

**KENNEDY'S**

**CONDITION**

**'EXTREMELY**

**CRITICAL'**

# Gunman Nabbed, Finally Identified

SPORTS-MARKETS  
**FINAL**  
NEWS BULLETINS

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was fighting for his life today in an "extremely critical" condition after a close-mouthed gunman shot him in the head at a victory rally here early this morning.

One doctor said today he fears "the outcome may be extremely tragic." Doctors said the bullet caused serious damage to the cerebellum, the part of the brain in the back of the head.

**THE MAN ACCUSED OF THE SHOOTING** was captured on the spot and later identified as Sirhan Sirhan, 24, a Jordanian born in Jerusalem.

The man was captured by bystanders at the shooting scene in a hotel, but refused to identify himself or discuss the shooting with police. He was identified 10½ hours later.

Mayor Sam Yorty and Police Chief Tom Reddin told a news conference that Sirhan, 24, was traced through the .22 pistol used to wound Ken-

## Troops on Alert After Shooting

WASHINGTON (AP) — Several thousand Army troops have been placed on alert as a precautionary measure as a result of the attempted assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it was learned today. Officials emphasized that at this point no troop deployments are planned but "we're watching the situation" in case violence should break out in Los Angeles, Washington or elsewhere. Officially, the Defense Department refused to discuss the matter except to say that "the Army has taken certain prudent actions." The assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. touched off riots in a number of U.S. cities two months ago, and thousands of troops were ordered out to help restore order.

nedy and five others, less seriously, and identification was made through a brother, Adel Sirhan, of Pasadena.

**EVEN AFTER THE IDENTIFICATION** Yorty said, the prisoner refused to identify himself.

The New York senator was shot just after jubilantly proclaiming victory in California's Democratic presidential primary election.

His brother, President John F. Kennedy, was shot to death by a hidden rifleman about 4½ years ago in Dallas.

Mayor Yorty said the Sirhan brothers apparently lived in Jerusalem before coming to America

but declined to speculate on their nationality.

He said Sirhan, who earlier had been arraigned as "John Doe" on six counts of assault with intent to commit murder, had four \$100 bills with him and a newspaper story not favorable to Kennedy. He also, Yorty said, had a schedule of where Kennedy was speaking in June. His bail was set at \$250,000.

"EVERY RIGHT THINKING PERSON de- plores this terrible tragedy," said Yorty.

The slender, dark-haired young man sat stonily silent for hours under police questioning, giving only a lone "yes" to one question. Finally he opened up, they said, and became quite talkative—"very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid." But he declined to discuss himself or the shooting.

A team of six surgeons removed all but a frag-

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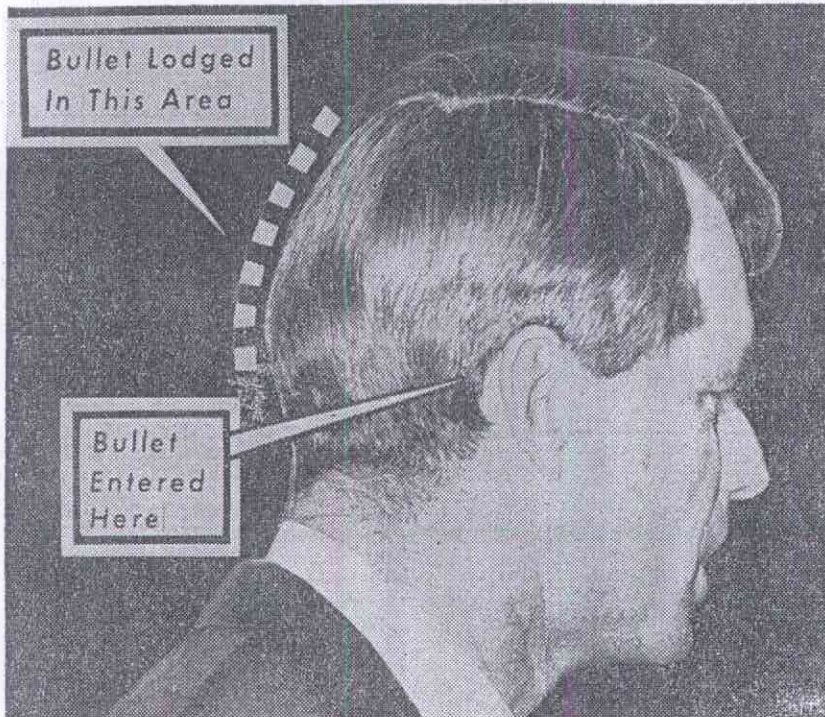


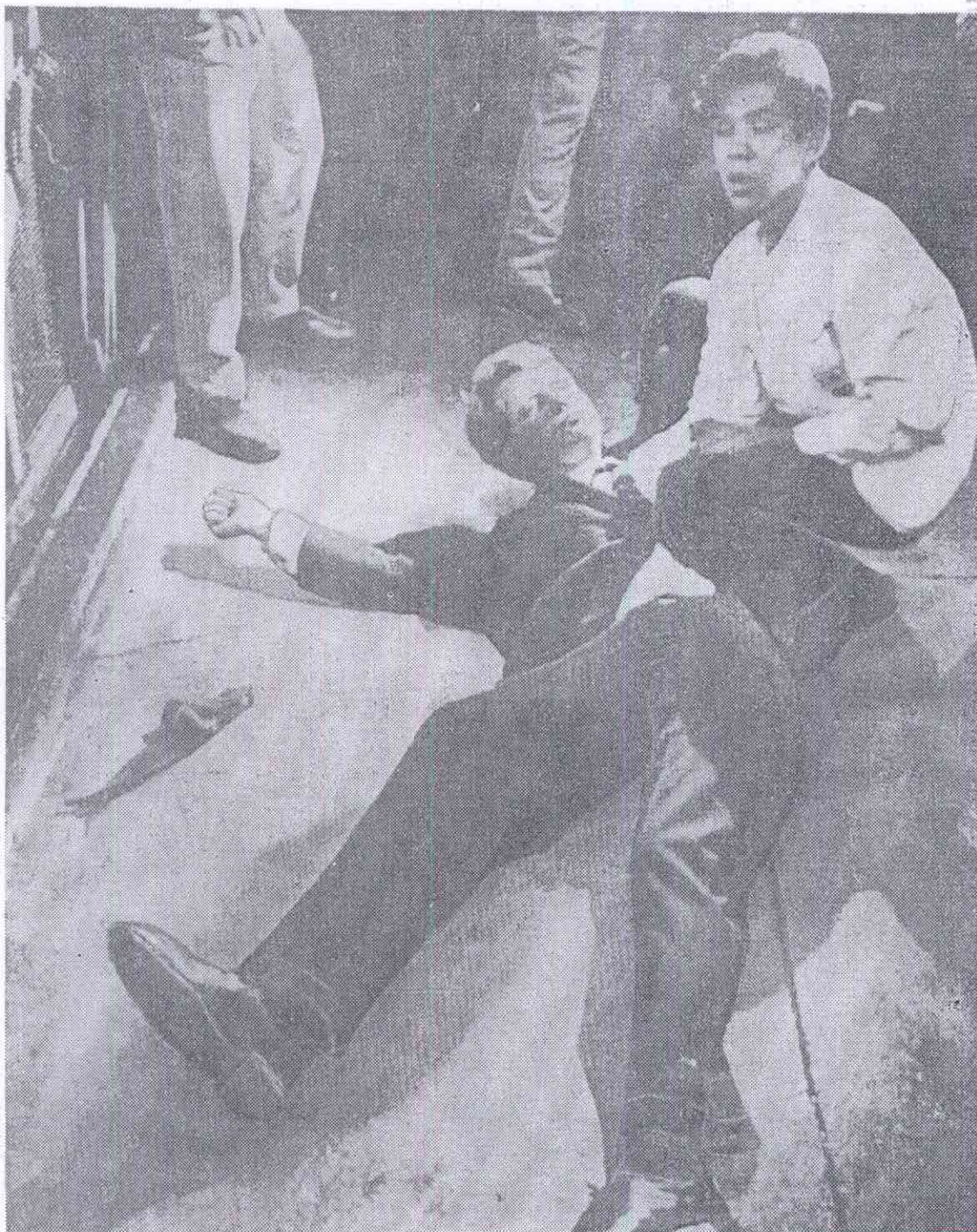
PHOTO DIAGRAM LOCATES THE SPOT behind Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's ear where a gunman's bullet entered the senator's head and the approximate area of the head where the bullet lodged. —AP WIREPHOTO.

# NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

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SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY LIES ON HOTEL FLOOR MOMENTS AFTER BEING SHOT

—D Los Angeles Times via AP WIREPHOTO.

## Kennedy Condition Extremely Critical

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ment of a bullet from Kennedy's brain. A second and less serious bullet remained lodged in the back of his neck.

**DR. LAWRENCE POOL, NEW YORK** neurosurgeon, said after talking with a member of the surgery team that the head wound "is much more serious than initially had been expected."

He added: "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 the rest of the body."

"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 and heart rate.

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

**FOR KENNEDY, SAID PRESS** secretary Frank Mankiewicz, the next 24 to 36 hours are critical.

The 42-year-old New York senator came from behind in California's crucial primary to accrue a winning lead over Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy around midnight. Kennedy had proclaimed his win to about 2,000 supporters at an Ambassador Hotel rally and was taking a shortcut through the kitchen to a meeting with newsmen when shots rang out.

**WITH STUNNING RAPIDITY** at 12:15 a. m., a man police described as a Caucasian, about 25, 5 feet 5 and 120 pounds, with dark hair and complexion, emptied the chamber of an eight-shot .22 pistol.

Kennedy fell, hit apparently three times. Five others near him were wounded, none as badly as the presidential candidate.

Kennedy lay for a time flat on his back in the kitchen, eyes open, crowd milling around him. Some observers say they heard him say, as he was lifted into a police ambulance, "Oh, no. No. Don't."

**PANDEMONIUM BROKE** loose. Roosevelt

Grier, giant Negro tackle for the professional Los Angeles Rams, quickly grabbed the much smaller gunman, wrested the gun from him and held him for police.

President Johnson and others around the nation—including Kennedy's rival on the campaign primary trail, Minnesota's Sen. McCarthy—expressed shock and sorrow. Johnson ordered the full resources of the FBI thrown into the case and ordered secret service protection for major candidates.

**KENNEDY WAS** taken first to Central Receiving Hospital where a doctor said he was "practically dead" upon arrival.

Physicians there administered closed cardiac massage, oxygen and adrenalin. "At first he was pulseless," said a doctor who treated him, "then his pulse came back and we began to hear a heart beat and he began to breathe—a little erratically."

The doctor, Victor Bas, said Ethel Kennedy, who accompanied her husband in the ambulance, was frightened—"she didn't believe he was alive because she couldn't see that he was responding. I put the stethoscope to her ears so she could listen and she was tremendously relieved.

**SHE WAS "VERY** distraught but superb . . . very edgy, but my own wife wouldn't have done so well, I don't think. She was gracious at all times."

Kennedy was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital near downtown Los Angeles. There a team of six surgeons began brain surgery at 3:12 a. m. that lasted about 3 hours and 40 minutes.

Doctors said one bullet struck near the right ear and entered the brain. Another hit in the shoulder. A third apparently grazed his forehead.

**KENNEDY'S PRESS** aide said after the surgery that no further effort is planned for removal of the remaining bullet fragment in the skull. "Some fragments of the bullet and bone went to the brain stem," he said, and the senator lost considerable blood.

Kennedy was moved, unconscious, to the hospital's intensive care unit.

The surgery was pronounced successful in that it

accomplished what it set out to do, remove most of the bullet.

Kennedy's personal physician was flying here from Boston.

**THE ACTUAL SURGERY** here 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.

Police set about immediately trying to reconstruct the shooting.

Officers said they believe there was only one man in-

involved . . . the man being questioned. They booked him as "John Doe" on suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder.

**IN WASHINGTON**, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said the FBI is investigating every possible angle, and "according to information that I have at this moment we have no evidence of conspiracy."

Clark told a news conference: "It seems incredible that another such profound tragedy would strike the Kennedy family which has suffered so much from violence already."

Clark was an assistant in the Justice Department when Kennedy was attorney general.

**KENNEDY AIDES** said six of Kennedy's 10 children who accompanied him here are being returned to Washington on an Air Force plane arranged for by a campaign rival, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

Kennedy, in his address to the cheering supporters just before the shooting, was in good spirits with the long primary campaign trail behind him. He looked tired, however, and was looking forward to a few days of rest at



**RAFER JOHNSON**  
Held assailant.

the Malibu Beach home of a friend.

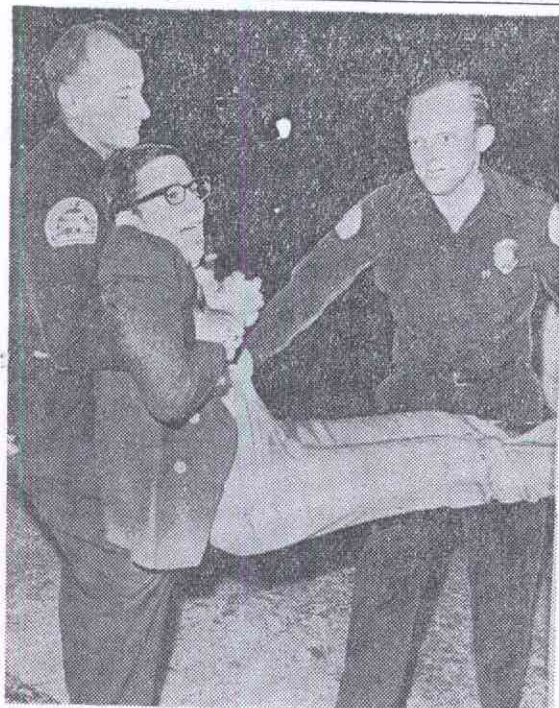
Then the shots rang out.

One witness said the shots came so close together that he could hardly believe they had been fired by one gun. This reporter heard the shots from an adjoining room and they sounded almost like a brief burst of machine-gun fire.

**HERE IS WHAT** happened:

The gunman appeared in the kitchen area behind the bandstand of the Embassy Room, where Kennedy backers, including movie stars and students, were listening to their candidate's light-hearted victory speech. The gunman carried papers, which he spread out on a stainless steel table. One waiter described them as sketches.

The backstage area was crowded with waiters, press and others, and the man's



**IRWIN STROLL, 17**, of Los Angeles, is carried to an ambulance after he was shot early today with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Wounded in the left shin, he was treated at a receiving hospital and released.

presence caused little notice.

Kennedy finished his speech and began working his way off the platform and into the kitchen, followed by close associates and members of his family. His wife, Ethel, had been at his side during the speech, but she became enveloped in the crowd. Kennedy gazed around as if searching for her.

AT THAT MOMENT the gunman pushed through the throng, reached his arm around others in front of him and shot the senator.

Roosevelt Grier, beefy tackle for the Los Angeles Rams, grabbed the man's arm. Joe LaHive, a local Kennedy campaigner, wrested the gun away. Grier and Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson lifted the assailant and spread him on a steel kitchen table.

"Nobody hurt this man!" one of the athletes shouted. "We want to take him alive!"

THIS REPORTER was in the adjoining press room. I rushed into the kitchen to a scene of horror. Women were screaming, "Oh, no!" "God, God, not again!"

Kennedy was stretched on the floor, his face covered with blood. "Give him room! Step back!" someone yelled.

Kennedy seemed to hear nothing. His face was blank, his eyes staring sightlessly.

Grier, Johnson and two or three others held the gunman on the table 10 feet away. Screams began to be heard in the ballroom as news of the shooting spread among campaigners who had been cheering their candidate two minutes before.

"LET ME EXPLAIN!" the gunman shouted. "I can explain."

A priest handed Kennedy a rosary, and he clutched it in his hand, but the priest was jostled aside.

Kennedy was given emergency treatment by a doctor summoned from the ballroom. Then he was wheeled on a stretcher to the hotel service elevator and put into an ambulance.

He was treated at Central Receiving Hospital, where the Rev. Thomas Peacha administered last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Kennedy was then taken a few blocks to

Good Samaritan Hospital, where he entered the intensive care unit.

THE GUNMAN, apparently unharmed, was rushed through the Ambassador lobby by police 10 minutes after the shooting. By this time the crowd knew that Kennedy had been shot.

"Kill him! Lynch him!" onlookers shouted. They milled forward to get at the man, but the police ran him down the stairs next to the famed Coconut Grove night club

and got him to the central jail.

Chief Reddin said there was only one suspect in the case, the man in custody.

THE GUNMAN carried no identification, Reddin said, adding that "We made a skin search of him, checking that he had nothing on him to take his life. We have advised him of his rights. He doesn't want a lawyer now."

Asked if the man was of Latin - American extraction, Reddin said: "I don't know. I can't tell." He added that he might possibly be of Eurasian extraction.

"He sits there and says nothing," Reddin said. There were scraps of paper in the man's pockets, Reddin said, but he declined to identify them.

AT FIRST, Stephen Smith, the senator's brother-in-law, was believed to have been shot, but the report proved untrue. Wounds were suffered by: Paul Schrade, 43 a union official; Ira Goldstein, Los Angeles; William Wiesel, unit manager for the ABC network; Elizabeth Evans of Saugus Calif.; Irwin Stroll, 17, Los Angeles.

President Johnson was notified of the shooting. He issued the statement from the White House:

"There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Sen. Kennedy, his family, and the other victims.

"All America prays for his recovery.

"We also pray that divisiveness and violence can

be driven from the hearts of men everywhere."

Kennedy's opponent for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, had retired to his Beverly Hilton Hotel room. He was awakened, and he went to his hotel ballroom to ask his supporters to pray for the life of Senator Kennedy.

KENNEDY'S BROTHER, Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts, was reported to have arrived at Los Angeles International Airport and had been flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Hospital.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., Vice President Hubert Humphrey said, "Our hopes and prayers are with Senator Kennedy and those others who have been the victims of this dreadful act of violence. It is a shocking and terrible thing that has happened. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Kennedy and the children and the families of the other wounded."

### List of Wounded Includes Five Shot

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Police Department today iden-

tified others wounded in the Kennedy shooting as:

William Weisel, 30, Washington, D.C., who suffered a bullet wound in the left side near the abdomen. He was taken to Kaiser Hospital, Los Angeles. Weisel is a unit manager for the American Broadcasting Corp.

Ira Goldstein, 19, Los Angeles, who received a bullet wound in the left hip. He was transferred to Encino Hospital, Encino. Goldstein is an employe of Continental News Service at nearby Sherman Oaks.

Elizabeth Evans, Saugus, Calif., wounded by a glancing bullet at the hairline. She was transferred to Huntington Memorial Hospital.

Irwin Stroll, 17, Los Angeles, who was wounded in the left shin. He was treated and released by Central Receiving Hospital.

Paul Schrade, 43, who received a skull fracture. A spokesman for the United Auto Workers, of which Schrade is a local officer, said doctors were to operate to remove a

bullet which lodged in Schrade's head and caused the fracture.

He was listed in good condition at Kaiser Hospital.

Patrick Thornton, Los Angeles, sustained a three-inch scalp laceration when hit by a camera. He was treated and released at Central Receiving.

Officers added that two other persons were treated for shock and released.