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Harold -

For your information. In
you and Jerry.

-Lynn S.

Excerpts from Oral History Interview with Karl A. Uecker

April 13, 1990

Conducted by John Burns, Chief of Archives,
California State Archives

(Mr. Uecker was born in Germany and was interviewed during his first trip back to America in eighteen years. This background is occasionally reflected in his English or in interviewer efforts to clarify specific responses.)

Q: ...How many times a day do you think you passed through the pantry or were in the pantry normally?

A: Pantry? Oh, thirty times, forty times, fifty times. In out, in out, in out.

Q: And did you go in and out of all of the doors pretty often, various ways in and out?

A: Oh, yeah, yeah. But mostly through the pantry, you know, through the pantry into the ballroom.

Q: According to the diagram, most of the time you were going in and out the door that you brought Kennedy in, is that correct?

A: Right, yeah, yeah...

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Q: Did you look around the pantry yourself?

A: Oh yeah, oh yeah, I did. Even the same night when it happened, I came back from the police, from Rampart station there. I went back to the kitchen. That's why I noticed two shots and I was looking a little more but I didn't pay not much attention.

Q: You noticed, though, something that was different. Can you tell me a little more about that?

A: Yeah, the two holes were by the, here by the door here.

Q: And you noticed those the night of the shooting?

A: Yeah, yeah, yeah. It was the same night.

Q: Let's explore this a little bit. You're pointing on the diagram to the center divider between the two doors?

A: Dividers, yeah. It's what I saw there first, anyhow.

Q: Can you mark on the diagram where that center divider was?

A: Between here and over here...

Q: Can you put the number ten by the dividers you're marking? OK, number ten marks the dividers Mr. Uecker has pointed out. And what did you see in the dividers?

A: Two holes, which never were there.

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Q: Did you see any holes in that divider before the shooting?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: You're certain that you saw no holes in that divider?

A: No, I didn't.

Q: Because you used it all the time? You went through there all the time?

A: Yes, oh yes...

Q: Were you looking for holes?

A: You see, if you see a picture on a wall, you know, and all of a sudden it's hanging crooked, you see it, right? The same thing happened there. Somebody must be blind to use all the time this door and you don't see the two holes there.

Q: Were you looking for them or...

A: No, no. I just saw it.

Q: You simply noticed them. Were holes often made in walls or dividers by kitchen carts or food carts?

A: No, no, no, no.

Q: Did they have sharp edges?

A: No, no, they didn't. We used tray stands. We didn't use no carts into the ballroom.

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Q: Did you talk to anyone else (besides one policeman mentioned) about the bullet holes that, or the holes, whatever these holes were, that you saw?

A: No I didn't, I didn't.

Q: And you did think they were bullet holes?

A: I didn't think it was important to me.

Q: How come you thought they were bullet holes?

A: Because these holes never were there before and I knew where the shots were going to. I saw him shooting, and I knew it must have been this way.

Q: You saw the gun...

A: Yeah, yeah, right.

Q: ...shooting and you knew the gun was shooting in the direction that you and the Senator had come from?

A: Right, yeah.

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Q: ...I think there's one point I'd like to clarify, as you were holding onto Sirhan. You said that you had Kennedy, you had Senator Kennedy with your left hand holding his right hand. Were your arms outstretched when you were holding him?

A: Outstretched, yes.

Q: So he was close to you or not close to you?

A: He wasn't close to me, no. His hand was, I was pulling him, and that's why I know, I remember that my arm was stretched out and his too.

Q: So he was two arm lengths away from you...

A: Yeah, yeah, right, right, right, yeah.

Q: ...at the time that you felt Sirhan bump into you? And Sirhan's arm stretched past you, is that correct?

A: Partly, yes, not too far.

Q: Did you look at the gun as this was happening?

A: No, after the first shot was fired then I saw the gun and then (inaudible) right there.

Q: Did you see at any point how close the gun was to Senator Kennedy?

A: A foot and a half to two feet.

Q: So you could see the gun and Senator Kennedy at the same time?

A: Oh, yeah.

Q: And how close, again, was the gun to the Senator?

A: A foot and a half to two feet.

Q: Could Sirhan have lunged forward and gotten closer than that?

A: No, he couldn't.

Q: Was the gun pointed towards the busboys or towards the Senator?

A: No, only towards the Senator

Q: Only towards the Senator at the time he reached past you.

A: Time, yeah. At first two shots. Then afterwards the shots went someplace else.