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NEW ORLEANS, THURSDAY MORNING, .

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BULLET PART IS IN BRAIN

Senator's Condition Is Called 'Extremely Critical'

By WALTER R. MEARS and JOSEPH E. MOHBAT

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

Other stories and pictures concerning Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are in Section 1, Pages 10, 14, 28.

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.

MAN CAPTURED

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

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left ankle, suffered in the shooting melee at the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday.

Police said his identity was traced through the .22 caliber pistol the assailant turned on Kennedy moments after the senator had thanked cheering supporters for his victory in the presidential primary.

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 ap-

parently 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.

MANY REFERENCES

"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-Israel matter. He has 'Long live Nasser' written in there . . ."

Immigration records in Washington 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 on American-Arab Relations said the accused assailant "may have been inflamed" by a statement Kennedy made in a televised campaign debate Saturday night, advocating support of Israel in the Middle East crisis. Kennedy said during that appearance, 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 violence," Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi said in New York.

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

McCarthy, too, had said in the televised joint appearance that the United States has a commitment 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 became inflamed whenever trouble broke out between Jordan and Israel.

WAS PRO-JORDAN

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

Marcus McBroom, who witnessed 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 presidential campaign. The extent of the moratorium was pronounced by Blair Clark, campaign manager of Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, 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. Kennedy, D-Mass.

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

He said two bullets, one fragmented, lodged in Kennedy's head. One was relatively intact and was not causing major concern at this point, he said.

Mankiewicz said Kennedy remained unconscious.

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

BULLET DAMAGE

He said the dangers to Kennedy 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 severe 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



—Right Photo, Copyright, 1968, Paste Photo Independent (REPRO); Left SIRHAN SIRHAN (left) is being held as the would-be assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The gravely wounded senator (right) lies where he fell in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

by a slug.

Los Angeles Mayor Samuel Yorty said the identification finally was made by Sirhan's brother, Munier "Joe" Sirhan, with whom he lived in Pasadena, Calif. Yorty said Los Angeles police traced the Sirhans and another brother, Adel Sirhan, through the gun the assailant used.

Mankiewicz said the senator faces a period of crisis during the next 24 to 36 hours.

Kennedy bodyguards, led by two burly Negro athletes, grabbed the gunman, wrested a .22 caliber pistol from him in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel.

More than nine hours after the shooting, Yorty announced the identification of the alleged gunman. He would not speculate on the man's nationality.

BILLS FOUND

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 newspaper clipping unfavorable toward Kennedy.

Slender and dark-haired, the young man accused of shooting Kennedy would tell police nothing 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 \$250,000 bail.

Five others also had been wounded.

His act, at 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 supporters for their part in the biggest 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 overcome "divisions, violence, disenchantment" in America.

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

Police inspector Peter Hagen said the gun used in the shooting 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.

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

None of the other wounded was hurt as critically as the senator.

Those who were in the corridor had differing accounts of the gunman's words.

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

Others told of hearing him shout: "I did it for my country."

WAVE OF SHOCK

The deed sent a wave of shock through the world's capitals, and brought to a halt amid confusion and dismay the campaign for the White House.

Kennedy was hit three times, near the right ear, in the shoulder and the forehead.

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

Kennedy was first taken to Los Angeles Central Receiving Hospital. The doctor who treated him there, Victor Baz, said the senator "was practically dead" when he arrived.

He was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital and there, the team of six surgeons began operating at 3:12 a. m., PDT. When their work was done, he was pronounced in "extremely critical condition."

All but a fragment of the bullet was removed from his brain, Mankiewicz said. The surgery was said to have been successful in that its primary goal, removal of most of the slug, was accomplished.

Mankiewicz said a second bullet, considered to have inflicted less serious injury, remained in the back of Kennedy's neck.

He said vital signs such as pulse and breathing were in good order, but there "may have been some impairment of

the blood supply to the center of the brain."

Mankiewicz said that center controls the pulse, blood pressure and tracking of the eyes, but not the process of thinking.

The scene of turmoil, tears and hysteria which followed the shooting was televised live by cameras which had just carried Kennedy's victory talk on the California race.

Kennedy and his assailant were out of sight of the television cameras.

Across town, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., the man Kennedy defeated in the California contest, led his supporters in silent prayer after the shooting. Wednesday, McCarthy went to the hospital.

SCENE OF CHAOS

The shock of the shooting quickly turned the roomful of some 2,000 election night celebrators into a scene of chaos.

With startling speed, the gunman fired all the eight shots in his pistol, hitting Kennedy and bystanders.

Kennedy fell to the floor. Blood gushed from his head.

His wife, Ethel, had been at his side during the victory pronouncement. Walking from the microphone, Kennedy had looked around, as if searching for her.

The shots brought pandemonium. There were shrieks of "God, God, not again." There were curses, too.

"Get a doctor," someone shouted. "Please get a doctor." A doctor administered emergency treatment. A priest said he held a rosary toward Kennedy and the senator clutched it,

but the crush of people came between them.

Kennedy was wheeled on a stretcher to the hotel service elevator, taken by ambulance to Central Receiving Hospital.

There, The Rev. Thomas Peacha administered last rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

Baz said Kennedy at first had no pulsebeat. The doctor said he administered a closed cardiac massage, gave Kennedy oxygen

and adrenalin, and slipped a tube into his mouth to facilitate breathing.

Mrs. Kennedy was with her husband.

"She didn't believe that he was alive, sort of because she could see that he wasn't responding," the doctor said. "So when we began to get a heart-beat, I put the stethoscope in her ears so she could listen."

At the ornate Ambassador Hotel, the gunman was in police hands.

Roosevelt Grier, giant Negro lineman of the Los Angeles Rams, held the assailant, smashed the man's hand against a serving table, trying to force loose the gun.

It fell free.

Grier, Olympic athlete Rafer Johnson and Kennedy body-guard William Barry hauled the assailant away from the fallen senator.

"Kill him," a man shouted.

Police took over, hustled the assailant at gunpoint through the lobby of the rambling old hotel. "Lynch him, lynch him," shouted people in the crowd.

But police rushed the man past the entrance to the Coconut Grove night club, down the

stairs and off to the Central Jail.

SUSPECT SULLEN

The suspect was sullen and silent through the early hours of police questioning. "He would not speak except once he said 'yes,' said Police Chief Thomas Reddin.

Later he began to talk, but not about himself or the shooting.

Reddin said he was "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

Whenever the questioning came to the shooting, Reddin said, the man would reply only:

"I prefer to remain incommunicado."

The police chief said the key to a 1959 automobile, parked near the hotel, was found in the gunman's pocket. He said the car belonged to a hotel employe who worked in the kitchen.

Reddin said Kennedy had twice been offered and twice declined Los Angeles police protection during his campaign.

After the shooting, President Johnson ordered the Secret Service to guard all presidential candidates. And Congress swiftly went to work to approve the step.

McCarthy said the nation bears "a burden of guilt" for the shooting of Kennedy. He suspended his own campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

So did Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, who was in Colorado Springs, Colo., at the time of the shooting.

At Sirhan's anonymous, se-

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SEN. KENNEDY

Continued from Sec. 1, Page 2
cret arraignment, the judge asked:

"John Doe — is that your name?"

"Doe," the suspect replied.

"What is your true name?"

"Doe."

In the complaint, the suspect was described as "male Caucasian, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 140 pounds, swarthy complexion, black wiry hair, brown eyes." The gunman had appeared in the kitchen area at the Ambassador as Kennedy spoke. A waiter said the man spread a sheaf of sketches out on a stainless steel table there.

In Washington, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said the FBI was investigating every angle of the case and "according to information that I have at this moment we have no evidence of conspiracy."

Kennedy aides said six of the senator's 10 children were being flown back to Washington in an Air Force plane arranged by Humphrey.

The actual surgery on Kennedy was performed by Drs. Maxwell Ambler of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School, and Nat Downes Reid and Henry Cuneo of the University of Southern California Medical School.

It was Cuneo who was quoted as talking grimly of the outlook.

Dr. Lawrence Pool of New York said Cuneo did so in a conversation with him.

SERIOUS DAMAGE

Pool said there evidently was

serious damage to the mid-brain, which deals with the functions of motion and sensation, and with blood pressure, breathing and heart rate.

"So it's a very critical area and this was injured and this is why I fear—as Dr. Cuneo indicated—the outcome may be extremely tragic," Dr. Pool said.

President Johnson was awakened and told of the shooting early Wednesday in Washington. "There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy," he said.

Kennedy's parents, former Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy and his wife, Rose, were told of the assault when they arose at their home in Hyannis Port, Mass.

Asked how they had taken the news, Ann Gargan, a niece, replied:

"How would you take it if you were told another son had been shot in the head?"

Her voice broke.

"It's terrible," she said. "We are praying."

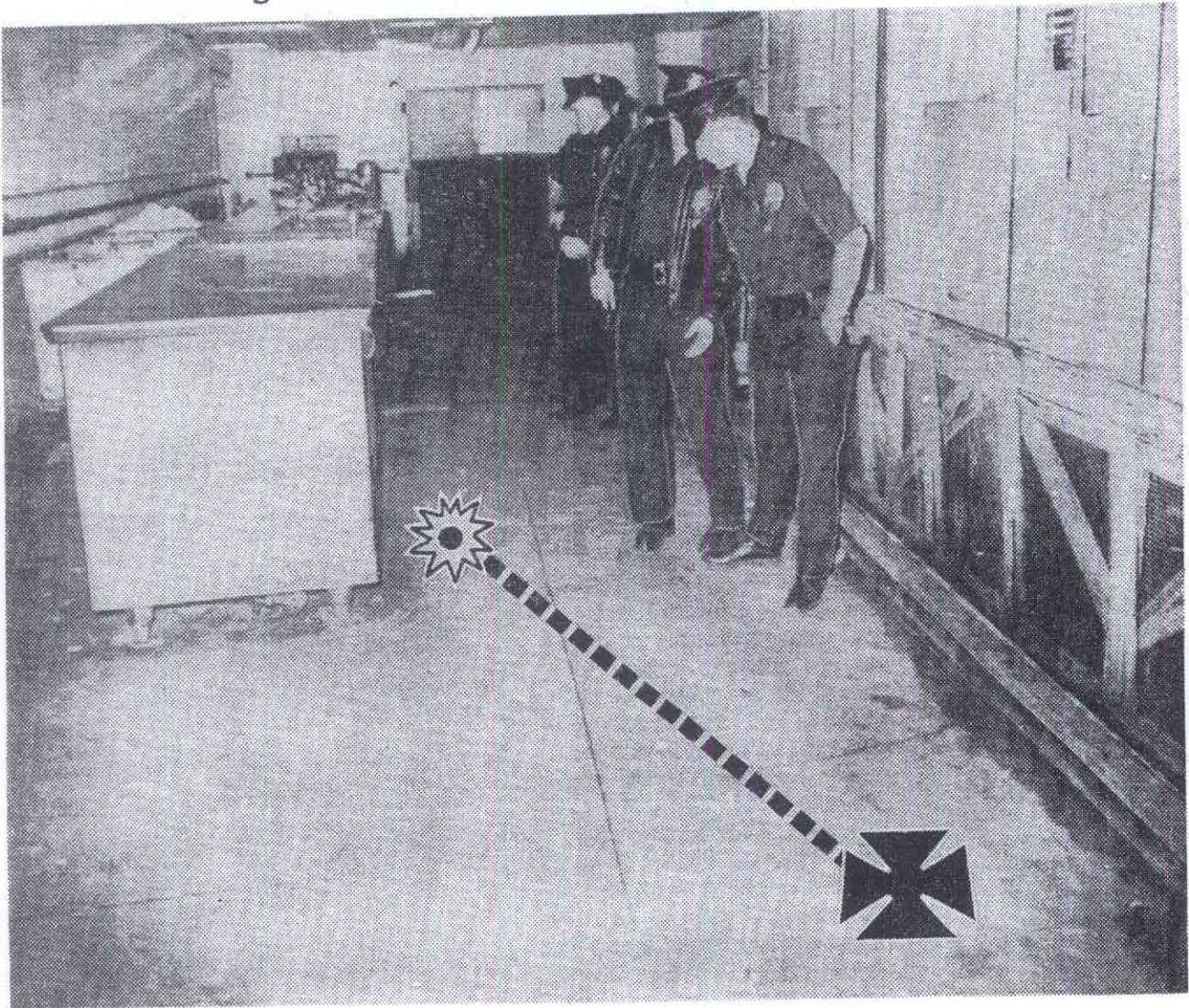
"God help us," said a soldier in Vietnam. "What the hell is going on back there?"

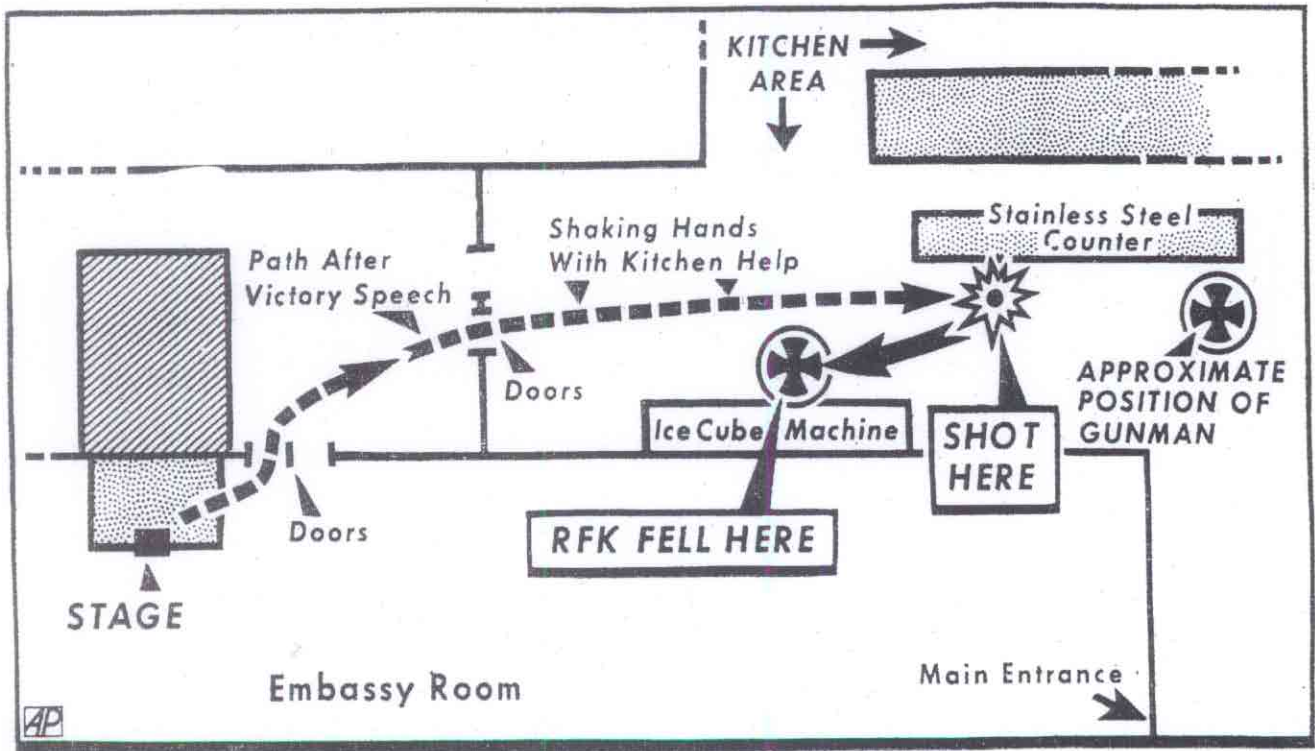
President Charles de Gaulle of France asked to be kept informed of developments.

Pope Paul VI told nearly 10,000 pilgrims at an audience of the shooting. Cries of "Oh, no," filled St. Peter's Basilica.

THE TIMES-PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, LA., THURSDAY MORNING,

Shooting Scene in Kitchen of Los Angeles Hotel





SYMBOLS on photo and map indicate the spots where Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot and where he fell seriously wounded. Policemen view the area next to a stainless steel counter where two bullets struck him in the head. The shoot-

ing occurred in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles shortly after Kennedy delivered a victory speech from the stage in the Embassy Room. —AP WIREPHOTO.

Gravely Wounded Kennedy Lies on Floor



SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY lies critically wounded on the floor of the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles after he was felled by a would-be assassin's bullets.

—Copyright, 1968, Pasadena Independent-Star News.
He was removed to the Central Receiving Hospital and later transferred to the Good Samaritan Hospital for surgery.

Senator Arrives at Central Receiving Hospital



SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY arrives at Central Receiving Hospital in Los Angeles Wednesday. He was first taken to this hos-

pital but was later transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital where he underwent brain surgery for removal of one of two bullets.

—AP WIREPHOTO.

3 DA STAFFERS MEET LAWYERS

Question of Depositions Is Unanswered

Three members of District Attorney Jim Garrison's staff were present at the office of attorney William J. Wegmann Wednesday, but Wegmann would not say later whether they answered questions by deposition in the Clay L. Shaw case as they had been federally ordered to do.

Louis Iyon, James L. Alcock and Numa Bertel, all Garrison assistants, appeared at the American Bank Building office of Shaw's attorney shortly after 11 a. m. in the wake of earlier federal authorization allowing Shaw's counsel to take depositions for Shaw's defense.

On the other hand, Garrison earlier ordered members of his staff to disobey the federal court directive ordering them to answer questions of the defense attorneys.

Asked Wednesday afternoon whether the three answered attorneys' question, Wegmann replied, "I'm not talking about it, period," and cited federal court rules which prohibit discussing the case out of court.

Shaw, 55, has been charged with taking part in a plot to kill President John F. Kennedy in 1963.

Others present at Wegmann's

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3 DA STAFFERS MEET LAWYERS

Continued from Page 1

office Wednesday morning were his brother, Edward F. Wegmann, Irvin F. Dymond and Sal Panzeca, also defense counselors for Shaw.

LETTER QUOTED

Garrison's order, issued in letter form Tuesday to staff members engaged in the investigation of the Kennedy murder, follows:

"As you know, the United States District Court now has prevented us from going to trial as scheduled in the case against Clay Shaw. At the same time, subpoenas have been issued through the same court authorizing Mr. Shaw's lawyers to question members of this staff by deposition. This unprecedented action by the federal court has the effect of converting the trial of a defendant in a Louisiana court into an investigation of the district attorney's staff by defense lawyers.

"This is to inform you that the action of the United States District Court in blocking the Shaw trial and converting it into a fishing expedition for the defense lawyers is absolutely illegal and is not supported either by law or custom.

"The action by this federal court continues the obstruction and interference which we have received in this case from the outset, beginning with the unprecedented announcement of the attorney general of the United States that the defendant has been 'cleared' and proceeding through a series of federal actions too numerous to be described here.

"I am sure that each of you knows as well as I do the cause of this program of obstruction by the United States government. In the course of doing our duty in Orleans Parish, we came across evidence that the investigation by the United States government of the assassination of President Kennedy was neither complete nor honest. In time we learned that individuals connected with the Central Intelligence Agency were involved in the assassination of the President.

"We learned further that a number of high officials of the United States government were, in effect, acting as accessories after the fact in trying to conceal the truth about the President's murder. It became clear

that the United States government was doing everything in its power to prevent the facts from becoming known by the citizens of the United States.

"The recent order by the United States District Court blocking our trial of Mr. Shaw is, in my judgment, simply an extension of the program of interference we have met with from the United States government. It is an unauthorized and indefensible invasion of the legal processes of the state of Louisiana by the federal government.

"The position of this office is that we will not accept nor acknowledge such lawless use of power, despite the color of law given it by the pretense that there is some 'question' for the federal judiciary to examine, nor will we cooperate with illegal fishing expeditions by the defense counsel, even though authorized by the same United States District Court.

"We have no concern about answering any relevant questions the defense lawyers may be able to think of, but these will be answered in the court of the state of Louisiana where actual jurisdiction exists, and not in federal court which has seized the case without any legal right to do so.

"This is to instruct you that you are to refuse to recognize in any way this illegal and unauthorized invasion of the operation of our office by the federal government. For those of you who are served with a subpoena to appear at depositions and answer questions by defense attorneys, give them your name, your office rank and your Social Security number—and nothing more.

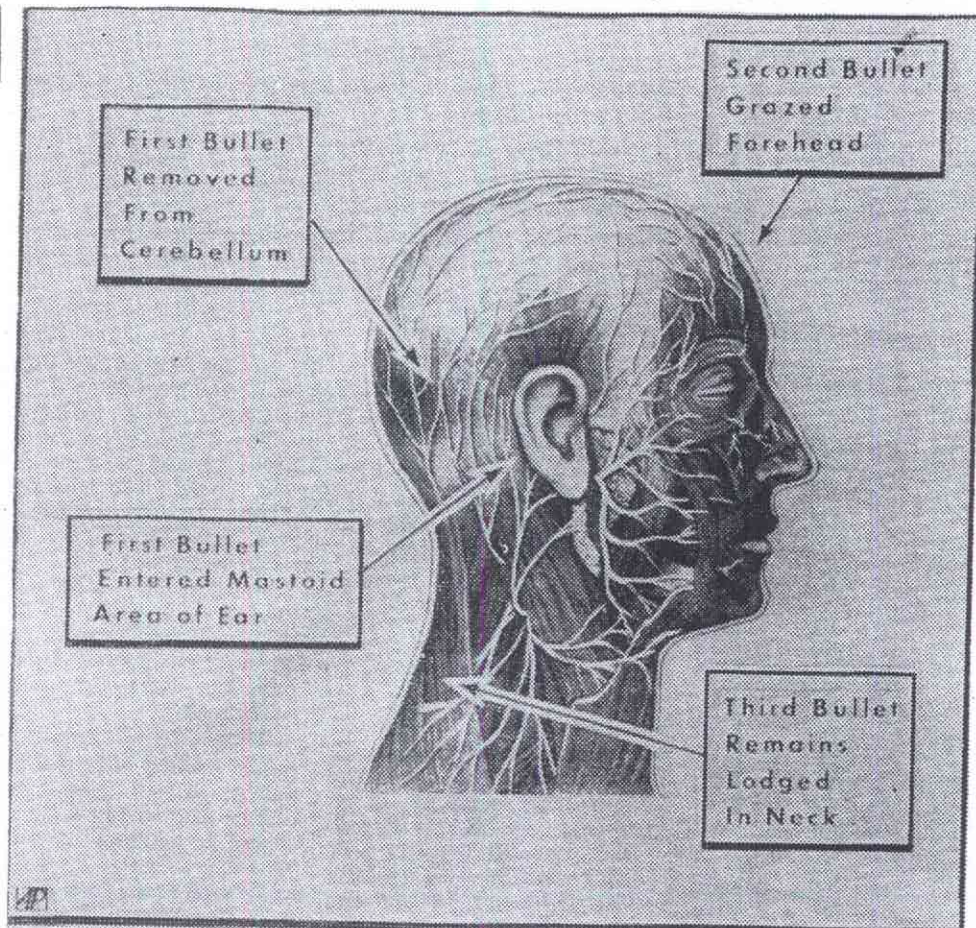
"You are not to lend substance to this power play by the United States government by taking any action which would constitute recognition of the illegal federal seizure from our hands of a case which we were about to bring to trial in the State Criminal District where it belongs.

"The position of this office can be summed up very briefly: We are ready for trial in this matter, we continue to be ready for trial and we strongly oppose this outrageous federal intrusion into the processes of justice of a Louisiana court.

"The United States District Court's action in cancelling our scheduled trial date is plainly

illegal, and no member of this staff is to compromise or cooperate in any way with this totalitarian display of power by the federal government."

Senator Hit by Three Bullets, One in Brain



THIS MEDICAL drawing shows where and how Sen. Robert F. Kennedy suffered gunshot wounds in Los Angeles. The senator was

hit by three bullets, one of which entered his brain.

—AP WIREPHOTO Drawing.

had continued our songfest for another hour or so, including some robust marches that required one and all to parade noisily around the senator's living room.

I asked Dutton how he felt, and he said: "When I told the

senator what went on in his suite last night, he was like a little boy who missed out on something."

Robert Francis Kennedy did not miss out on what went on. And because he did not, his last hour of political triumph

perhaps his most satisfying because it was a solid comeback — became another hour of mindless tragedy in a nation that cannot or will not keep weapons of death from the hands of madmen who walk its streets.

(©, 1958, Newhouse National News Serv.)

The Kennedy Shooting

(An Editorial) 5-1 6/5/68

A nation recoils at the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. What has happened to this land where law is supposed to be above man?

Is it? In fewer than five years, a President has been assassinated, civil rights leaders Dr. Martin Luther King and Medgar Evers have fallen at assassin's hands, and now Sen. Kennedy has fallen.

Public appeals are heard which are incitement to riot, to disobey law. Churches and synagogues are burned or bombed, cemeteries are defiled, the end of a rising wave of crime is not in sight.

The harvest of crime and violence and injustice—all alien to this nation—is abhorrently abundant and will remain so until a new climate born of respect for law, order and man's dignity pervades America.

The Kennedy Assault

(An Editorial)

The shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has shocked Americans everywhere and is being noted internationally as another of those incredible and recurring assaults here on the lives of prominent public men.

Our sympathy combines with that of millions of others for Bobby Kennedy in the battle for life, and for his family in its anguish and pain.

Beyond the shock of what has taken place, there is perplexity. Why this murderous assault on Senator Kennedy, undertaken without regard for the safety of others (five other people were wounded) and without much chance that the attacker himself would escape? Nothing indicates that any personal injury or grudge figured in it. As a political force, Mr. Kennedy was one United States senator among 100. He wasn't a President, guiding or dictating national policy, and hasn't been accorded as much as an even chance for the Democratic nomination.

Why Robert Kennedy became the victim of attack is no more apparent than what has been behind the thinking of some other murderous plots or attacks on prominent people.

We believe that an explanation is to be found in the growth of major crime, and the reckless abandon with which the criminal element takes chances with its liberty and life for practically nothing in return. Certainly the spirit of lawlessness grows in a climate of weak law enforcement and the absence of retribution.

Thinking about crime motivation and about the growing disrespect for law won't help Sen. Kennedy. It may emphasize to the people of the United States that their nation has been and continues to move in a dangerous direction and cause them to demand more resolutely firm measures to instill greater respect for life and liberty under law.

Johnson Exhorts Nation to Shun Way of Violence

By JERRY T. BAULCH

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson calling on the nation to “put an end to violence—and to the preaching of violence,” named a special commission Wednesday night to search for ways to “eliminate the cause of these aberrations.”

The President went on radio and television to declare he was “shocked and dismayed” by the critical wounding of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles. He said he is “as deeply disturbed as you are by lawlessness and violence in our country—of which this tragedy is the latest spectacular example.”

He said 200 million Americans did not strike Kennedy any more than they struck down President John F. Kennedy in 1963 or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April, “but those awful events gave us ample warning.”

“In a climate of extremism, or disrespect for law, or contempt for the rights of others, violence may bring down the very best among us,” Johnson said.

“And a nation that tolerates violence in any form cannot expect to be able to confine it to minor outbursts.”

Johnson said, “We cannot, we must not tolerate the sway of violent men among us. We must not permit men filled with hatred, and careless of innocent lives, to dominate our streets and fill our homes with fear.

“We cannot sanction the appeals of violence no matter what its cause, no matter what the grievance from which it springs.

“There is never—never—any justification for violence that tears at the fabric of our national life: That inspires such fear in peaceful citizens that they arm themselves with deadly weapons; that sets citizen against citizen or group against group,” the President went on.

“A great nation can guarantee freedom for its people, and the hope of progressive change only under the rule of law,” he said.

“Let us—for God’s sake—resolve to live under the law. Let

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SHUN VIOLENCE

Continued from Page 1

us put an end to violence—and to the preaching of violence.”

Johnson said he is naming the special commission to “look into the causes, the occurrence and the control of physical violence across the nation—from assassination motivated by prejudice, ideology, politics and insanity—to violence on our city streets and even in our homes.”

The commission, he said, will consist of Dr. Milton Eisenhower, brother of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower; Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich.; Sen. Roman L. Hruska, R-Neb.; Rep. Hale Boggs, D-La.; Rep. William M. McCulloch, R-Ohio; Roman Catholic Archbishop Terence J. Cook of New York; longshoreman-philosopher Eric Hoffer of Los Angeles; former Ambassador Patricia Roberts-Harris; Judge Leon Higginbotham and William E. Jenner Jr., a Chicago lawyer.

In naming the commission, Johnson said it will try to find out:

“What in the nature of our people and the environment of our society makes possible such murder and violence?”

“How does it happen?”

“What can be done to prevent assassination to protect public figures?”

“What can be done to eliminate the basic causes of these aberrations?”

Johnson said “supported by suggestions and recommendations of criminologists, sociologists and psychologists—all of our medical and social sciences—we hope to learn why we inflict such suffering on ourselves and—I hope and pray—how to stop it.”

In referring to the Kennedy assassination attempt, Johnson again urged Congress to pass his gun control proposal. He said it would not end violence but would cut it down.

'I Heard Four or Five Shots...'

By JULES WITCOVER

(The Times-Picayune National Service)

LOS ANGELES—I was walking about 30 feet ahead of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy through the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel when I heard four or five shots ring out.

I thought at first they were firecrackers, and it ran through my mind what an idiotic stunt, considering what had happened to President Kennedy.

Then, suddenly I realized what they were and turned. I saw Roosevelt Grier, the huge lineman of the Los Angeles Rams, rushing at a man with black, bushy hair and dark complexion, wearing a blue shirt and grey trousers.

Others came and helped Grier pin the man against a steel counter-top.

Behind Grier, and to the left, Robert Kennedy lay on his back, his head covered with blood. His lips were parted, his eyes open and staring. I could see he was alive, and in another moment a crowd of aides and photographers were around him.

The room was filled with shrieks and obscenities. Women pulled at their hair and men rushed at the would-be assassin, pounding him with their fists. The man struggled wildly and the throng of men holding him,

even the gigantic Grier, had trouble restraining him.

I went up and saw he was still holding a pistol in his hand, and some of the men had his arm pinned to the countertop. It must have been several minutes before they got the gun away from him.

CROWD ANGRY

The crowd around Kennedy was thick and angry now, and the television cameramen pushed in, still photographers behind them. A woman photographer was beside herself and could not work. She tried to get her colleagues away.

"For God's sake, get back," she yelled. "Give him a chance."

The cameraman turned and said: "Get away. This is history." And he went on with it.

Now I could see Kennedy better; and the blood had been wiped from his face, but there was still plenty on his right hand, which clutched his stomach. His shirt had been opened to the waist by now.

It now had been about five minutes since the shooting, shortly after midnight, and still there were no police in sight. Two of Kennedy's press aides, Richard Drayne and Hugh Mc-

Donald, tried to get the cameramen out, but most stayed.

In another few minutes, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, wife of the senator, came in with a staff aide. She had been on the platform in the hotel's Embassy Room where only moments earlier a grinning, prankish winning candidate had thanked his supporters and with delight, had also thanked his dog Freckles, whose presence in the campaign had been derided by his foe, Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy.

HER FIRST LOOK

Now Mrs. Kennedy got her first look at her husband.

"Oh, my God," she said, in a half-whisper, and she moved in — quietly, tenderly, in sharp, punishing contrast with the pandemonium around her.

She kneeled next to Sen. Kennedy and took his hand. He turned his head and seemed to recognize her. She knelt there in her orange-and-white miniskirt dress, on both knees, stooped over onto the hard grey concrete floor. She appeared to be whispering to him, or perhaps praying.

At one point, Mrs. Kennedy rose and pleaded with the cameramen to leave. "Please go, please go," she said plain-

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'I HEARD FOUR OR FIVE SHOTS...'

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tively. She was dry-eyed and under control.

Incredibly, there seemed to be no doctor in the area, either, and aides kept calling for one, all the while trying to clear the crowd. I looked at my watch for the first time then—and it was 12:21 a. m. and still no police.

'PUT IT AWAY'

Then an officer did come into the long narrow room, but he appeared to be a private security officer. He drew his handgun, and one of the Kennedy aides turned, saw the gun, and told him sharply: "No. Put it away. Get these people the hell out of here."

For McDonald, the young pink-cheeked apprentice press aide, the scene was finally too much. He began to cry. Bill Barry, the tall, red-faced former football player whose campaign job has been to hold Kennedy on the back of his convertible cars in motorcades, turned to McDonald and told him: "Stop crying and do your job."

It was not a bitter tone. It was more the firm direction of a field officer under fire doing his job—warding off emotionalism that could interfere with the task at hand.

Grier and the others now had pulled the would-be assassin down on the counter-top about 15 or 20 feet from where Kennedy lay. Some were still pummeling him with fists and yelling obscenities. Others were coming up and trying to strike the man.

Somebody had him in a headlock, and his eyes were wide open. "My leg! My leg!" he yelled at one point.

"— your leg!" one of his captors shouted, and punched at him.

'HE'S SICK'

Just to the right, a young woman, a Kennedy worker, held a man's head in her hands as he sobbed. "He's sick, he's sick," she whispered, apparently referring to the man who shot

Kennedy.

The cameramen and the photographers were still crowded around the fallen senator. Jesse Unruh, state assembly speaker and Kennedy's leading supporter in California, suddenly jumped up on the table counter, waving his arms at the cameramen.

"Get the hell out of here," he shouted, pushing at them. They gave way, and Unruh calmed down.

Finally, the police were there, and Kennedy was carried out, low to the ground, through the back kitchen. Where he had lain, there was a pool of blood and a piece of ice apparently used as a coagulant.

Some said later they heard him say he as he was lifted to the stretcher:

"Oh, no, no, don't."

I could see now there was another man shot, lying about four or five feet behind where Kennedy had been. I went over and saw he had a press badge on him, but I didn't recognize him. He, too, had blood around his face.

MAN TAKEN AWAY

The police came and took the man away. Rosy Grier, finally relieved of his burden, put his head down on the steel tabletop where he had pinned the man,

and he sobbed. This hulking member of the Ram's "Fearless Foursome" cried like a baby, soft and quiet, finally he stood up, the tears running down his black face, and let his friends lead him into a back room.

There, he sat next to a television cameraman — a tough, muscular, hard-bitten veteran of the news business with the face of a wrestler—and each sobbed, heads in hands.

I went out into the Ambassador lobby, where a great crowd of people, were standing in shock, or milling around quietly, bewildered. A woman put her head down on the American Airlines counter and said, "My God, My God. What kind of country is this?"

A television personality, one of those hundreds whose face is familiar but whose name isn't, came along saying, "He's okay, he's okay," and some applause broke out. But the shock was still there, and the disbelief.

I realized now that I must have walked past the man who shot Kennedy just seconds before he fired the pistol. Kennedy had just finished speaking in the Embassy Room, and I had gotten down off the platform, and started walking ahead so that I would be in the press room, where Kennedy was heading to talk to reporters, before he arrived.

EARLY EVENTS

About 20 minutes before the shooting, I stood on the approximate spot where Kennedy was felled and waited for him to come in the way he later was carried out.

A TV cameraman with a portable camera on his shoulder backed into view, and then some Kennedy aides and finally the senator, natty and smiling in a dark blue suit and blue tie. I stepped forward and, as he came by, shook his hand and

congratulated him on his California primary victory.

He thanked me, and I kidded him for a moment about a TV appearance earlier with CBS newsman Roger Mudd, in which Mudd had used a number of harsh expressions in asking him questions — expressions like: Was Vice President Humphrey practicing “shoddy politics,” and could delegates be “squeezed” to support him.”

Each time Mudd had used an expression, Kennedy had grinned, because the senator was laboring to shake the impression many voters were said to have of him as “ruthless.”

Once Kennedy shook his head and said to Mudd: “Roger . . . those expressions.” And at the close, Mudd thanked Kennedy and wisecracked: “I think I’ll work on my language.”

‘VERY RUTHFUL’

With all this in mind, I told Kennedy as he came by that I thought he had been “very truthful” on Mudd’s show. He laughed, took a few steps, then turned around and said: “I’m getting better all the time.”

Then Kennedy walked among screaming crowds and onto the platform. As he talked into the microphone, Fred Dutton, his closest traveling aide, came up and stood next to me.

Dutton had been a member of a late-hour singing group of reporters and Kennedy staff workers who were routed out of press aide Drayne’s room by an irate hotel guest the night before, and who took refuge in Senator and Mrs. Kennedy’s suite, the two of them having gone to stay with friends.

Dutton, myself and the others

FUNCTION LIMIT SAID POSSIBLE

Doctors Speculate as to
Senator's Future

By RALPH DIGHTON

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A grim possibility that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy might face an indefinite life of limited usefulness if he survives an assassin's bullet emerged Wednesday after first reports on the extent of brain damage.

Dr. John D. French, director of the Brain Research Institute at the University of California at Los Angeles, said in an interview that reports of injury to the central part of the brain raised grave doubts about Kennedy's recovery.

In New York, Dr. Lawrence Pool, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center neurosurgeon, said Dr. Henry Cuneo, one of the men who operated on Kennedy, had authorized him to give this version of the injury.

"There was evidently serious damage to the cerebellum, the part of the brain on the extreme back of the head, on the right side; also to part of the right cerebral hemisphere, and also to the mid-brain, which is the main cable connecting the brain itself with all the rest of the body.

LIFE FUNCTION

"This mid-brain deals with not only the function of motion in the arms and legs and sensation to the body but also with eye movements and even the life function itself, such as blood pressure, breathing, heart rate.

"So it's a very critical area, and this was injured, and this is why I fear—as Dr. Cuneo indicated—the outcome may be extremely tragic."

Dr. Pool said he was greatly fearful of the outcome, both in terms of Kennedy surviving and being in normal condition if he does survive.

Dr. French, also a neurosurgeon, said "if the central core, or brain stem, is damaged severely the outlook may be worse than if almost any other part of the brain were injured.

"Investigations at the insti-

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