

# The Fred

Vol. 58—No. 151

(AP) LEASED WIRE AND FEATURES

FREDERICK, MD.,

## Kennedy Near

## erick Post

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1968

Press Run

{ Post

14,200

Total

25,800

FORTY

## Death, Suspect

## Held

# RFK Assailant Identified As Sirhan Sirhan

## Was Apprehended With Gun In Hand

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, is a Jordanian who hates Jews and who fell from a horse recently trying to become a jockey, those who knew him said Wednesday.

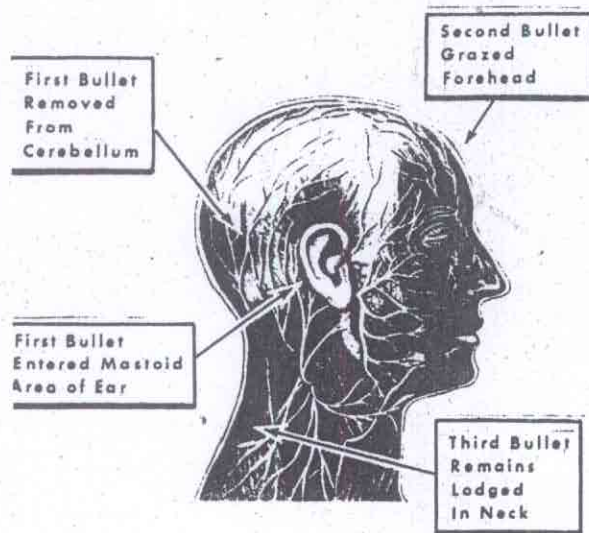
Sirhan was identified by Los Angeles police as the man who gunned down Sen. Robert F. Kennedy moments after the senator thanked supporters for his California primary election victory over Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy.

He "may have been inflamed" by a statement from Sen. Robert Kennedy during a televised campaign debate Saturday night, said a New York committee on American-Arab relations.

During the debate with McCarthy, Kennedy said the United States should supply jets to



**SUSPECT HELD**—Los Angeles police released this picture of a man identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, whom they are holding as the only suspect in the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan is identified as a Jordanian immigrant who was admitted to the U.S. as a permanent resident on Jan. 12, 1957, according to records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. AP Wirephoto



**KENNEDY'S WOUNDS**—This medical drawing shows where and how Sen. Robert Kennedy suffered gunshot wounds early Wednesday in Los Angeles. The senator was hit by three bullets, one of which entered his brain.

Israel.

"It is this disrespect for the human Arab persons which brings about this kind of violence," said Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations.

Under maximum security guard in a hospital ward at the Los Angeles County Central Jail, Sirhan kept mum about the shooting. Police said he is the only suspect.

He was hospitalized with a broken index finger and sprained left ankle suffered in the melee of his capture, said an official source at the jail.

"No. No." sobbed Sirhan's mother. Mary, when she

learned one of her five sons was arrested.

A neighbor in suburban Pasadena, Marguerite Daugherty, said Mrs. Sirhan told her that her son fell from a horse recently on a ranch and "since then I can't talk to him."

"Isn't it terrible?" Mrs. Daugherty remarked.

"Yes," she said Mrs. Sirhan replied. "It's too awful to think about."

"All I know is he is a nice kid," said Said Sirhan in a radio interview. He identified himself as a brother of the accused man.

"I mean this is really something that shook me up that my brother would do such things. I don't think so. I don't think that he would pay attention to such things even."

"When there was trouble between Jordan and Israel, he would become inflamed," said John Shear, who worked with the prisoner at Hollywood Park race track.

"Since I wasn't interested in politics I would not discuss it," said Shear, an assistant trainer.

"But he was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israeli.

"He wanted to be a jockey and the people around the track

(Turn To Page Five)

(From Page One)

advised him to get a job on a farm where he could exercise horses and learn to ride," said Shear.

He was a hot walker, who walked sweaty horses to cool them off.

"During a number of lengthy conversations, Sirhan talked freely and with interest—until asked who he was and anything about Kennedy," said Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin.

He was "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid," Reddin said, but anytime the questions got around to Kennedy he would say, "I prefer to remain incommunicado."

Police said they found a notebook purportedly belonging to the suspect in the Pasadena residence and were trying to determine whether some of the writing in it is related to the shooting.

Some of the writing, described by police as indistinctly written,

is in Arabic and some is in English. Officers said they were trying to find an Arabic interpreter.

Sirhan will appear for a preliminary hearing Monday in Division 40 of Los Angeles Municipal Court before Judge Joan Klein. She will determine whether to turn him over to Superior Court.

Reddin and Mayor Samuel Yorty, who identified Sirhan at a news conference, said they found out who he is by tracing the .22 caliber pistol used in the shooting.

They said Sirhan lived with a brother, Munir "Joe" Sirhan, who works in a Pasadena department store.

Detectives whisked Joe away from the Sirhan home, where the brothers' mother, Mary, also lives.

When he was taken prisoner, Sirhan Sirhan had with him a schedule of Kennedy's June speaking engagements, four \$100 bills and a clipping.

The mayor didn't identify the clipping but he said it was an article critical of Kennedy. It looked like a poem.

In Sirhan's pocket was the key to a 1959 car parked near the Ambassador Hotel where Kennedy was shot after thanking supporters for his California primary victory over Sen. Eugene McCarthy.

The police chief said the car belonged to a hotel employe who worked in the kitchen where Kennedy was gunned down. The employe said he didn't know Sirhan and didn't know how he got the key.

Reddin said Sirhan had no narcotics in his possession when he was apprehended—and apparently wasn't under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

"We have advised him of his rights," Reddin said. "He doesn't want a lawyer now."

Questioning of Sirhan—with a representative of the district attorney's office—will be tape recorded the police chief said.

He said this wasn't done after the Dallas assassination in 1963 of Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy.

Chief Reddin said the gun, a snub-nosed 8-shot Iver Johnson .22 caliber revolver, was the only evidence.

"We are now reasonably sure there's only one" suspect, he said.

Sirhan is 5-feet-5 weighs about 120 pounds and has a swarthy complexion. His hair is wiry or bushy. One neighbor, Brandon Lamont, said he was a handyman around the house.

"He mowed the lawn," said Lamont 21, an accoustical tile

installer who has lived in the area 1½ years.

"He worked on the shed in back of the house."

He described Sirhan as "quiet and conservative." The Sirhan family rarely had noisy get-togethers, he said, but visitors were frequent.

"I don't know exactly how many sons lived there," Lamont said. "I know two did. Maybe a third. Or maybe he visited often."

Sirhan is a Christian, said Pastor Ben Cowles of the Westminster Presbyterian Church near the family home.

But The Rev. Mr. Cowles said Sirhan rarely attended church.

In Washington, records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service showed that Sirhan was born March 19, 1944 in Jordan. He was admitted to the United States as a permanent resident on Jan. 12, 1957, at New York City.

But the Pasadena Star-News said the Sirhan family has lived in Pasadena for 20 years. One sister went to Muir High School. Sirhan attended Longfellow Elementary School and was graduated in 1966 from Pasadena City College.

Sirhan was licensed in 1963 as a "hot walker" for cooling out horses at Hollywood Park. He did not renew the license the next year, records showed.

Fingerprints and his license confirmed Sirhan's identification. Police took all of the records from the California Racing Commission.

First identification came when police traced the pistol in the shooting to Munir Sirhan, who identified the prisoner as his brother.



AP Wirephoto  
**WIFE PLEADS ON KENNEDY'S BEHALF**—Mrs. Ethel Kennedy shouts for bystanders to move back and give breathing space to her critically-wounded husband, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, as he lies on the floor of a kitchen corridor in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday. This picture was made by photographer Harry Benson of the London Daily Express.

## No Improvement Reported; Life Signs Said 'Still Good'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sen. Robert F. Kennedy remained in extremely critical condition Wednesday, failing to show any improvement 12 hours after surgeons removed from his brain all but a fragment of a bullet police said was fired by a mysterious young gunman with a Jordanian heritage.

"Sen. Kennedy's condition is still described as extremely critical as to life," the senator's press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, told newsmen.

"The team of physicians attending Sen. Robert Kennedy," Mankiewicz said in a brief statement, "is concerned over his continuing failure to show improvement during the post-operative period."

But the press aide, answering questions some 17 hours after Kennedy was cut down in a Los Angeles hotel, would not say Kennedy's condition is deteriorating.

"We felt it would be appropriate at this point," he said, "to stress that the critical condition related to survival during this period as well as to the period beyond."

Mankiewicz said although "there might have been some change," he thought Kennedy's life signs — pulse, breathing, blood pressure — were still good.

Earlier, Kennedy underwent a series of medical tests at Good Samaritan Hospital. Then, too, they showed no measurable improvement.

The man accused of the shooting was captured on the spot,

and identified hours later as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, a Jordanian native of Jerusalem, who has lived in nearby Pasadena-Calif., since boyhood.

A team of brain surgeons operated for 3 hours and 40 minutes, striving to save the life of the New York senator, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy. Robert was gunned down at the moment of his greatest victory in the California primary as he campaigned for the White House.

His wife, Ethel, kept vigil in a hospital room near that in which her wounded 42-year-old husband was under intensive care at Good Samaritan Hospital.

The accused assailant was hospitalized, too. Police said he was under maximum security in a hospital ward at Los Angeles County Central Jail.

Sirhan was treated for a broken index finger and a sprained left ankle, suffered in the shooting melee at the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday.

Police officials displaying the weapon at a news conference identified it as an Iver Johnson Cadet, Model 55SA.

Papers on Sirhan's person indicated "this was a planned assassination," Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty said.

Yorty said a notebook apparently belonging to the accused man mentions "the necessity to assassinate Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1968."

The date corresponds to the anniversary of the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli war a year ago.

Yorty, in a copyrighted interview with Radio News International, said the notebook was recovered from Sirhan's rooms with his family's permission.

"The notebook appeared to have been by Sirhan Sirhan," the mayor said.

"There's much scribbling, repeated phrases, many references to Sen. Robert Kennedy, even some references to (retiring UN Ambassador) Arthur Goldberg," Yorty said. "They're not very clear, but there's a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1968."

"I don't know why. He does a lot of writing, pro-Communist and anticapitalist, anti-United States. Evidently he was quite pro-Arab in the Arab-Israeli

(Turn To Page Five)

(From Page One)

matter. He has 'Long live Nas-  
ser' written in there . . ."

Immigration records in Wash-  
ington showed Sirhan was born  
March 19, 1944, in Jordan, and  
was admitted to the United  
States as a permanent resident  
Jan. 12, 1957.

In New York, the secretary  
general of the Action Committee  
on American-Arab Relations  
said the accused assailant "may  
have been inflamed" by a state-  
ment Kennedy made in a tele-  
vised campaign debate Satur-  
day night, advocating support of  
Israel in the Middle East crisis.

Kennedy said during that ap-  
pearance, in which he faced rival  
candidate Eugene J. Mc-  
Carthy, that the United States  
should supply jets to Israel.

"It is this disrespect for the  
human Arab person which  
brings about this kind of vio-  
lence," Dr. Mohammad T. Meh-  
di said in New York.

Mehdi said Sirhan had been a  
student at Pasadena College  
and was active in the Organiza-  
tion of Arab Students.

McCarthy, too, had said in the  
televised joint appearance that  
the United States has a commit-  
ment to support Israel.

Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said  
in Washington at mid-morning  
that he had no evidence of a  
conspiracy in the Kennedy  
shooting.

John Shear, a trainer at Los  
Angeles area race tracks, said  
Sirhan worked for him as a  
groom four years ago, and be-  
came inflamed whenever trou-  
ble broke out between Jordan  
and Israel.

Shear made the statement in  
a report to the Thoroughbred  
Racing Protective Association  
at Hollywood Park. "When trou-  
ble broke out between Jordan  
and Israel, Sirhan would be-  
come inflamed," he said. "He  
was very pro-Jordan and anti-  
Israel."

Marcus McBroom, who wit-  
nessed the shooting, reported  
that the gunman cried:

"I did it for my country. I  
love my country."

The shots fired into Kennedy's  
head signaled a halt to the pres-  
idential campaign. The extent of  
the moratorium was pronounced  
by Blair Clark, campaign man-  
ager of Sen. Eugene J. Mc-  
Carthy, who said he had wired  
all his headquarters: "Close

up."

President Johnson kept in  
touch with Kennedy's situation,  
and talked directly with his  
brother, Sen. Edward M. Kenne-  
dy, D-Mass.

At his medical briefing, Man-  
kiewicz said there were no plans  
for further surgery "at this  
time."

He said two bullets, one frag-  
mented, lodged in Kennedy's  
head. One was relatively intact  
and was not causing major con-  
cern at this point, he said.

Mankiewicz said Kennedy re-  
mained unconscious.

Mankiewicz said he was not  
medically qualified to express  
optimism or pessimism about  
Kennedy's prospects for recov-  
ery.

He said the dangers to Kenne-  
dy involve damage from the  
bullets themselves and from  
bone fragments dislodged by the  
bullets.

Mankiewicz also said there is  
secondary danger from loss of  
blood which could impair the  
blood supply to the brain if se-  
vere enough.

The press secretary spoke  
only of two bullets.

This left unclear the report of  
a third wound, said by doctors  
to have been suffered when  
Kennedy's forehead was grazed  
by a slug.

Police inspector Peter Hagen  
said the gun used in the shoot-  
ing was an eight-shot, .22 cali-  
ber Iver Johnson revolver.

The gun, seized by Kennedy  
bodyguards, was the link police  
used to determine the identity of  
the alleged assailant.

Los Angeles Mayor Samuel  
Yorty said Sirhan was identified  
nine hours after the shooting by  
Sirhan's brother, Munier "Joe"  
Sirhan, with whom he lived in  
Pasadena, Calif. Yorty said Los  
Angeles police traced the Sir-  
hans and another brother, Adel  
Sirhan, through the gun the as-  
sailant used.

Frank Mankiewicz, press sec-  
retary to Kennedy, said the sen-  
ator faces a period of crisis dur-  
ing the next 24 to 36 hours.

Kennedy bodyguards, led by  
two burly Negro athletes, grab-  
bed the gunman, wrestled a  
.22 caliber pistol from Sirhan in  
a kitchen corridor of the Am-  
bassador Hotel.

Yorty said four \$100 bills were  
found on Sirhan, "with which he  
was planning on leaving if he  
could get away." He said Sirhan  
also carried a Pasadena news-

paper clipping unfavorable to-  
ward Kennedy.

Slender and dark-haired, the  
young man accused of shooting  
Kennedy would tell police noth-  
ing about himself or his deed.

Prior to his identification, he  
was secretly arraigned as John  
Doe, on six counts of assault  
with intent to commit murder,  
and was held in \$25,000 bail.

Five others also had been  
wounded in the fusillade.

The shooting shortly after  
midnight, PDT, turned from  
triumph to terror the scene at  
the ornate hotel on Wilshire  
Boulevard, where Kennedy had  
just thanked his cheering sup-

porters for their part in the big-  
gest victory of his White House  
campaign: his capture of the  
California presidential primary.

And in that speech, Kennedy  
called upon those who favor his  
nomination to help him over-  
come "divisions, violence, dis-  
enchantment" in America.

Then he turned, taking a short  
cut through a kitchen passage-  
way, to go to a news conference  
—and met the violence he had  
condemned.

The assailant, apparently  
standing on a box or a can for  
better vantage, swiftly pumped  
all eight shots of his revolver.

Those who were in the corri-  
dor had differing accounts of  
the gunman's words.

Some said he cried as he shot:  
"I can explain. Let me ex-  
plain."

Others told of hearing him  
shout: "I did it for my coun-  
try."

Kennedy was hit three times,  
near the right ear, in the shoul-  
der and the forehead.

It was the slug that hit near  
his ear which plunged into Ken-  
nedy's brain.

## Robert Kennedy's Life Has Been One Of 'Plunge On, Plunge On'

WASHINGTON (AP) — For Robert F. Kennedy, it always has been plunge on, plunge on.

In his public life, from a young government lawyer, to campaign manager, to attorney general, to senator, to his quest for the White House, he has seemed driven by a voice that said plunge on.

It was there even when he relaxed by climbing the toughest mountain, shooting the roughest rapids, skiing the steepest slope.

It was there, too, when with a fixed smile the reserved, essentially shy man plunged into the crowds that mauled his body, ripped off his tie, stole his shoes.

It was from such a crowd that a man with a gun shot Robert Kennedy in the head early Wednesday, minutes after the candidate had addressed supporters, celebrating his victory in the California presidential primary.

More than most men, Robert Kennedy knew the physical dangers present in large crowds, having endured the assassina-

tion of his older brother, President John F. Kennedy, in Dallas 4½ years ago.

The seventh of nine Kennedy children, Robert Kennedy returned from Navy service to graduate from Harvard University in 1948, then went on to the University of Virginia law school, graduating in 1951. He soon went to work as a Justice Department lawyer specializing in graft and tax cases.

After managing his brother's 1952 Senate campaign, he joined the staff of the investigating subcommittee headed by Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, R-Wis., who charged Communist infiltration of the State Department. He quit six months later during the height of the furor over the Army-McCarthy hearings. Then rejoined the staff when Democratic members ended their boycott of the hearings.

A few years later, he gained national prominence as chief counsel for a Senate committee investigating corruption in the Teamsters union. It was during

(Turn To Page Five)

## ROBERT

(From Page One)

this period that union boss James R. Hoffa called Kennedy "ruthless," a word his critics used again and again in later years.

In 1960, Kennedy directed the campaign that made his brother president. He became known as his brother's "no" man, handling unpleasant tasks and drawing criticism away from the candidate.

As attorney general, he was considered the second most powerful man in Washington. He was at his brother's side through the Bay of Pigs fiasco and the Cuban missile crisis.

After the Dallas assassination, Kennedy moved from Massachusetts to New York and, amid cries of "carpetbagger," was elected to the Senate where he pushed for social legislation and became a leading critic of President Johnson's Vietnam policy.

He stayed out of the current presidential race until after Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy's strong showing in the March 12 New Hampshire primary.

"I run to seek new policies," he said as he announced his candidacy. "I run because it is now unmistakably clear that we can change these disastrous, divisive policies only by changing the men who make them . . . I cannot stand aside from the contest that will decide our nation's future."

With his wife Ethel and some of his 10 children at his side, the 42-year-old Kennedy entered and won presidential primaries in Indiana and Nebraska.

Then came defeat in the Oregon primary—the first time a Kennedy had lost an election. But Kennedy plunged on, and won Tuesday in South Dakota and California.

"On to Chicago," he told his cheering supporters in the Los Angeles hotel early Wednesday. Then, with his hand upraised in the "v" for victory sign, he stepped into the crowded kitchen corridor where he was shot.