

Sirhan was programmed to kill RFK

ROBERT F. KENNEDY's assassin was a hypnotized robot—programmed to kill like the gunman in *The Manchurian Candidate* movie.

That's the shocking theory in a new book by Dr. Philip H. Melanson, a political science professor and director of the RFK Assassination Archives at Southeastern Massachusetts University, who suspects the CIA of being involved.

In *The Manchurian Candidate*, an American taken prisoner during the Korean War is brainwashed by Chinese communists to kill a candidate for the U.S. presidency. The concept is not as far-fetched as it may seem, claims Melanson. Sources say Melanson will claim the CIA had been dabbling in hypnotic control. He will cite a memo raising the possibility of programming someone to murder.

The CIA acknowledges having re-

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searched whether that is possible, but has denied ever implementing it. But Melanson will point out that, even if the CIA wasn't involved, someone recruited to help the agency could have used information for his own cause.

One theory is that the killer, Sirhan Sirhan, might have fallen victim to brainwashing in 1966, when he consulted numerous doctors about persistent pain from an injury. It is known that he became interested in self-hypnosis at that time. The book also will say Sirhan, who is now serving a life sentence, might have known the late hypnotist, Dr. William Joseph Bryan, who allegedly told two prostitutes that Sirhan was among his cases.



Sirhan Sirhan:
The killer.



Robert Kennedy:
The candidate.