

ZODIAC

News Service 950 Howard Street, San Francisco, California 94103 (415) 956-3555

Contacts: Jon Newhall Scott Farley Marlene Edmunds

DECEMBER 31, 1975

PLEASE CREDIT

ZODIAC (ZNS) A NEWLY-RELEASED COURT TRANSCRIPT INDICATES THAT THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT DESTROYED KEY EVIDENCE IN THE ROBERT KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CASE DESPITE A COURT DECISION THAT ALL THE EVIDENCE SHOULD BE PRESERVED.

THE NEWLY-DISCOVERED TRANSCRIPT HAS BEEN RELEASED BY PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HAROLD WEISBERG, WHO HAS REPRINTED PORTIONS OF IT IN HIS BOOK POST MORTEM.

THE TRANSCRIPT IS DATED MAY 15TH OF 1969, ABOUT ONE MONTH AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE SIRHAN SIRHAN TRIAL. THE DOCUMENT DETAILS A MEETING BETWEEN TWO LOS ANGELES JUDGES AND SEVERAL POLICE AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY OFFICIALS ABOUT WHAT TO DO WITH EVIDENCE IN THE R.F.K. ASSASSINATION CASE. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT NO MEMBER OF THE SIRHAN DEFENSE TEAM WAS PRESENT FOR THE UNUSUAL LEGAL SESSION.

THE TRANSCRIPT SHOWS THAT THE JUDGE IN THE SIRHAN CASE, HERBERT WALKER, DESCRIBES THE EVIDENCE AS "EXTREMELY VALUABLE", ADDING THAT IT MIGHT BE NEEDED IF THE SIRHAN CASE WERE APPEALED.

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF ROBERT HOUGHTON AGREED DURING THE CLOSED-DOOR MEETING THAT THE FILES IN THE SIRHAN CASE WOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE FROM ALL OTHER FILES, AND WOULD BE PRESERVED INDEFINITELY.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, JUST SIX WEEKS AFTER THIS SESSION, THE LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT DESTROYED EVIDENCE IN THE CASE -- INCLUDING DOOR JAMBS AND PANELING REMOVED FROM THE ASSASSINATION SITE THAT MIGHT HAVE CONTAINED BULLETS; X-RAYS OF THOSE PANELS; AND EVEN A GUN SIMILAR TO SIRHAN'S PISTOL THAT WAS USED BY POLICE FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES.

NO EXPLANATION FOR THIS DESTRUCTION HAS EVER BEEN GIVEN -- ZODIAC

* *

* * *

* *

(MORE)