

Post 6-8-68
Security

By Carl Bernstein

Washington Post Staff Writer

Security arrangements for the funeral procession bearing the body of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to Arlington Cemetery will be comparable to the unprecedented measures taken for the funeral of his brother, President John F. Kennedy.

Federal officials said yesterday that preparations, which are being coordinated by the Secret Service, call for use of the D.C. National Guard, the Metropolitan Police Department, the Park Police, the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department's security force, all Treasury Department security agencies, Naval Intelligence personnel and the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Patrick V. Murphy, the city's director of public safety, said during a news conference yesterday that 900 Metropolitan Policemen and 800 National Guardsmen will line the procession's route from Union Station to the Cemetery.

In addition, 1000 other Guardsmen will be on duty at the D.C. Armory.

The General Services Administration, responding to a request from the Secret Service, yesterday ordered all Government buildings along the motorcade route closed during the procession.

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Sirhan Silent, Well Guarded

From News Dispatches

LOS ANGELES, June 7—"It is like talking to someone on the moon!"

That's how District Attorney Evelle Younger today described conversation with Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24-year-old accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Younger, a former FBI agent, said all conversation between his assistants and Sirhan had been one-sided. Younger himself had not talked to Sirhan.

Extensive security measures were under way at the Los Angeles County Jail as a result of telephoned threats against Sirhan, but Younger expressed concern for future court proceedings.

Officials disclosed that Sirhan received at his request—but barely read—two theosophical books, "The Secret Doctrine" by Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, and "Talks On 'At the Feet of the Master'" by C. W. Leadbeater.

The books are the works of leaders in the theosophical movement—a body of thought claiming special knowledge of divine wisdom. Some theosophists looked on India as the source of all wisdom and most espoused the Indian doctrine of reincarnation.

In Flagstaff, Ariz., police Capt. Jean Slayton said a Sirhan Munir Bishara Sirhan, 18, of Pasadena, Calif., pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge May 16, 1966 and served 15 days in jail.

When arrested, Sirhan was accompanied by another man. They were driving a 1957 automobile with Indiana license plates. At the time he was penniless.

In Teibeh, a village in Israeli-occupied Jordan, Arab elders painted a picture of a boy who grew up in a poor family that lived on church charity and who "was always kept in close line by the father."

The father, Bishara Sirhan, has lived in Teibeh since leaving his wife and five children in Pasadena after family quarrels. Before emigrating to America the Christian Arab family lived in Jerusalem with little money to spend, the elders said.

The elders said the family became connected with the Jehovah's Witnesses sect "many years ago" and it was that religious group which paid the way for the Sirhan family to go to the United States in 1957.

Bishara Sirhan has told reporters the family belonged to the Greek Orthodox Church and that Little Sirhan went to a Lutheran Church school in Jerusalem.

The Teibeh notables said they were convinced the father still received money from the Jehovah's Witnesses in addition to money sent him by one of his sons, Saadi. Sirhan has told reporters he supported himself on a small pension and by part-time farming.

The Jehovah's Witnesses sect was banned in Jordan in 1959. It is known to continue to operate secretly, particularly in the Arab old sector of Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem Salmin Awad, principal of the Lutheran grammar school where young Sirhan went to school from 1951 to 1956, said Sirhan was a "very gentle, polite, quiet, humble boy, interested mainly in books."

The boy was seventh in a class of 16 during his final year. Awad said this was a less impressive showing than his earlier grades.

Immigration authorities in Los Angeles say Sirhan was admitted to this country as a permanent resident, which means he can stay indefinitely without applying for citizenship, which is considered a privilege rather than a requirement.

Jury Indicts Suspect in RFK Slaying

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 7—A Los Angeles County grand jury today indicted Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused murderer of Robert F. Kennedy.

The grand jury presented the indictment to County Judge Arthur L. Alarcón, who said he would not disclose the contents until Sirhan's arraignment at the County Jail later tonight.

However, the Judge said no bail could be set for the defendant. Murder is the only offense in California for which bail cannot be set.

Sirhan, 24-year-old native of Jordan, had been charged on one count of murder and five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder. Those were the counts

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named in a "possible indictment" presented to the grand jury this morning.

Alarcón instructed the grand jurors not to divulge any of the evidence they heard in private today.

Sirhan was to be arraigned in a special temporary court set up in the County Jail where he has been held since Wednesday morning. Authorities feared that if they brought Sirhan to the courtroom his life might be in danger.

Earlier today it was disclosed that Los Angeles detectives were searching for three Arabic-speaking men who reportedly were seen in Kennedy's political headquarters two days before he was assassinated.

The men were overheard by a Kennedy campaign worker who happens to speak Arabic and who told police he heard one man say:

"If we can't catch him today (Monday) we can catch him tonight."

The witness was identified as W. J. Wood, 43, a geologist who had spent five and a half years in Saudi Arabia and who had been working in the Kennedy campaign at the Wilshire Boulevard headquarters.

According to Inspector Peter Hagan of the Los Angeles Police Department, Wood said none of the three appeared to be Sirhan, the Arabic-speaking Jordanian nationalist accused of murdering Sen. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday morning.

Police spokesmen would ac-

knowledge only that they regarded Wood's story as "interesting."

They were quick to point out that Sirhan was not identified as one of the three men and that there was no more than the cryptic comment to suggest any complicity in the shooting.

Hagan said today that police would continue to regard the assassination as the act of one man until more solid evidence turned up. He said that the Police Department is checking out literally hundreds of rumors and stories that the assassin may have had accomplices.

Wood, who could not be reached for comment today, gave the police a description of the three men yesterday and detectives began a search for them this morning.

According to police, Wood did not attribute much importance to the conversation he overheard until he learned that the suspect seized was a Jordanian who spoke both English and Arabic. Sirhan has been in this country since 1957.

As the hearing began, Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger told reporters he was "uneasy" about all aspects of the case in view of the impact it will have on world opinion.

"It will be scrutinized by politicians all over the world," Younger said. "Some will want to make our system of justice look as bad as they can make it look."

He was also concerned about reported threats to the suspect's safety.