing from his wound, Schrade collapsed into the arms of Vincent DiPierro. Irwin Stroll, to

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the rear of both the Senator and Schrade, was struck in the left shin. As Stroll fell, Ira Goldstein was moving from the direction of the kitchen entranceway toward the area in which Stroll was standing. Goldstein had his back toward the place from which the bullets were being fired. A bullet passed through his pant leg and merely grazed him. A second bullet caught him in the left upper flank of his buttocks, causing him to fall on top of Schrade and DiPierro. Mrs. Elizabeth Evans was looking for a lost shoe at that moment. She was bent over when suddenly she wiped her forehead and noticed blood upon her hand, which caused her to scream. A woman next to her also screamed. The bullet had penetrated her forehead in such a manner as to move upward toward the top of her head. William Weisel, the last victim in the line of fire behind the Senator, was shot in the abdomen.

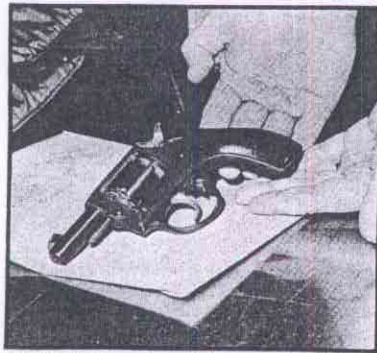
At this time, Sirhan was unknown to anyone in the pantry. He remained in the grasp of the burly, 200-pound Karl Uecker until the police arrived. When Sirhan was taken into custody by Officers White and Placencia, Jesse Unruh, Kennedy's campaign chief, shouted out, "Don't kill him! We don't want another Oswald!"—which may well have saved the diminutive Arab's life that night. Unruh, then unknown to the arresting officers, assisted them in escorting Sirhan to the police car and even climbed into the squad car with the police as they sped away to the police station.

While Sirhan had been pressed against the steam table by Uecker, Rosie Grier had wrestled the gun from him and had handed it to Olympic Decathlon Champion Rafer Johnson, who stuffed the gun into his pocket. It wasn't until almost two hours later that Officer Robert Calkins of the Los Angeles Police Department took possession of this weapon—and it wasn't until eight more hours had elapsed that this prize piece of evidence turned up in the LAPD Central Property. Even more alarming is that it now appears that no receipts or records of the meanderings of this weapon were made by the LAPD, not from the moment of its being obtained until it was received as evidence before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury on June 7, 1968.

Senator Kennedy died at approximately 1:44 a.m. on June 6, 1968. Shortly thereafter, the most intensive, thorough and complete post-mortem examination ever conducted was begun under the direction of Dr. Thomas Noguchi. At 8:40 a.m., a bullet was removed from the area of the Senator's sixth cervical vertebra—that segment of the spine just above the bump on the back of the neck. Dr. Noguchi placed his initials and the autopsy number on the base of this bullet. Then, at 8:49 a.m. on June 6, 1968, he

presented it to a member of the LAPD. This bullet became Exhibit #47 at the trial of Sirhan and was the center of controversy at a later date. It became the catalyst for the recent investigation of the firearms aspects of this case.

Of salient importance in this matter is a fact often glossed over by many people who are interested in, but unfamiliar with this case. Four bullets struck the Senator or his clothing. Each was a .22 caliber, long-rifle, copper-coated, 39-grain, hollow-point bullet. Five other persons had also been shot with bullets having the same general firearms class characteristics. In addition, two bullet holes were found in the ceiling tiles immediately above the location of the shooting. The LAPD asserted that another ceiling tile, a short distance away, had still another bullet hole in it. Goldstein's pant leg also had a through-and-through bullet hole in it. The facing of the center-divider of the double doors leading from the pantry into the hallway behind the stage had two bullet holes in it. These were measured, examined, and photographed and appear as Exhibit "E" in the official autopsy protocol of record. Another bullet was found embedded in the doorjamb of the doorway leading from the back of the stage. This, too, was measured and photographed. So, a minimum of nine bullets struck the Senator and the five wounded victims. Two of these bullets are known to have passed through the Senator or his clothing and entered the ceiling tiles above him. All of this, the LAPD claimed, was the result of Sirhan firing a .22 caliber, eight-shot Iver Johnson Cadet revolver!



Eight-shot revolver belonging to Sirhan.

The investigators for the Los Angeles Police Department came up with the most simplistic tabulation and analysis imaginable. It was asserted that seven of eight shots fired had been recovered. Because the weapon recovered was an Iver Johnson .22 caliber, eight-shot revolver, Cadet Model, only eight shots could be fired from it without reloading. Therefore, reasoned the LAPD, only eight shots were fired. Indeed, when this gun was finally examined, it contained eight fired cartridge cases. Therefore, the reasoning went, the third hole located in a ceiling tile had been caused by a ricochet

of one of the two bullets that caused the other ceiling penetrations. When asked about the two holes located in the facing of the doorway, the LAPD simply declared them to be nonexistent. The same fate was adjudged for the bullet hole in the doorjamb behind the stage area, even though LAPD officers investigating the scene were photographed as they measured and examined these bullet holes. Everyone was simply mistaken—except, of course, the LAPD.

It must be noted that anyone capable of counting beyond ten can readily determine that Sirhan's revolver could hold only eight shots, while the number of bullet holes which must be accounted for is at least twelve and possibly fourteen (nine in victims, three in doorjamb and door facings, one in Goldstein's pant leg, and one ricochet through a ceiling tile). There exists other photographic evidence indicating the need for further studies to discover whether or not certain marks and indentations in the pantry resulted from still more bullets were being fired.

The LAPD has made several attempts to reconcile the dilemma caused by the number of bullet holes and the eight-shot capability of the gun. Initially, it was explained, one of the bullets which penetrated the Senator or his clothing had then struck Paul Schrade before ending up in the ceiling tiles. This bullet struck Paul Schrade at the very top of his forehead and exited to the rear. Because the bullet could not be accounted for, the police declared it lost in the space between the suspended acoustical ceiling tiles and the concrete ceiling above. The problem with this explanation was that Schrade was behind the Senator, and the bullet which struck the Senator had been fired from behind Kennedy. It had gone from back to front, right to left, at a steep upward angle. When reminded of this fact, the LAPD simply asserted that this bullet must have been the ricochet bullet that subsequently struck Mrs. Evans in the forehead.

It must be remembered that Mrs. Evans was struck in the forehead when she was bent over searching for a lost shoe. A person cannot have a bullet traverse upward through the forehead area if at the same time the bullet is moving in a downward direction. Yet, that is what the LAPD "official" version claims. Furthermore, the measured weight of the bullet recovered from the forehead of Elizabeth Evans was 30.6 grains. This is hardly the weight expected of a bullet that allegedly penetrated a one-inch acoustical tile, thereafter purportedly striking a concrete ceiling above, ricocheting back through another one-inch acoustical tile, and then striking Mrs. Evans in the forehead while going in the wrong direction. It would appear more appropriate for a hollow-point, .22 caliber, copper-coated, 39-grain bullet to disintegrate upon striking the concrete

ceiling after passing through the initial tile. A more logical and realistic determination of the cause of Mrs. Evans' wound would appear to be that at the time she was bent over looking for her shoe, the bullet which penetrated Goldstein's pant leg may have struck the floor and then ricocheted upward into Mrs. Evans' forehead. Of course, this hypothesis also presupposes that Mrs. Evans had the posterior portion of her anatomy facing in the direction from which the bullet that struck her was fired—a direction comparable to that of Goldstein at the time that he was shot.

The Los Angeles Police Department's official records, as well as subsequent statements made and obtained during the course of administrative or judicial hearings, indicate that no less than three guns were drawn within that pantry on the fateful morning. One was in the hand of Sirhan. Another was in the hand of an Ace Guard, Jack Merritt. There was also one in the hand of another Ace Guard, Thane Eugene Cesar.

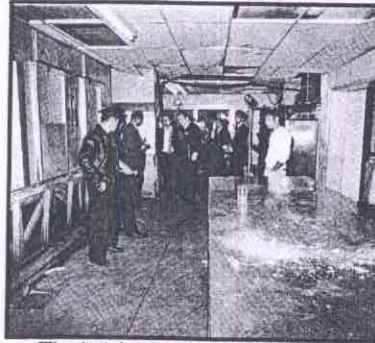
It is also known that an eyewitness who gave a statement within minutes after the event, and whose interview was broadcast throughout the news media, claimed that "the guards fired back," and further that "they shot the . . . a man . . . in the leg." It is obvious that the party making the statement was emotionally shaken. However, it is also noteworthy that he was accurate in many particulars. It is to be considered that he stated as a fact that he had seen the "guards" firing back, and that a man was shot in the leg by these same "guards." The only person struck in the leg was Irwin Stroll, located to the rear of the Senator. If, in fact, a guard was able to shoot Stroll, then he was capable of also shooting Goldstein in the buttocks as he was jumping over Stroll, and was equally capable of shooting Weisel who was farthest to the rear of the Senator, and Elizabeth Evans who was between Weisel and the Goldstein-Stroll positions.

The official post-mortem examination concluded that the Senator had been struck by bullets fired from back to front, right to left, and at a steep upward angle. The tests concluded that the bullets in the Senator's clothing came from behind and from the right at a very close distance to the Senator. Sirhan was near the steam table when the shooting broke out. Between Sirhan and the Senator stood at least four or five people. The only person known to be to the right rear of the Senator and in possession of a gun was Thane Eugene Cesar. This is in accord with his own statement given to the Los Angeles Police Department investigators, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and to documentarian Theodore Charach who recorded Cesar's interview on film and by sound recording.

Cesar also stated to the Los Angeles Police investigators that he was in possession of a .38 caliber revolver on the

night in question. However, neither Cesar's gun nor any other gun in the possession of anyone else within the pantry on that evening was confiscated or examined following the assassination of Senator Kennedy! Cesar later told the LAPD that he had owned a .22 caliber H & R revolver—a nine-shot revolver which is similar to Sirhan's gun in appearance—but that he had sold it during the February preceding the assassination to Jim Yoder of Arkansas for \$10.

An investigation of Cesar's story surrounding the sale of this gun has established that he did sell an H & R, .22 caliber, nine-shot revolver to Jim Yoder. However, he was a co-worker with Yoder at an airplane plant in Burbank, Califor-



The hotel pantry where RFK was murdered.

nia, not Arkansas, when the sale transpired—and it was sold on September 6, 1968, three months to the day after the death of Senator Kennedy. In spite of these discrepancies in Cesar's story, and in spite of the fact that his location on the morning in question fits the described location of the assailant in keeping with the LAPD findings and those of the post-mortem determinations, the LAPD decided that Cesar was a publicity seeker and discounted his potential involvement. In fact, at this moment, there no longer exists any physical proof that Cesar had the minutest involvement in this matter, since the gun which he sold to Yoder was later stolen from Yoder and its whereabouts are now unknown.

Whenever I review the official versions in this case, I cannot help but conclude that no real effort was made to ascertain the truth. The Grand Jury was convened on June 7, 1968, and I find the opening statement to be a classical example of injustice to the accused:

"On June the 5th, 1968, at approximately 12:20 a.m., the suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy and five other individuals, Paul Schrade, Irwin Stroll, William Weisel, Elizabeth Evans, and Ira Goldstein at a gathering at the Ambassador Hotel following the primary elections. . . . The suspect, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was disarmed at the scene and taken into custody. . . . Senator Ken-

nedy died at 1:44 a.m., the following morning. . . . Any member of the Grand Jury who has a state of mind in reference to this case or to any of the parties involved which will prevent him from acting impartially and without prejudice to the substantial rights of any of the said parties will now retire from the Jury Room."

There was no mad exodus of grand jurors. Yet in that prejudiced opening statement, the foreman had already indicted and convicted Sirhan. The jury was told what occurred, by whom, when and under what circumstances. However, justice demanded that the formalities be continued—at least until a verdict was "fairly and truly" reached—whatever that was to mean in this case.

Later, Grant Cooper, Sirhan's attorney upon trial, was to run into this same facade of judicial "due process." After Cooper had finished his involvement with the Friar's Club case in December, 1968, he began concentrating on the Sirhan defense—a defense which never questioned the physical evidence, but emphasized the angle of "diminished mental capacity." Even after the district attorney agreed to accept a plea of guilty in exchange for life imprisonment, Judge Herbert Walker would not hear of it. Apparently the show had to go on in spite of the fact that both teams of psychiatrists and psychologists had determined that Sirhan was psychotic to one degree or another. In fact, Dr. Bernard Diamond emphasized Sirhan's susceptibility to induced hypnosis with post-hypnotic suggestion. In his opinion, Sirhan was "pitifully ill, with a demented, psychotic range, out of control of his own consciousness and his own actions, subject to bizarre, disassociated trances . . . programmed . . . to be the instrument of association, and then . . . he actually executed the crime, knowing next to nothing as to what was happening."

Throughout all of this, as it appears in retrospect, no one raised any questions with regard to firearms examinations, the number of bullets fired, the pathways of the bullets fired, nor the reliability of the tests that were reportedly conducted by the Crime Laboratory of the LAPD. Not until Criminalist William Harper of Pasadena, California, raised these questions in 1970 did anyone suspect that something may have been wrong with the firearms determinations initially made by the Los Angeles Police Department.

Harper first raised the question, "How could Senator Kennedy be shot by Sirhan from in front, when, in fact, the Senator had been shot from behind and from the right and at a steep, upward angle?" He then examined the bullets, both those which struck the victims and those which reportedly had been testified by the LAPD from Sirhan's gun. To

his amazement, Harper could not make a match (a positive identification) between these bullets. In fact, he was even unable to match the test-fired bullets reportedly fired by the LAPD from Sirhan's gun.

It was further noted that three of the original test-fired bullets of the LAPD were in an envelope marked Exhibit #55 at Sirhan's trial. However, on the outside of the Exhibit Envelope was identifying data indicating that these bullets had been fired from a gun bearing serial number H-18602, whereas Sirhan's gun bore serial number H-53725. This finding led to the natural inquiry of where could H-18602 be located? It was then discovered that H-18602 had been destroyed in July of 1968, although two years later the LAPD would declare that it was destroyed in 1969 and that the records indicating otherwise were founded on a clerical error.

Whenever any questions were raised about questionable aspects of the investigation as conducted by the LAPD, departmental officials would stonewall all efforts to obtain logical explanations. This was true of the Los Angeles Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. They all refused access to examinations of the original firearms evidence. Consequently, it was necessary to resort to photographs as the next best evidence of what occurred during investigations.

Harper's findings led to other questions. Other forensic scientists, when viewing the Balliscan Photomicrographs of the bullet which lodged in the Senator's neck, could observe only one knurled concentric ring (called a cannelure) around the projectile. Based on these black-and-white Balliscan photos, the possibility existed that another type of bullet may have been used in this instance. Since Sirhan's gun only had Cascade Cartridges in it when it was wrestled from his hand, the obvious conclusion was that the bullet may have come from someone else's gun, using different ammunition. This controversy led to the re-examination of the firearms evidence in this case during the months of September and October, 1975.

The results of this firearms re-examination, following the petition by Paul Schrade and CBS News before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Wenke, were extremely interesting. The court appointed a panel of seven firearms experts. Upon completion of their work, their individual and collective examination reports were filed with the court. Thereafter, the news media, with very few exceptions, announced that this panel of firearms examiners had found that only one gun was involved in the assassination of Senator Kennedy. Yet that was a misrepresentation of the facts! The panel had not so stated. In fact, what the panel did determine was:

a) There was no identification match

between the bullets taken from the victims and Sirhan's gun.

- b) There was no identification match between the LAPD test-fired bullets purportedly fired through Sirhan's gun and the Sirhan gun.
- c) There was no identification match between the victim bullets and the purportedly test-fired bullets of the LAPD.
- d) That some of the test-fired bullets which the panel fired through the Sirhan weapon indeed could be wed to the Sirhan gun, thereby identified as coming from the Sirhan weapon.
- e) That a photomicrograph taken by the LAPD on June 6, 1968, and alleged to be a comparison between Exhibit #47 (the Kennedy non-fatal neck bullet) and Sirhan Trial Exhibit #55 (one of the bullets allegedly test-fired through Sirhan's gun by the LAPD) was mislabeled. Rather, it was a photomicrograph of Exhibit #47 (Kennedy non-fatal) and the bullet removed from one of the victims, Goldstein (Exhibit #52 upon the trial of Sirhan).
- f) That the LAPD-identified "match" between Exhibit #47 and Exhibit #55 was not only in error as to which bullets they were alleged to be, but also that there was, in fact, no match at all—contrary to the position asserted by the LAPD Crime Laboratory Examiner who had made the photomicrographs and the subsequent comparison study.

During the pre-re-examination hearings in September, 1975, the LAPD Crime Laboratory Examiner was questioned concerning the whereabouts of the ceiling panels which had been removed from the Ambassador Hotel. These were finally declared to be missing and no longer available for re-examination. They had been destroyed on June 27, 1969. The same fate apparently occurred to the doorjamb and the wood facing between the doors leading into the pantry.

X-rays of the ceiling tiles which were supposed to have been taken, according to previously sworn testimony, are no longer available. The same fate seemed to affect every questionable piece of evidence in this case. The LAPD overcame the suspicions surrounding this most unusual destruction of physical evidence and property simply by asserting that what was now missing really didn't show anything anyway.

During the recent cross-examination of the court-appointed firearms examiners, the apparent uncertainty of some of the examiners became apparent. One of them stated that he was "subjectively" certain that the victim bullets examined "may" or "could have" come from the Sirhan gun. Another said that he was 99 percent certain that these bullets "may" have come from the Sirhan gun. However,

when asked if he would stake his life on that conclusion, he readily retreated and stated that he would not do so.

One of the interesting things to many of us has been the complete stonewalling of all efforts to get at the truth in this matter. This stonewalling was facing, among others, former New York Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein when he made inquiry. The Los Angeles Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office are all guilty of stonewalling efforts—even now. They have told prospective witnesses not to talk to those of us who are persistently interested in this matter. They have made phone calls to members of their departments in an effort to cut off information and communication. They present a front of cooperation while at the same time they do things like setting dates for hearings at such times when no proper notice could possibly reach the person to whom the notice was sent.

I am not suggesting that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan be exculpated for any wrongdoing. If he committed an act of murder, he deserves to be incarcerated. However, if he was under the influence of someone other than himself (as indicated by the psychiatrist, Dr. Diamond), then a greater question arises. Did he cooperatively engage in the post-hypnotic state or programming of the event itself? If so, he still may be guilty. Yet if there was, in fact, a cooperative effort, of whatever nature, then Sirhan is not the only guilty one in this crime.

The evidence shows that all of the recovered bullets, except the fatal bullet fired into the head of the Senator, were .22 caliber, long rifle, copper-coated, hollow-point, 39-grain bullets, yet none of these bullets can be identified as being fired from Sirhan's gun since they don't match the bullets test-fired from that gun. The LAPD has destroyed the ceiling panels, the doorjamb and wood facing from which bullets were removed, and the X-rays of those ceiling panels were either lost or destroyed. My opinion is the Los Angeles Police Department, The District Attorney's Office, and the City Attorney's Office have concertedly done all within their power to obstruct the attainment of facts, statements, and truth in this case. And as long as the truth is covered up, the case of the murder of Robert F. Kennedy will remain unsolved. ■

A noted lawyer, Dr. Joling lectures around the world on forensic science, law and medicine. Former president of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, he is presently the vice-president of the International Association of Forensic Sciences. He is currently a medico-legal consultant with Med-Sci-Law International Consultants in Medicine and Science. With former Congressman Allard K. Lowenstein of New York, Dr. Joling has recently co-authored a book entitled Nine Bullets in L.A., to be published by Putnam/Berkley.