

## Jury Record Says Girl Stood Smiling by Sirhan

Assassin Fired Wearing  
'Sick-Looking Smile'

By GENE HANDSAKER  
LOS ANGELES (AP)—A shapely mystery girl in a white polka dot dress stood smiling beside Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassin as he fired a pistol with "a very sick-looking smile on his face," a grand jury transcript indicated Thursday.

The New York senator fell mortally wounded early June 5 amid a hail of .22 caliber bullets—a "deliberate...bang-bang cadence" like firecrackers or popping toy balloons, witnesses said, as he passed amid a throng through a hotel kitchen after winning California's Democratic presidential primary election.

Testimony of 22 witnesses at a hearing last Friday was made public when filed with the county clerk by the grand jury that returned a murder indictment against a 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan. He did not testify.

The witnesses included employees of the Ambassador Hotel

— where the shots rang out as Kennedy took a short-cut toward a press room after making a victory speech—as well as some of the five others who were wounded, arresting officers and others.

Their testimony included:

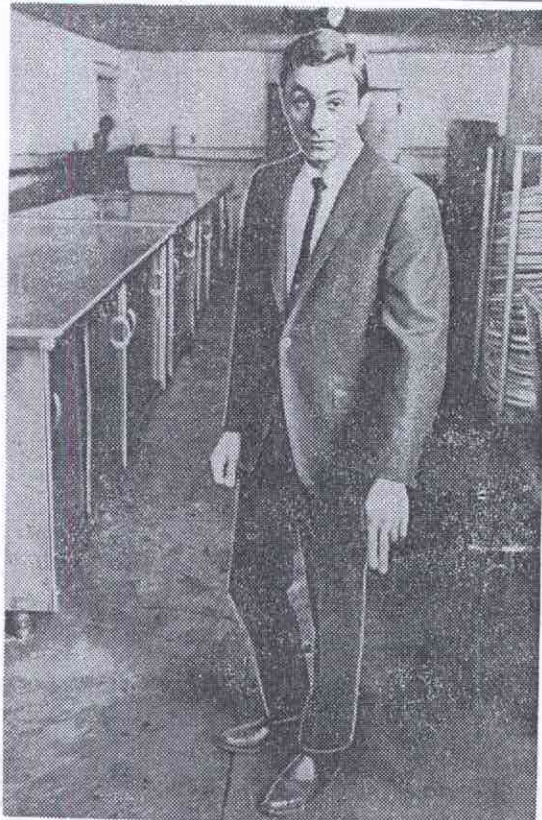
—Kennedy shot. "He was on his way falling, he was falling down. The first shot he kind of reared back, very, very sharply...Both hands went up...He was just about to shake hands."

### TRYING TO ESCAPE

—The stunned, screaming crowd reaction. "The suspect turned and...was trying to escape...People were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean everyone was trying to kill him."

A policeman described Sirhan, en route to jail in a police car after his arrest, as uncommunicative.

Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi, chief county medical examiner who performed a six-hour autopsy on Kennedy's body, gave a different version of medical details to the grand jury than he did to newsmen just after the autopsy.



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
POINTING AT THE SPOT where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was felled by an assassin's bullet eight days ago is Vincent Thomas Di Pierro, a student and part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. His graphic account of the shooting became public Thursday with release of his testimony before the county grand jury which indicted Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for first degree murder.

He said then he found two bullets, two wounds. The transcript quoted him as saying he found three wounds, two bullets, indicating Kennedy was hit three times.

He said the fatal bullet entered behind the right ear and pierced the brain and two others about two inches apart entered the right armpit. One of the latter was found in the neck and the other, he said, exited in the front of the right shoulder.

Noguchi also gave the opinion that the pistol muzzle was "no more than two or three inches from the edge of the right ear." Witnesses at the scene said the

gunman was four to six feet away.

#### TESTIMONY HIGHLIGHT

A highlight of testimony, about "the girl in the polka dot dress," came from Vincent Thomas Di Pierro, a student and part-time Ambassador Hotel waiter, who said he got blood—apparently Kennedy's—"all over my face and glasses."

Di Pierro gave this account:

He noticed the girl "and the accused person" standing on a tray stacker in the kitchen area. Sirhan was holding with his left hand to one of four pipes that are part of the holder.

"The only reason I noticed him, there was a very good looking girl next to him. That was the only reason I looked over there," said Di Pierro.

"...I could not see his right hand; he looked as though he was clutching his stomach, as though somebody had... elbowed him.

"(He was) semi-crouched...I

saw him get down off the tray Stand. The next thing I saw was him holding the gun."

The assailant moved around the hotel captain, and—

"Stuck the gun straight out, and nobody could move. It was—you were just frozen; you didn't know what to do.

"And then I saw the first powdering or plastering. When he pulled the trigger, the first shot, Mr. Kennedy fell down."

When the killer stuck out the gun, "he looked like he was on his tiptoes because he wasn't that tall."

#### FIVE FEET AWAY

Di Pierro was about five feet from Kennedy. He heard "five distinct shots." Actually there were eight, which wounded five bystanders besides Kennedy.

One bystander, "shot in the head, fell in my arms," said Di Pierro. "And then the other boy that got shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me, and they pushed me down, they fell on top of me."

A grand juror asked him more about the girl: "Could you identify her again if you saw her?"

"To some degree, yes sir, I could. I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure—and the dress was kind of—kind of lousy."

"Flousy?"

"Lousy."

"After the shooting...did you happen to see this girl again?"

"No...I only saw her before."

Di Pierro said he didn't ask her her name. "One fellow that was across from...said that he had seen her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name was."

"Could you describe what she was wearing?"

#### BIB IN FRONT

"Yes. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka

#### L.A., FRIDAY MORNING, JUN 23

dots on it. It kind of had—I don't know what they call it—but it's like—looked like a bib in the front, kind of went around."

A grand juror: "A lace dicky, probably."

Di Pierro: "It was like over

the material itself; it was the same as the clothing. And then she was... like I say, they were both on the—standing together."

"Back of the tray stand?"

"Yes. And what happened, he looked as though he either talked to her or flirted with her because she smiled. This is just before he got down."

Question: "So, at least, their association, in proximity of the tray, they are smiling, perhaps—"

Answer: "Together, they were both smiling. As he got down, he was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face. That's one thing—I can never forget that."

Q. "Would you describe the facial characteristics, first of all, of this girl?"

A. "Yes. She had dark hair that was cut, I would say, just above the shoulders... And it just kind of looked like it was messed up, at the time, I mean. She could have changed that—she could have come with curls. I don't know, it was just messed up at the time."

"Her face—facial expression, she had what looked like a short nose. She wasn't too—facially, she wasn't too pretty; she was not that pretty."

#### GOOD FIGURE

"And like I say, figure—she had a very good figure."

Others at the shooting scene had told police they saw a "girl in a polka dot dress" leave. One quoted her as saying "We shot him... We shot Kennedy."

Police issued an all points bulletin, on the basis of the witnesses' description. Several young women came in and said they were wearing polka dot garb, but police said that none fitted the description. One of these women said that she remarked as she ran out of the kitchen, "They shot Kennedy."

Meanwhile, Sirhan—a swarthy young man with curly dark hair, short and slender—was held under constant surveillance in a heavily guarded cell at Central Jail. He is scheduled to enter a plea June 23.

Police who questioned him after the arrest said he declined to discuss the case. After breaking a silence of several hours, they said, he talked coolly and articulately.

Sirhan emigrated to this coun-

try with his family as a boy and lived with his mother and brothers in nearby Pasadena. He had held a variety of odd jobs before his arrest.

Persons who knew him have said he was a passionate partisan of Arab nations in their hostile relations with Israel. Kennedy had spoken out in favor of preserving Israel's national status.

Police announced Thursday the formation of a special 23-man "hand picked" task force to investigate all aspects of the assassination. It is headed by Capt. Hugh Brown, commander of the homicide division.

And the district attorney named three top aides to prosecute Sirhan and work with the task force. They are Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney; David N. Pitts, a deputy district attorney, and John E. Howard, chief of the special investigations division.