

Murphy of California, campaigning for reelection, announced that he too was an heir to the legacy of doubt, but his reasons seemed to be somewhat different from those of Lyndon Johnson. Speaking in the northern California town of Fremont, Murphy—a Republican and former movie star—startled his conservative audience when he said it was his opinion that the killers of both John and Robert Kennedy may have acted under orders from someone else.

Murphy said, "A President and his brother have been assassinated, for what reason and by whose order I'm still not certain."

After the speech reporters asked Murphy to elaborate on his remarks concerning the two assassinations, but the Senator declined, saying there would be no more discussion of the subject.

I knew Murphy personally, and I decided to press for a more comprehensive explanation. But the Senator was reluctant to produce any additional details, and his aides were likewise reluctant to talk, which led me to believe that there may indeed have been some substance—above and beyond political rhetoric—to his remarks in Fremont. Then, at a chance meeting at the Los Angeles Hall of Justice with Chief Deputy District Attorney John Howard, the man who successfully prosecuted Senator Robert Kennedy's killer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, I was able to obtain some insight into the motivation behind Senator George Murphy's speech. One of Murphy's aides suddenly entered the room, and with John Howard ask-

ing the questions, we learned that at that very moment, top secret hearings concerning the assassinations of both John and Robert Kennedy were in progress in Washington before the Senate Judiciary Committee. The aide said the committee was hearing testimony from several crucial witnesses to both assassinations. There is no public record of such a hearing taking place in the fall of 1971. But in fact it did take place, at a location far removed from the regular hearing room where Senator William Eastland presided over the Judiciary Committee. Furthermore, an aide to the senior Senator from Mississippi told me that three of the committee's staff investigators had been searching for information in the Los Angeles area—information about the two Kennedy assassinations.

But if the Senate Judiciary Committee and its investigators produced anything in the way of evidence that might remotely suggest a conspiracy in either assassination, it has never come to the attention of the American public.

For some time, in the normal course of covering the news, I had been gathering shreds of evidence about the two assassinations. But quite honestly, I did not initially share in the legacy of doubt. Like most other newsmen, I was content with the findings of the Warren Commission—even more so after Ealing "Jim" Carrouthers Garrison, the District Attorney of New Orleans, insulted the intelligence of the American public with his disas-

Legacy of Doubt