

Shane Salerno
3405 Calle Del Sur
La Costa, CA 92009

6/11/90

Dear Shane,

Thanks for your letter dated June 1 but postmarked June 8 and for the enclosures.

I've done practically no work on the RFK assassination, can't begin to think of doing that now, and Greg Stone does keep me informed, so please don't go to any more trouble and expense ~~on~~ sending me news stories on it because he'll have done so.

For the reasons I've given you, I'm not taking as much time to respond now.

I am not surprised that you got high marks on your paper. I predicted that, as I recall.

You ask, "How do you sort through the credible assassinologists?" Please don't tell any of them what I say because I don't want them climbing all over me. But if you are interested in the facts about the crimes and not all the many theories, as soon as you see the word "assassinologist" pay no more attention and go on to something else. It is a made-up word for a made-up skill. This is not to question the sincerity of most of them. Some are very fine people. Dedicated, hard-working, etc. But not in contact with reality and usually not dealing with it.

I can't keep endlessly making copies, although I am willing to be responsive to a specific request for copies of documents. Remember, I'm not very able and do have other things to do, many that I can't get to.

Using FOIA is simple but getting satisfactory results in this field is not simple. The law requires of you only that you ask for existing records and give a meaningful identification of them, so that the agency receiving the request can understand what it is you are asking for. quite a bit has already been disclosed and where it has been the government's cost is for copying and mailing. Charges vary and some make no charge until a certain cost is reached. Your request is supposed to be acknowledged and you are supposed to be told when you may expect it to be acted upon. If you ask for something that has not been disclosed it may take some time because some agencies have large backlogs. If you ask for what has not been disclosed, it will take longer and if you request what can be embarrassing you may be stonewalled.

Just about all the records I got I got not only via FOIA but after long and difficult litigation.

Considering your age, I agree with your mother on where your interests should lie. Don't skip growing up and all that goes with it, from enjoyment to learning. This does not mean not having serious interests. But it does mean to seek a balanced ~~and~~ life of activities and interests.

Henry Hurt is a fine and an honorable man. But like so many others, he imposed his preconceptions and as a result the book is flawed. The first part is a summary or what had long been published and the second is his political longings and his being conned by the sick Easterling. Whose story on the face doesn't stack.

I know Groden and Livingstone well and we have a friendly relationship. I do not see in those pictures what they say they see and I did not directly assist them. But if you knew the literature you'd know how much of my work they used other than in connection with those pictures. I think they visualize an impossibly enormous conspiracy and real life just isn't that way. I suggest the approach of the first British philosopher, William of Occam: seek the simplest solutions. Go with Occam, Shane, and you'll be more successful. (I've not seen or read it and would like to but it is out a print. There was a novel

titled Ocean's Razor.)

I am asked to help with books, articles, reviews, TV specials and I am asked for information. I do what I can and I make all the records I have available.

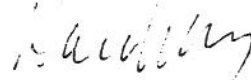
I have a vague recollection of having heard about Dr. Kartsonis but I do not remember reading anything he wrote. Most people who get interested are either too busy or just don't take the time to know enough about the fact to be able to do much that is good and helpful. Examining the autopsy film without a solid backing in the corpus delicti yields less than it could and may be misleading.

I do not see in the autopsy pictures Lifton published what he says he sees in them. His book is an egotrip. He would have you believe that he invented the wheel and discovered sex. Again, in trying to make sense out of what he says, I urge you to ask yourself the two questions I suggested, is something reasonable, and if you think it is, then is it possible.

All that Lifton added to what had been published earlier, and for which he takes personal credit is his theory and that is untenable. Please don't ask me to go into detail on this, but aside from not being reasonable and not being possible it is also false in its basic statements.

If I have an extra copy of a document on my desk I'll enclose it.

Best wishes,


Harold Weisberg

02-109060 is the FBI's "main" JFK assassination file. The original or record copy of the record I enclose is filed under "Research Matters," the meaning of the 94 classification.

The initial in the center, from side to side, of the last page, is that of the author, DeLoach. To its right is the initial by which Clyde Tolson, the FBI's then No. 2 man indicated he'd read a record. Under the first is "OK. H" of Hoover's approval.

Duplicate filings are "Not Recorded"

June 1, 1990

8:00 P.M.

Mr. Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

Mr. Weisberg:

First and foremost let me thank you for reviewing my manuscript and in returning so promptly. It was a copy and I had already received my grade, I received an A, 192 out of a possible 200 points.

Obviously the teacher did not have the knowledge of the assassination and judge it on what he did know. Your comments are well taken, and will be of great use for the revision.

I admit that the use of Marrs names was poor judgement, but I don't recommend the book to anyone.
Very few if any consider it a valuable work.

On the contrary I recommend your Whitewash series to EVERYONE and provide them with your mailing address, so that they may obtain copies.

As to my source on the Normandy burning:

The Mafia Encyclopedia written by Carl Sifakis
has also written The Encyclopedia of American Crime, The
Catalog of Crime, American Eccentrics, The Dictionary of
Gambling

Was a UPI writer, also wrote with The Buffalo Evening News

(2)

Enclosed is a good deal of information on The Assassination of Robert "Bobby" Kennedy.

I am currently in touch with Greg Stone, someone very involved in the RFK Case, and a man who respects Harold Weisberg a GREAT DEAL.

I have a question you could answer for me?
How do you sort through the credible assassinologist?
How do you know who to trust, and who not to trust?

I read your CIA document, VERY IMPRESSIVE, can you enclose in your next letter how I could obtain such information. Did you use the normal FOIA channels, or do you know a better route that involves FOIA?

I'm sorry to hear about your misadventures with John H. Davis, I hope you didn't loose any relevant material. I had a dream that for my birthday I was given all of your file cabinets... my mother thinks I'm crazy not to want a fancy sports car. HA HA HA...

I prey for your good health... HONEST I DO.
Don't think I don't appreciate you giving me the time you give me, because I honestly do. What did you think of Henry Hurt's book? Was he an honorable man?

What do you think of the new book High Reason by Groden and Livingstone?

How much did you assist that project?

(3)

I have enclosed a good deal of information as you will notice on the RFK case. I hope you find it as interesting and useful as I did the CIA document you sent to me.

Are you still frequently courted for advice, reviewing of possible books, and other information?

I read a very interesting book on the civil-rights movement, PARTING THE WATERS, written by Taylor Branch. It won the Pulitzer Prize.

If there is any other documents you could send me on the JFK or MLK case, anything, I would greatly appreciate it.

I have just received a copy, my first and my own copy of The House Assassinations Committee Report. Very interesting.

I will be sending you some additional information on a Doctor Kartsonis here in San Diego. He has written on the case extensively, he is not really one of us, he tends to believe something is wrong, but won't go as far as to say CONSPIRACY.

He did win a major FOIA court case and was given permission by the Kennedy family to look at the autopsy photographs.

What do you think of the autopsy photographs published in Best Evidence (1988 copy) Conspiracy (1989 copy) and High Treason?

Look forward to your responses, and ANY INFORMATION, DOCUMENTS YOU COULD SEND ME.

STAY YOUNG!

STAY HEALTHY



Shane Salerno

State/Region

New RFK assassination probe sought

Researchers revive argument that a second gunman was involved

By Linda Deutsch
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Researchers studying the massive files on the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said Tuesday that the case should be reopened to unravel the mystery of one or more extra bullets.

The demand for a reopening of the Kennedy investigation came one day before NBC-TV's "Unsolved Mysteries" rereleased the second-gun theory in the midst of the May ratings sweeps period.

Gregory Stone, a political scientist who has spent nearly two years studying material released from state archives, said it is possible that at least nine bullets and perhaps as many as 12 were fired in the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel on the night of June 5, 1968, when Kennedy was slain.

The convicted assassin, Sirhan B. Sirhan, carried a .22-caliber revolver that held eight shots.

"After 22 years, it is not acceptable to allow fundamental questions to remain unanswered about the murder of one of the greatest public figures of our time," Stone said at a news conference where he

was joined by five others, including Paul Schrade, who was wounded in the Kennedy assassination.

"Significant new evidence has recently surfaced suggesting that more shots may have been fired during the assassination of Sen. Robert Kennedy than could have been discharged by Sirhan Sirhan acting alone," he said.

"Coupled with other known facts insufficiently investigated in the past, this evidence demands an objective new inquiry into Sen. Kennedy's death."

Kennedy was hit three times, and five other bullets hit bystanders who survived, police have said. Seven of the bullets were recovered. One bullet is said to have passed through Kennedy's coat before hitting Schrade.

Schrade said Tuesday that he has always doubted the accuracy of the trajectory path reconstructed by police.

He called for the Los Angeles County district attorney and the county Board of Supervisors to reopen the investigation.

"We can't trust the Los Angeles Police Department to do an effective investigation because they did an ineffective one," he said.



Sen. Robert F. Kennedy flashes a victory sign at the Ambassador Hotel after winning the 1968 California presidential primary. Researchers are calling for another investigation into his assassination.

United Press International

Cndr. William Booth, spokesman for the Police Department, said the second-gun theory was thoroughly explored by investigators and he dismissed Tuesday's allegations as a rehash of old material.

"There are no plans to reopen the investigation. 'Unsolved Mysteries' is reviving the how-many-guns theory. They haven't presented anything that hasn't been presented before," Booth said.

"The investigation identifies a suspect who was arrested and convicted and was sent to prison.

That's it."

"It looks like really old stuff to me," said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the District Attorney's Office. "It looks just like a rehash of something that has already been rehashed."

Schrade and Stone appeared at a news conference along with author Dan Molden; Philip Melanson, a professor and author; former FBI agent William Bailey; and David Mendelsohn, a TV producer who has researched the case.

The new evidence cited by the

group included Molden's recent interviews with five police officers involved in the investigation who said they remembered seeing bullet holes in a door frame that has since been destroyed. Some said they heard that bullets were removed from the frame.

In addition, Bailey said he remembers seeing bullet holes in the center post between two doors in the pantry. He also said he saw the bases of two .22-caliber bullets in the holes. According to the official police reports on the case, Stone said, no bullets were found any-

where in the walls or door frames of the pantry.

The researchers displayed blown up photos from FBI files of alleged bullet holes in door frames.

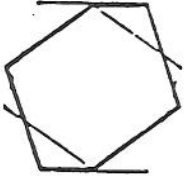
They also cited a recently retrieved newspaper report on the assassination aftermath in which a writer reported seeing a piece of molding torn from the wall by police and indicating that two .22-caliber bullets had been removed from it.

Stone said a new investigation could re-examine the unanswered

question of why door frames and ceiling tiles from the pantry were destroyed by officials shortly after Sirhan was convicted.

"I consider there is a serious possibility that more than one gun may have been fired during the assassination," Stone said. "At present it's impossible to know for sure."

... However, the evidence that more than one gun may have been fired is clearly sufficient to justify a determined, objective and thorough investigation of that possibility."



The Graduate School and University Center
of the City University of New York

Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities, Box 540
Graduate Center, 33 West 42 Street, New York, N.Y. 10025-8099
212 790-4261

25 July 1985

Mr. Stephen D. Yslas
President of the Los Angeles
Police Commission
Suite 144-150
Parker Center
150 North Los Angeles Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Mr. Yslas:

I am writing in support of the request for the full release of material in the possession of the Los Angeles Police Department dealing with the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

There would seem no reason why, seventeen years after this tragic event, this information should still be withheld. The material is of indisputable historic significance. The men requesting the material — Professor Philip Melanson and Gregory Stone — are legitimate scholars, conducting research in the public interest. The material released will be made generally available in the Robert F. Kennedy Archive at Southeastern Massachusetts University.

Every consideration of scholarly and national interest calls for the disclosure of all information related to Robert Kennedy's death. I trust that the Police Commission will respond to these considerations and act promptly in the service of historical scholarship and public enlightenment.

Sincerely yours,


Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.



range as the airport's new Mexican chain called Macheesmo Hawk Italian-style restaurant. It's been a long, difficult search for a restaurant that both aviators and students at the Santa Monica City College for the Humanities could afford. The city first advertised in early 1937 for someone to operate a restaurant in a 2,400-square-foot space in the new Clover Field Terminal and Administration

Mexican chain called Macheesmo Mouse. The Vidors propose a restaurant with a view of the runway from every table and a telescope on a sky deck for the public. Restaurant patrons would eat to the sounds of the Santa Monica air tower frequency broadcast over loud speakers.

Suit filed over lost photos of night Kennedy was shot

By Kathleen Lund-Seeden
STAFF WRITER

A Santa Monica photographer has filed a \$2 million lawsuit against the Los Angeles Police Department, the FBI and Secretary of State March Fong Eu over 100 lost photographs he took the night Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated. Jamie Scott Enyart said Wednesday the defendants are responsible for losing the most important pictures he's ever taken.

Enyart was 15 and an aspiring photojournalist when he and a friend went to the Ambassador Hotel on June 5, 1968, the night the New York senator was shot. He said he took pictures all evening, including a party and late-night speech.

He claims police took him into custody and asked him to turn over his film to police and FBI agents, who allegedly told him they needed the film as evidence for the trial of Kennedy's assassin, Sirhan Sirhan.

"They made it very clear that they wanted the film. They didn't take it by force, but I wasn't really given a choice. It was the most traumatic experience of my life," Enyart said.

All material gathered for the trial later was sealed and was only opened last year.

Enyart said he received 18



SCOTT ENYART

This is one of 18 photos returned by police detectives two weeks after the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy.

photo prints from police detectives two weeks after the shooting, but he claims key pictures from the time period of the shooting were missing. After the trial, he was told his negatives, along with other material related to the assassination, had been sealed.

He said he tried to get the photos after the material was unsealed in May 1988, but a state archivist told him they had apparently been destroyed by Los Angeles police, along with 2,400 other photos in August 1968, before Sirhan's trial started.

Enyart, a commercial photog-

rapher, had planned to put together a book based on the assassination. He claims he had the only photo document of the beginning, middle and end of the shooting.

"I was shooting from 10 to 15 feet behind the senator, but I've never seen those (photographs)," he said. "I had the only still photographic record of the entire event."

A call made to the Los Angeles FBI office was answered by an agent who said the agency had not seen the lawsuit.

The Associated Press contributed to this article.

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Officials Open Files in '68 Kennedy Assassination

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 19 (AP) — The police files of the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy were opened to the public for the first time today, and officials disclosed that more than 2,400 photographs from the file had been destroyed.

There was no explanation in the 50,000 pages of documents of why the pictures were burned. Nor was there an explanation of why such items as ceiling tiles and door jambs from the site of the shooting at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles were destroyed in the months after the June 1968 assassination.

The California Secretary of State, March Fong Eu, released the documents, including interviews with 4,000 witnesses and 2,500 photographs from the Los Angeles Police Department files.

The state's chief archivist, John Burns, said that because of the missing material, the documents were unlikely to answer numerous questions surrounding the 1968 assassination.

'Not Absolutely Satisfied'

"I've never seen a file quite this large," Mr. Burns said. "This is a very unusual murder file. I'm not absolutely satisfied that any questions are answered."

The release of the records follows years of demands for public access to the information. Among the persistent questions raised by conspiracy theorists and scholars are: Was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan the only gunman? Was Kennedy shot from in front or behind? Were there eight shots or more in the pantry of the hotel?

Mr. Burns said the biggest surprise was the amount of evidence destroyed, including the photographs, which were burned three months after the assassination. The subject matter of the photographs is unknown.

He said he had not had time to examine all the evidence, which he predicted will occupy researchers for years.

The gaps in the material drew immediate criticism.

"Someone should ask the police why they destroyed 2,400 photographs in the most important case they've ever examined," said Gregory Stone, a political scientist at the University of Wisconsin who is a longtime student of the case.

Diary Entry and a Dress

Among the material put on display was a polka dot dress, bullets taken from victims and an entry from Mr. Sirhan's diary saying, "R.F.K. must die."

The dress was one of many purchased by police in an effort to jog the memories of witnesses on a point of contention, that a girl in a polka dot dress was seen running from the hotel shouting, "We shot him." That report was never verified.

Also released was the police tape recording of a call reporting the Kennedy shooting. The caller did not immediately know who was shot but told

the officer who answered that the New York Senator was in the hotel, to which the unidentified officer replied, "Big deal."

Extensive videotape and audio recordings graphically depict the confusion at the scene. The videotape shows a fatally wounded Kennedy, who moments before had declared victory in California's Democratic Presidential primary, lying on the floor.

The day before the files were released, Mr. Sirhan's attorney, Luke McKissack, said Mr. Sirhan expected nothing to contradict his contention that he was a lone gunman.

The only things withheld from disclosure, Ms. Eu said, were autopsy photos, criminal records and fingerprint cards, juvenile case records, internal police personnel records and records that originated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation or police departments outside Los Angeles.

At First, Police Uncertainty

SACRAMENTO, Calif., April 19 (AP) — A Los Angeles Police Department radio log from the night Robert F. Kennedy was shot was released today. It showed that the officer who took the initial call was unsure at first whether the matter was important.

The voices on the tape were not identified.

The following is part of an exchange between a woman caller and a police officer:

Woman: "This is the Ambassador Hotel. They have an emergency."

Policeman: "What kind of emergency?"

Woman: "I don't know. Some kind of an emergency. You know we have Mr. Kennedy here."

Policeman: "Big deal!"

Woman (brief pause): "I think somebody was shot."

Policeman: "Oh great"

Woman: "You want me to find out more?"

Policeman: "Yes, ma'am."

Woman (longer pause): "Senator Kennedy has been shot."

Policeman: "He's been shot?"

Woman: "That's right. You'd better send someone here."

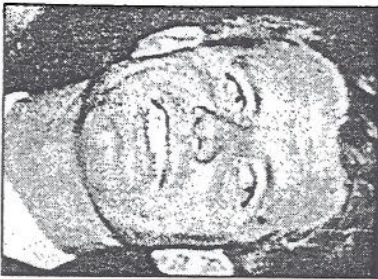
Policeman: "What's the address there?" (He apparently did not know the location of one of the largest hotels in Los Angeles.)

Even after officers arrived at the scene, one of them radioed, "Senator Kennedy has been shot at the Ambassador," and a dispatcher responded, "Senator who?"

It took about 20 minutes before the information was straightened out and a dispatcher announced to all cars: "The shooting was of Senator Bob Kennedy. The suspect is in custody."

Files' release doesn't end RFK case

By William Green
USA TODAY



KENNEDY: Slaying files include 4,000 interviews.

Mysteries remain about Robert Kennedy's 1968 slaying, despite the release Tuesday of previously secret Los Angeles Police Department files on its probe. California Secretary of State March Fong Eu acknowledged that "numerous questions remain in the minds of many about possible conspiracy theories." But now that the 50,000 pages of documents have been opened, she said, people "can draw their own conclusions." Kennedy, a U.S. senator from New York, had just won the Democratic presi-

dential primary in California when he was killed June 5, 1968, while walking through the kitchen in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Sirhan Sirhan admitted killing him, and is serving life in prison. Police and an investigation ruled he acted alone; others argued it was a conspiracy.

Among the material put on display: ▶ Sirhan's diary open at an entry that said: "RFK must die."

▶ Sirhan's .22-caliber pistol.

▶ A photograph of Kennedy's suit coat with bullet hole in shoulder. The family has asked for his clothes, still held by the district attorney.

▶ A black-and-white polka-dot dress purchased by police trying to jog the memories of "witnesses on one point: that a girl in such a dress was seen running from the hotel shouting "We shot him." That report was never verified.

The investigation files indicated that more than 2,400 unidentified photographs and other probe materials were destroyed, for no known reason.

California's chief archivist, John Burns, said he was surprised so much was destroyed.

"I'm not absolutely satisfied," he said, "that any questions are answered" by the volume of information that is available.

RFK summary sharpens

By Murray Dubin
Inquirer Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — James Hoffa and Milton Berle were among the 4,810 persons interviewed. Links with the Mafia, the Communist Party and the Theosophical Society were investigated. Nearly 17 years after it was written, an edited 1,453 page summary of the Los Angeles Police Department's investigation into the 1968 shooting death of Robert F. Kennedy has been made public.

The investigative summary, which points out that the "department's reputation was quite literally on the line," supports the conclusions of the police that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, acting alone, killed the New York senator in a premeditated act. Sirhan is serving time in prison.

But the release of the summary has done nothing to quiet the criticism of the police investigation. Nor has it quieted the critics who point to errors and unanswered questions in the summary, and who call for the release of the 50,000 pages of primary investigative files that have not been made public.

"It is a selective, sanitized version of the evidence that supports the official conclusion," said Gregory Stone, a political scientist and once an aide to Rep. Allard K. Lowenstein of New York. Lowenstein, a one-term member of Congress who was himself murdered, sought the release of the full investigative files in 1973 and 1974.

City and police officials had promised release of the investigative files since the early 1970s. But it was not until last summer, when archivists, historians and Kennedy associates began demanding it, that the city Board of Police Commissioners announced that the files would be edited and made public, beginning with the summary.

Last week, the commission released the summary and then washed its hands of the remaining 50,000 pages. It announced that it was recommending to the mayor that he appoint a special committee to handle the editing and disposition of the primary investigative files.

"The interesting aspects of the summary just point one to the primary materials," said Stone in frustration after looking at the summary.

"There was great criticism of the JFK investigation after the Warren Commission Report came out," he said, referring to the federal investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. "But we don't have a Warren Commission Report here. We are deprived of weighing the official conclusion versus the original evidence."

He added that the summary was just 3



Robert and Ethel Kennedy at victory rally just before his assassination

percent of the total investigative file.

According to the summary, Sen. Kennedy arrived in Southern California on June 2, 1968, to begin his final two days of campaigning before the June 4 presidential primary.

He campaigned across the state before arriving at 8 p.m. on election night at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles to await the returns.

At 12:02 a.m., he gave a victory speech to about 2,000 people. Thirteen minutes later, while walking through the pantry and shaking hands with kitchen workers, he was shot three times. Five others were wounded.

Kennedy was pronounced dead at 1:44 a.m. June 6.

The summary contains six conclusions, five concerning Sirhan's guilt and the lack of any conspiracy, and one stating the police department's innocence.

"The Kennedy staff did not request any police protection from the Los Angeles Police Department nor was any offered by the department" is the summary's final conclusion.

Early in the summary, incidents in which Kennedy and his aides refuse police assistance are recounted. So are incidents when Kennedy aides "shout obscenities" and "highly inflammatory" remarks at police.

That, according to the summary, explains

why there were 2,000 people at the hotel for the Kennedy victory celebration and no police. There were also election night gatherings of Democratic Senate nominee Alan Cranston and Republican nominee Max Rafferty at the Ambassador Hotel.

According to the summary, the first police on the scene came from patrol cars nearby.

The summary, besides detailing the investigation of the crime by police, offers a glimpse of those who were near Kennedy in the pantry.

Five minutes before his victory speech was completed, Kennedy aides chose to have him exit the stage at the rear and go through the pantry to another room where a news conference would be held.

Because of the crush of people, Kennedy security man William Barry and staffer Fred Dutton, who usually walked at the senator's side, were about eight feet behind as he walked into the pantry. Kennedy's wife told Barry to "stay with the senator."

Suddenly, there were shots. Police said eight shots were fired, the last four while Sirhan was being apprehended. The summary describes the apprehension:

Karl Uecker, a hotel waiter captain, who was the closest to Kennedy, grabbed Sirhan by the neck and then struck his hand to dislodge the gun. But Sirhan kept shooting.

demands for all files

Two others tried to grab him, but Sirhan kept struggling. Barry and writer George Plimpton tried to help. Roosevelt Grier, a football player, ran into the kitchen and wrenched the gun from Sirhan and gave it to track star Rafer Johnson. Sirhan was finally subdued, and pinned to a serving table.

Jess Unruh, speaker of the California Assembly, joined the fray, shouting, "This one's going to stand trial. No one's going to kill him."

Kennedy was conscious. He recognized his wife, smiled and several times moaned "Oh, Ethel."

While being restrained in the pantry, Sirhan said either "I can explain" or "I will explain," according to Unruh and Johnson.

In the police car minutes later, Sirhan told Unruh, "I did it for my country."

"Why him?" Unruh asked.

"It's too late" was the reply.

The police interviewed everyone in the hotel and everyone who might have a motive to harm Kennedy. Among those at the Ambassador was comedian Milton Berle, a Kennedy supporter, who was in a suite when the shooting occurred.

They also interviewed James Hoffa, former Teamsters union president who began serving a prison sentence in 1967 on jury-tampering and mail-fraud charges. It was Kennedy, as U.S. attorney general, who had led the federal investigation of Hoffa.

Hoffa denied any part in the Kennedy slaying.

In Sirhan's Pasadena home, police found an envelope on which was written "RFK must be disposed of like his brother." In a notebook, the words "R.F.K. must be assassinated" were repeated over and over. Later, a handwriting expert would testify that the handwriting was Sirhan's.

Because Sirhan requested a Theosophical Society book while in jail, police investigated the organization to see if it had played any part in the Kennedy killing.

The organization, which has chapters throughout the world but only a few thousand members, believes in the brotherhood of man. Police concluded that Sirhan had attended a meeting, but was not a society member and that the organization had no role whatsoever in the shooting.

Similar investigations into allegations of links between Sirhan and Cuban and Arab groups, the Mafia, the Communist Party and mystical groups also did not show any connection.

Police did find evidence that Sirhan had attended other Kennedy functions in California, had purchased a gun, had practiced firing the gun and had spoken, at least once, of his enmity for Kennedy.

Neither Stone nor Paul Schrade, a Ken-

nedy staffer who was one of the five wounded, have any quarrel with naming Sirhan as the culprit.

But they do question how the summary was edited and a number of its conclusions. And they both wonder when the full investigative file will be made public.

Stone points out that most of the witnesses closest to Kennedy in the pantry testified in court that Sirhan's gun was never closer than one foot from Kennedy. The summary, he said, glosses over that fact and concludes, as the autopsy did, that the bullets that killed Kennedy were fired from an inch away.

The summary concludes that the bullet that struck Schrade in the head went through the shoulder pad of Kennedy's coat first.

"If it didn't go through his jacket first, then nine shots, not eight shots, were fired," Stone said. "Nine shots means a second gun."

Schrade demanded last week at the police commission meeting that Chief Daryl Gates explain to him how the bullet that struck him could have passed through Kennedy's jacket. He waved in front of him a police picture, which he said he had obtained by court order, of the jacket and the bullet hole.

Gates ignored Schrade's comments.

In an explanatory letter with the summary, it is stated that names of Secret Service and FBI agents have been edited out of the summary because it was the "policy" of such governmental agencies.

But Stone said both the Warren Commission and the investigators of the killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. listed the names of federal agents involved.

"If they called someone, we could have told them that," Stone said. "There's been no dialogue."

Deputy Mayor Tom Houston said it was not certain yet what would be done with the primary investigative files, but he noted that it was a "big cost item."

"It's hard for me to take a comment like that seriously," said Stone, angry that anyone could still be "fixated and immobilized by money."

Schrade, a former United Auto Workers official, said he and Stone were not alone in their quest to have all the Kennedy files opened up. "I just got a call from the doctor who operated on me in 1968," Schrade said. "He thought it was crazy to think that Sirhan acted alone."

Schrade does not know one way or the other. He is convinced of nothing, other than that he does not believe he was struck by the same bullet that hit Kennedy's jacket.

"I think there are a lot of people who are interested in finding out what happened," he said.

Police Told to Disclose Summary of RFK Case

By DAVID FREED, Times Staff Writer

Seventeen years after it investigated the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the Los Angeles Police Department was directed Tuesday to make public its confidential 1,500-page summary of the case, but not before editing from it evidence still deemed "sensitive."

In unanimously ordering disclosure of the summary, the Los Angeles Police Commission turned down requests from a handful of scholars who came from as far away as Massachusetts requesting access to all of the department's investigative case file on Kennedy's assassination.

Few Made Public

The file, a massive collection of more than 50,000 documents and 1,700 photos, is stored in five cabinets at the Police Department's Parker Center headquarters. Only a few of the reports have ever been made public.

Commissioners said they fear that releasing the complete file could threaten the privacy of some people involved in the case and could possibly violate confidences established between informants and detectives who investigated Kennedy's death in June, 1968, at the Ambassador Hotel.

Commissioners also expressed concern that releasing such items as autopsy photographs of Kennedy's body would serve no public good.

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"This board and this (police) department have shown a commitment to open government and to recognizing the public's right and need to know," said Stephen D. Ysias, commission president. "The board is also cognizant of a commitment to the protection of individuals' rights to privacy."

The commission established a subcommittee to set standards by which sensitive parts would be removed from the summary before it is released. No deadline was set, but it is expected to be months before the summary report is made public.

While dismissing requests for the file's complete disclosure, the commission indicated a willingness to consider turning the main files over to a university archives, provided that the documents could be purged of sensitive information. The commission, however,

made no formal pledge to do so.

Police Chief Daryl F. Gates supported the commission's decision, saying he had hoped "at some date" in the distant future to "simply ship off" the files to national archives.

'People Would Be Harmed'

"I don't know that that time has arrived," Gates said. "There are still people who are living that I think would be harmed, seriously harmed, because their privacy would be invaded. And I think that the Police Department would be harmed in terms of those people who came to us knowing that we would keep faith with their confidentiality only to find that we were no longer doing that."

The decision to make public only the summary of the Police Department's file drew mixed reviews from the 10 historians, professors and others who testified before the commission requesting complete disclosure.

"At least it's a start," said Paul Schrade, a former Kennedy campaign official who was wounded in the barrage of bullets fired by Sirhan Sirhan in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Gregory Stone, a political scientist from the University of Wisconsin who is studying Kennedy's background, was less satisfied.

"In complex matters of this kind—matters of supreme national importance relating to recent history and the public life of our country—the historical needs and the evidentiary needs simply cannot be addressed by the release of . . . minute materials from the entire body of evidence," Stone told the commission.

Other government agencies, including the FBI and the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, recently have begun making public their own documents and evidence relating to Kennedy's death.