

scribed Sirhan as looking "very tranquil" during the struggle. Two waiters, Vincent Di Pierro and Martin Patruski, reported that Sirhan appeared to be smiling. A cook named Yosio Niwa said, "I'll never forget that guy's face...I was so upset...he was smiling...."

When Sirhan was taken from the scene, a patrolman shined a flashlight in Sirhan's eyes to check for indications of the drugs or alcohol. On the stand at Sirhan's trial, the patrolman "couldn't recall" what he determined. But in an earlier statement he had said that Sirhan's pupils "didn't react" to the light and that they "were real wide". The official records from Sirhan's blood test were lost by the Los Angeles Police Department. This is the same department that lost the doorframes containing the extra bullets (they destroyed evidence, claiming it took up too much space) and that lost Scott Enyart's film which might well have shown who was close enough behind Kennedy to have fired the fatal shots.

If the bulk of the witnesses, who gave matching stories, are correct, then Sirhan couldn't have fired the shots, and was in a disassociative state during the shooting. If he was under hypnosis and given amnesia-producing drugs such as the CIA was experimenting with for well over fourteen years by that time, then Sirhan's claims of memory loss and innocence, while strange, may well be true.

Sirhan was denied his 10th bid for parole, even though those who have more provably committed murder against less famous people have been released. His current lawyer, Larry Teeter, is pursuing a new evidentiary hearing on Sirhan's case. To make the case for Sirhan's guilt, all one need do is pick and choose selectively from the evidence, as did Trapp before the parole board. But for seekers of truth, the full record presents the very likely and disturbing possibility that Sirhan was a mind-controlled patsy performing an act of "attempted assassination" to distract from the real killers.

The most likely shooting suspect has always been a security guard who was in the perfect position, behind and just slightly to the right of Senator Kennedy and so close as to be guiding him by the arm through the crowd at the moment of the shooting. He was also the first witness to pinpoint the location of each shot in Kennedy with accuracy. The man's name is Thane Eugene Cesar. While admitting he pulled a gun in the pantry that night, he insists it was a .32, not a .22 (the caliber of the bullets found). But is he to be believed on this point? He also was mistaken (putting it generously) about having sold his .22 before the assassination, when a receipt surfaced showing he had sold the gun after the assassination. The search for Cesar's gun and its recent resurfacing was the subject of a

past *Probe* article (Vol. 2 No. 5).

Bill Turner and Jon Christian present a compelling case for Cesar's guilt. They also present a strong case that the gun Sirhan used was firing blanks, creating the long, visible flame so many witnesses described. This was to ensure, the authors suggest, that the person behind RFK doing the actual shooting was not accidentally felled in the process by a stray bullet when Sirhan fired.

Dan Moldea, who for some time claimed to believe there was a conspiracy in this case, spent time with Cesar and concluded he was not involved. He had Cesar take a lie detector test, which he passed. Lie detectors are not allowed in court because they are both unreliable and easy to beat, for those who know the tricks. And having worked at several places where many CIA people were employed, such as Lockheed and Hughes Aircraft, Cesar may well have picked up a few tips over the years.

Dan Moldea wrote the "Case Closed" of RFK literature: *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*. He injects himself into the story at every turn, telling of his "discovery" that Sirhan was faking the memory loss, in his opinion, and that despite the distance problem, RFK must just have fallen into Sirhan's gun and every eyewitness just happened to miss that crucial moment. In a stunning display of selectively quoting from the record, he makes a very poor case for Sirhan's, and only Sirhan's, guilt. But Moldea is not credible when you match the fuller record with his conclusions. And who could trust the integrity of anyone who dedicates his book to that saboteur of the Garrison investigation, Walter Sheridan?

Harold Weisberg wrote a book in 1969 called *Coup D'Etat II* that opens with a discussion of the Robert Kennedy assassination. In it, he talks of a conversation he had with an intimate of the Bobby Kennedy camp. Weisberg was angry that RFK was not speaking out against the Warren Commission's false verdict of Oswald's lone guilt, and voiced strongly his opinion that Bobby's silence would sign his death warrant. Harold asked how Bobby could say that he had seen the entire record of the Warren Commission, a feat that would have required much time and which could not have led to an endorsement of the Commission's conclusions. "It is simple," the friend replied. "Bobby wants to live." The Kennedy associate went further, telling Weisberg that "there are already too many guns between Bobby and the White House." When Weisberg asked, "Whose guns?" the friend inferred those of the CIA. On a small television station in Washington, on June 4, 1968, Weisberg recounted this discussion and discussed the possibility of an assassination of Robert Kennedy. The next day, Bobby was shot. "No prophet was ever less pleased with

the accuracy of his position," Weisberg wrote.

There has never been any official investigation of this assassination beyond the LAPD's original one by a group called Special Unit Senator or SUS. When the House Select Committee on Assassinations was formed in the '70's, the RFK assassination was originally to have been included. In the end, only the John Kennedy and Martin Luther King assassinations were investigated. Many researchers would like to know what the CIA knew about the following key figures:

- Sirhan, who as a young man already spoke four languages, including German and Russian.
- Thane Eugene Cesar, whose places of work overlapped with Agency partner corporations.
- Grant Cooper, Sirhan's primary lawyer at his trial, who had just finished representing the CIA's partner in Castro assassination plots, Johnny Roselli.
- William Joseph Bryan, the hypnotist who was on the air in Los Angeles before Sirhan had even been identified as a suspect saying the assassin was probably mind-controlled, and who later bragged to prostitutes about his work for the CIA and of having hypnotized Sirhan.

Can there be answers to the assassinations of the '60's? Weisberg thinks so:

I will not, here, recapitulate all those many things that require belief these [assassinations of John Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy] could have been CIA operations. Obviously, the spooks do not carry signs, do not advertise or, as Dean Andrews so aptly put it, do not "hit" by telegraph.

The CIA is so secret it does not know itself, does not know what it is doing, what is being done in its name...It conceives itself omniscient, everyone else uninformed, without understanding, and incapable. It arrogates to itself and exercises powers that are incompatible with a democratic society. Such a society cannot continue if the CIA is unchecked. Those who, in the past, have sought this have not survived it. Preeminently, John Kennedy.

Bill Turner made a plea for truth about the assassination of John Kennedy the centerpiece of his 1968 run for Congress. The campaign brochure read as follows:

The assassination of President Kennedy brought immediate and drastic changes in the foreign and domestic policies of this country. We must solve the problems these changes created....

To do less not only is indecent but might cost us the life of a future President of John Kennedy's instincts.

The fulfilled prophecies of Weisberg, Turner and others linger as a dark echo, warning us into the present of the crimes not solved, deeds still unpunished, and the healing that cannot yet begin. ❖

John Harris