

Man Assigned to Guard RFK on Day He Was Slain Breaks 8-Year Silence:

Robert F. Kennedy "asked to be killed" by ordering his police-bodyguards to "get the hell away from me and stay away," reveals the man who was assigned to guard RFK the day he was slain.

After eight years of silence on the subject, former Los Angeles Police Sgt. Marion D. Hoover told The ENQUIRER the shocking story behind the assassination of Bobby Kennedy on June 5, 1968.

"I've broken my silence because I want to tell ENQUIRER readers the real facts behind one of the greatest tragedies in America's political history," said the tough ex-cop.

"The truth is, Bobby Kennedy asked to be killed. Seven and three-quarter hours before he was gunned down in cold blood in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel, the Senator ordered me and the rest of the 12-man special security unit assigned to him that day to stop protecting him.

"The fact is, there wasn't a single Los Angeles policeman with Kennedy at the time he was shot — and we weren't there because we were not wanted.

"If I had been in the hotel at that fateful moment I would have either taken those bullets for the Senator or shot his assailant dead," said Hoover, 51, a fantastic marksman who shot to death nine criminals in his 26-year, story-book career as a cop.

Hoover, whose real-life heroes inspired the character

Robert Kennedy Ordered Me to Stop Protecting Him Seven Hours Before He Was Assassinated

...If I Had Been There I'd Have Taken Those Bullets for the Senator or Shot His Assailant Dead



FATALLY WOUNDED Senator Robert Kennedy lies on floor of Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968. Says former Los Angeles Police Sgt. Marion Hoover: "There wasn't a single Los Angeles policeman with Kennedy at the time he was shot . . . because we weren't wanted."

"Bumper" Morgan in the novel and TV show, "The Blue Knight," recounted the tumultuous events preceding RFK's assassination by Sirhan Sirhan at 12:15 a.m. on June 5.

As soon as Kennedy arrived at Los Angeles Airport the preceding day, he made it clear that he didn't like having po-

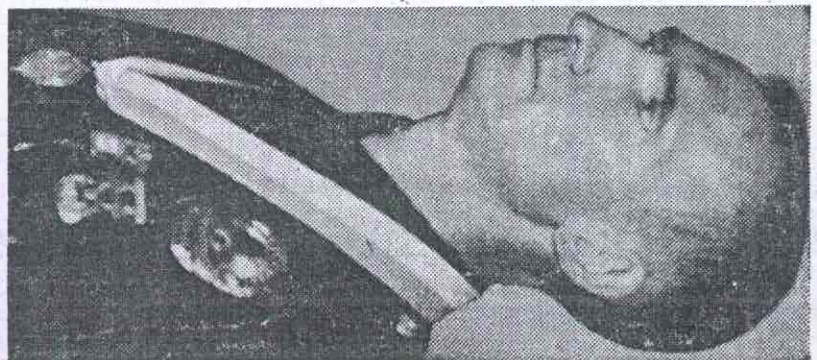
lice around him, Hoover said. At one point, as Kennedy got out of his motorcade limousine, he was engulfed by his frenzied supporters and knocked to the pavement. But when a policeman tried to assist him, Kennedy slapped the officer's helping hand aside and snarled at him to get away.

Hoover recalled the precise incident "that sealed Kennedy's fate." A pickpocket grabbed Kennedy's watch and tried to squirm away through the crowd, but Hoover spotted him and ordered him arrested.

"With that, Kennedy blew up," Hoover remembered. "He came apart and began to scream at me to get away from him and to take the other officers with me. And he rammed the order home by adding: "Get the hell away from me and stay away!"

"And, as his car sped away leaving us standing in the street, it grazed a police officer and knocked him head-over-heels. That was the last straw.

"I remember thinking: 'I'm not taking this treatment from anybody, not a Kennedy or anybody else!' I couldn't believe that a Presidential aspirant — especially a Kennedy — could make such a decision.



POLICE HERO Marion Hoover is decorated for valor at a 1964 ceremony in Los Angeles, Calif.

Ambassador Hotel, were flatly refused by the Senator.

"I got the impression that Kennedy wished to appear to be antipolice and antieestablishment, and to not need our help, because politically it was the smart thing to do at the time.

"I was told by his aides: 'We don't want any policemen near Mr. Kennedy.' The indisputable fact is that he told us to get lost — and he paid for that order with his life."

— TOM SMITH

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