

## Excerpts From Testimony Before Jury

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 13—  
Following are excerpts from  
testimony of some of the 23  
witnesses who testified last  
Friday before the grand jury  
that indicted Sirhan Bishara  
Sirhan for the first degree  
murder of Senator Robert F.  
Kennedy. The transcript of  
the grand jury proceedings  
was made public today. Questions were put to the witnesses by various members of the District Attorney's staff.

**VINCENT T. DI PIERRO, 19**  
years old, college student and  
Ambassador Hotel part-time  
waiter.

I got separated from Senator Kennedy by about five feet [as the Senator entered the Ambassador Hotel pantry, where he was shot] and I walked with him up to the ice machine. And it was there that I noticed there was a girl and the accused person standing on what we call a tray stacker.

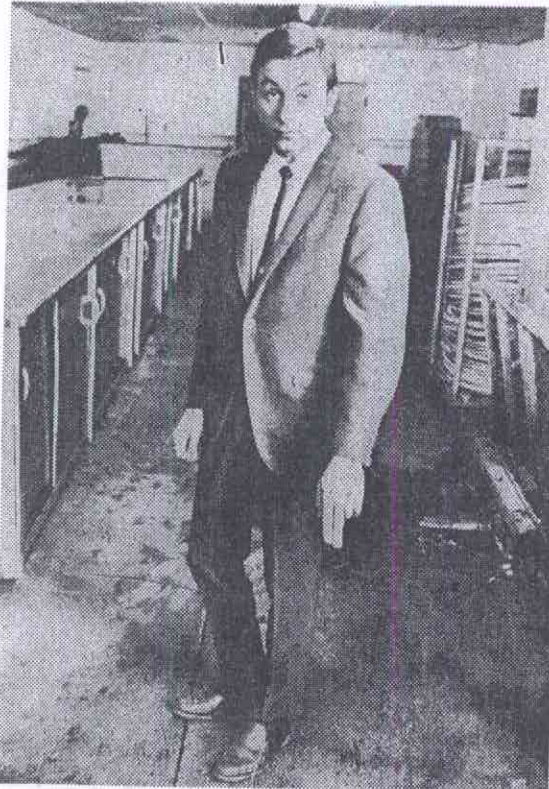
Whether or not the second person was involved, I don't know. . . . The only reason I noticed him—there was a very good-looking girl next to him. . . . He was grabbing on with his left hand [to a pipe on the tray stacker]. I could not see his right hand. He looked as though he were clutching his stomach, as though somebody had elbowed him.

Q. Was he in a straight up position or was he crouched or semi-crouched? A. Semi-crouched. . . . From that moment on, I just looked at the girl, and I saw him get down off the tray stand. And when I went to turn, the next thing I saw was him holding the gun.

Q. How close did—we will call him the suspect—get to the Senator? A. It couldn't have been more than six feet.

Q. How close to the Senator was the suspect when this gun started firing?

A. Four feet—four to six feet. . . . He kind of went around Mr. [Karl] Uecker [an assistant maître d'hotel] and he from here—he looked like



Associated Press

**TESTIFIES ON ASSASSINATION:** Vincent T. Di Pierro, part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, stands at spot where Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot. He appeared before grand jury dealing with the murder.

TIMES, FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 1968

## That Indicted Sirhan for Kennedy

### Murder

—though he pulled his hand out from here and came around. . . . 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.

Q. Did you see what happened to the Senator before you went down? A. He was on his way, falling—he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back very, very sharply.

Q. Did you see any movement of the Senator's arms after the first shot? A. Both hands went up like that [indicating].

Q. As near as you can, will you recall for the jury the events immediately after the shooting? What happened?

A. Well, the suspect turned almost immediately; and after all the shots were fired, he was trying to escape. He tried very, very hard to get away. But Mr. Rafer Johnson [the athlete, a member of the Kennedy party]—and by this time Mr. [Roosevelt] Grier [the athlete, also in the Kennedy party] and Mr. Uecker were all holding him

against the heater. It's the stainless steel table. And people were trying—were hitting him and cursing at him, and it was utter confusion. I mean, everyone was trying to kill him. . . . I tried to help keep the suspect subdued, but it was, you know—wasn't really worth it because everyone else grabbed him already and were beating up on him.

Q. But he was apprehended at this time? A. Yes, almost instantly.

Q. Did some police officers arrive? A. Yes, they did, but at the time involved, I have no idea.

Q. Now going back to just before this shooting, you observed a nice-looking girl [in the hotel pantry where Senator Kennedy was shot]? A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Could you identify her again if you saw her? A. 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.

Q. Flousy? A. Lousy.

Q. Now, after the shooting, you remained at the scene; did you happen to see this girl again? A. No, after the shooting I did not see her. I only saw her before.

Q. You didn't ask her name or anything? A. No, sir, I didn't.

Q. Did any of the fellows or guys you work with by chance—? A. No, no one had, other than myself, had seen her, I don't believe.

Q. You have inquired around, I take it, since? A. I have only talked to one fellow that was across from me, that had seen me, that was with me the whole time.

I asked him, and he said that he had seen her but that he didn't know where she went or what her name was.

Q. Could you describe what she was wearing? A. Yes. It looked as though it was a white dress and it had either black or dark purple polka-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 that kind of went around. It's just like that [indicating].

Q. A lace dickey, probably?

A. It was like over the material itself; it was the same as the clothing. And she was—she—the person who is accused of shooting him was—like I say, they were both on the—standing standing together.

Q. Back of the tray stand?

A. 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.

Q. So at least, their association, in proximity of the tray stand, they are smiling, perhaps—? A. 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. Could 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, just around in here [indicating]. And it just kind of looked like it was messed up, at the time, I mean. She could have come up 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 pretty. And like I say, figure—she had a very good figure.

**JESUS PEREZ**, a kitchen helper at the Ambassador Hotel:

Q. Now, you see the two photographs which are in front of you [pictures of the defendant]. Did you see the person that's in those photographs around the hotel that night? A. Yes. He was talking to me about half an hour before the shooting.

Q. And where were you at that time that he was talking to you? A. In the steam table in the front—in the steam table—I was there, and he was close to me here. And he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy coming that way, coming through that way. And I answer I don't know because—really, I don't know what way he comes.

Q. But he asked you about three or four times? A. Yes, he asked me about three or four times if Mr. Kennedy come through from there, coming out from there. . . . He was there talking with me and other boys. And some Mexican boy, he said something, and the man was—he—he told me, "What he said?" And I tell him, "He is talking about the beautiful girl. He no talking about you." He said, "Oh."

Q. This was about half an hour before the Senator got shot that night or before the shooting got started? A. Yes. We was about half an hour standing there.

Q. Do you remember when you first saw this person? A. Yeah, I remember him. He was there in the steam table, getting some picture, doing something, you—he was standing there.

Q. How early in the night did you see him there? A. I say 15 minutes before 12.

**IRA GOLDSTEIN**, 19, radio newsman:

I was just barely skinned by a bullet . . . in the left thigh. . . . I staggered to a chair . . . and the first thing I said was, "How is Senator Kennedy? What happened to him?"

And this woman walked by, and she said to me, "How dare you talk about my husband that way," and she slapped me across the face.

And I said, "I am sorry, lady, but I was shot, too. I'd like to know how the Senator was . . ." or ". . . is."

And she said, "Oh, I am

sorry, honey," and kissed me. This was Mrs. Ethel Kennedy.

At that time she was not in tears. She was a little hysterical, though, but she wasn't crying.

**ARTHUR PLACENCIA**, policeman, who arrived in the Ambassador pantry a few minutes after the shooting:

Q. Were you in police uniform? A. Yes, sir.

Q. Telling everyone you were taking him [Sirhan] into custody? A. We had to keep telling them, "We are police, step aside."

And after a while we got tired of telling them. We just started pushing. . . . My partner had him from the right, from my partner's right, and the suspect's left, and [Jesse M.] Unruh [Speaker of the

California Assembly] was on the other side—kept hollering, "We don't want another Oswald, we don't want another Oswald."

Because I know I was going to have to make a report on him, I asked him, just like any other suspect, I asked him, "What is your name?" He didn't say anything.

Q. Would he communicate at all with you on the ride to the station? A. Well, when I was giving him—Travis turned around, my partner, White, and told me, "You better give him his rights, partner."

Q. For the subject—or the suspect, of his constitutional rights? A. Yes. So I took out my officer's Field Notebook, and I started reading off the rights. And after I read them off, I asked him, "Do you understand your rights?" And he looked at me, and I asked him again; and then he mumbled something.

So I told him, "Look, I will give them to you again." So I read them off again. Then I asked him again, "Do you understand your rights?" Then he looked at me and said, "Yes."

And then I said, "Do you wish to remain silent?" And he just didn't say anything. Then he looked at me again and he said, "Yes."

Then I said, "Do you wish an attorney present?" Then at that time he just said, "Yes." So after that I didn't ask him anymore.

And then, after that, I asked Jesse Unruh, I said, "By the way, who did he shoot?"

And he goes, "Bobby Ken-

nedey."

And I said, "Oh."

**DR. THOMAS T. NOGUCHI**, coroner of Los Angeles County:

Q. And would you tell us how many wounds there were?

A. A total of three gunshot wounds sir. . . . A gunshot wound in the right mastoid; gunshot wound 2 was found in the back of the right armpit, known as the right axilla; and the gunshot wound 3 was also found very close, approximately—it's about half inch below the gunshot wound No. 2.

Q. So that you would regard wound No. 1 then as being the wound that did cause death, is that right?

A. That's correct sir.

**ARTHUR CARREON**, a Los Angeles playground director.

Q. Did you see some individual there [at the San Gabriel Gun Club] on June 4? A. Yes, I did.

Q. Will you tell us what directed your attention to him? A. Well, David [Montellano] and myself were shooting on the pistol range, and to the left of us there was an individual around five feet away, shooting very rapidly on the range with a revolver. And on the range, you are supposed to shoot and pause, etc, etc.

Q. Is that the person [showing photograph of Sirhan]?

A. Yes. . . . I asked him what type revolver it was. And at first he paused. He didn't say anything, like as if I wasn't—didn't even exist. And then I asked him again.

I said, "Well, what kind of revolver is it?" And he said, "An Iver Johnson."

Q. Did you notice any type of shells around where this person was standing? Could you tell how many rounds

had been fired, or make any estimate as to that? A. I'd say three to four hundred empty casings, he had already used on the range.

Q. Can you recall anything else that was said? A.

Yes, most definitely. . . . [Montellano] asked him," or he told this guy that the reason of mini-Magnum was for accuracy at 150 yards; with a regular bullet, you only get a 100 yards accuracy.