

# The Assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy: Proofs of Conspiracy and of Two Persons Firing

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*"It is undeniable that the Los Angeles Police Department . . . have suppressed extremely important information which shows conclusively that there was a conspiracy and that the assassination was not the act of a lone assassin."*

## I.

by Richard E. Sprague

Just after winning the California Democratic Party primary in 1968, Senator Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated, a few minutes after midnight on June 5, 1968, in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

The person charged with the murder, Sirhan B. Sirhan, who most certainly fired at Senator Robert Kennedy, was tried, found guilty, and sentenced for the murder.

But there are a number of puzzling facts. One of the most damning was the finding of a total of 10 bullets in the bodies of persons at the scene, or in the floor, walls, doors and ceiling of the kitchen, whereas Sirhan's gun contained space for only 8 bullets.

Furthermore, the coroner of the County of Los Angeles, Dr. Thomas Noguchi, stated that the shots that killed Senator Kennedy made powder burns and were fired from behind and within 1 foot of his body. The closest that Sirhan came at any time to the Senator was about 4 feet, and Sirhan was in front.

It is undeniable that the Los Angeles Police Department and in particular Mr. Robert A. Houghton, at that time Chief of Detectives, have suppressed extremely important information, which shows conclusively that there was a conspiracy, and that the assassination was not the act of a lone assassin.

The evidence in this assassination is being used to lead to a new trial for Sirhan B. Sirhan and to be shown to the public. Luke McKissack, Sirhan's new attorney, as well as Sirhan's family and Sirhan himself, have become convinced that Sirhan was hypnotized when he fired shots at the Senator. They also will claim in a new trial that evidence shows that a second gun fired the three shots striking Robert Kennedy, while Sirhan's bullets missed.

A short summary of the evidence of conspiracy is as follows:

## Summary of Evidence

1. The sounds of only three shots can be heard on all television tapes recorded by news organizations at the time. Sirhan fired at least five and more likely eight shots.

2. Tests conducted by the Los Angeles police proved that the sound of firing of Sirhan's gun could not be picked up by the microphones that recorded the three shots heard.

3. Ten bullets were found by the police in bodies of persons and in and around the kitchen where the assassination occurred. Sirhan's gun held only eight bullets.

4. The three shots hitting Senator Kennedy were fired from behind him and to his right. The trajectories were all from back to front and upward. The fatal shot in the Senator's head was fired from within one inch of his body. The other two shots were fired from within three to six inches.

Sirhan's relative position according to all eyewitnesses (there were no photographs or TV footage of the shooting) was always in front of Kennedy, to his left and above him. The gun was never closer than four to six feet from the Senator. In other words, Sirhan's bullets' trajectories were in the exact opposite direction as the three bullets hitting RFK.

5. A hotel guard, Thane Eugene Cesar, by his own admission (to a news reporter) was directly behind RFK, to his right, and was holding his right elbow from behind when the first shot was fired. Cesar drew his gun immediately upon hearing the first shot, again according to his own admission.

There were also two other hotel security guards in the kitchen with drawn guns at the time of Sirhan's shots.

6. Two eyewitnesses, Donald Schulman and an unidentified woman who telephoned Godfrey Isaacs, stated they saw a hotel guard shoot Senator Robert Kennedy.

7. There was a second gun used in the Los Angeles police tests for ballistics evidence. There were two different types of rifling marks found on the bullets recovered from the kitchen. None of the bullets recovered from RFK's body were matched ballistically with Sirhan's gun, which was never test fired. The test gun, serial #H18602 was not Sirhan's gun, serial #H53725. The test gun did match three of the bullets from the kitchen including Exhibit 47 removed from Robert Kennedy's body. (See Exhibit A at the end of this article.)

8. There is evidence that Sirhan was under hypnosis when he fired the shots, and that he was also under hypnosis on several other occasions. The evidence for these assertions can be found in Robert Kaiser's book "RFK Must Die". The psychiatrist, Dr. Diamond, who examined Sirhan for many hours in his cell, was able to hypnotize Sirhan and produce exactly the same external symptoms that Sirhan exhibited when he was arrested.

9. Individuals working in Los Angeles in cooperation with the National Committee to Investigate Assassinations have located the man who hypnotized Sirhan, and can prove that this man was involved in the conspiracy.

10. Two people who were with Sirhan just before the shots, can be proved to have been involved in the plot. One was an Arabic man, the other a Caucasian girl in a polka dot dress.

11. Several other people seen with Sirhan and the others prior to the assassination can be demonstrated to have been involved in the conspiracy.

#### Evidence of a Frame-Up and Cover-Up

The Los Angeles police, the Los Angeles office of the FBI, and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office, with a perhaps unintentional assist from Sirhan's lawyers and the trial judge, conspired to frame Sirhan and to cover up the conspiracy.

The testimony of witnesses which would have exposed the conspiracy was suppressed at the trial of Sirhan. Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the L.A. County Coroner was not permitted to testify about the shots. The autopsy report was classified confidential and suppressed. Donald Schulman's testimony was never sought. The FBI's thick investigative report has been suppressed. The L.A. police did not present their true ballistics evidence, or their microphone test evidence, or the radio and TV sound tapes. The facts about the two guns and two sets of bullets were suppressed.

"Special Unit Senator" was the name given to a team headed by Robert Houghton to investigate the assassination. It was also the title of a book by Houghton, forming the chief public record for the police and the D.A. The book illustrates how every piece of evidence of conspiracy (for example, the girl in the polka dot dress) was suppressed, distorted, or ignored by the team.

#### II.

##### Sworn Affidavit by William W. Harper

I, William W. Harper, being first duly sworn, depose as follows:

1. I am a resident of the State of California and for approximately thirty-seven years have lived at 615 Prospect Boulevard in Pasadena, California.

2. I am now and for thirty-five years have been engaged in the field of consulting criminalistics.

3. My formal academic background includes studies at Columbia University, University of California at Los Angeles and California Institute of Technology, where I spent four years, including studies in physics and mathematics with the major portion devoted to physics research.

4. My practical experience and positions held include seven years as consulting criminalist to the Pasadena Police Department where I was in charge of the Technical Laboratory engaging in the technical phases of police training and all technical field investigations including those involving firearms. I was, during World War II, for three years in charge of technical investigation for Naval Intelligence in the 11th Naval District, located at San Diego, California.

After my release from the Navy, I entered private practice as a consulting criminalist. Extending over a period of 35 years I have handled roughly 300 cases involving firearms in homicides, suicides and accidental shootings. I have testified as a consulting criminalist in both criminal and civil litigation, and for both defense and prosecution, in both State and Federal Courts. I have qualified as an expert in the courts of California, Washington, Oregon, Texas, Nevada, Arizona and Utah. I am a Fellow of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.

5. During the past seven months I have made a careful review and study of the physical circumstances of the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles, California. In this connection I have examined the physical evidence introduced at the trial, including the Sirhan weapon, the bullets and shell cases. I have also studied the autopsy report, the autopsy photographs, and pertinent portions of the trial testimony.

6. Based on my background and training, upon my experience as a consulting criminalist, and my studies, examination and analysis of data related to the Robert F. Kennedy assassination, I have arrived at the following findings and opinions:

A. An analysis of the physical circumstances at the scene of the assassination discloses that Senator Kennedy was fired upon from two distinct firing positions while he was walking through the kitchen pantry at the Ambassador Hotel. Firing Position A, the position of Sirhan, was located directly in front of the Senator, with Sirhan face-to-face with the Senator. This position is well established by more than a dozen eyewitnesses. A second firing position, Firing Position B, is clearly established by the autopsy report. It was located in close proximity to the Senator, immediately to his right and rear. It was from this position that 4 (four) shots were fired, three of which entered the Senator's body. One of these three shots made a fatal penetration of the Senator's brain. A fourth shot passed through the right shoulder pad of the Senator's coat. These four shots from Firing Position B all produced powder residue patterns, indicating they were fired from a distance of only a few inches. They were closely grouped within a 12 inch circle.

In marked contrast, the shots from Firing Position A produced no powder residue patterns on the bodies or clothing of any of the surviving victims, all of whom were walking behind the Senator. These shots were widely dispersed.

Senator Kennedy received no frontal wounds. The three wounds suffered by him were fired from behind and he had entrance wounds in the posterior portions of his body.

B. It is evident that a strong conflict exists between the eyewitness accounts and the autopsy findings. This conflict is totally irreconcilable with the hypothesis that only Sirhan's gun was involved in the assassination. The conflict can be eliminated if we consider that a second gun was being fired from Firing Position B concurrently with the firing of the Sirhan gun from Firing Position A. It is self-evident that within the brief period of the shooting (roughly 15 seconds) Sirhan could not have been in both firing positions at the same time.

No eyewitnesses saw Sirhan at any position other than Firing Position A, where he was quickly restrained by citizens present at that time and place.

C. It is my opinion that these circumstances, in conjunction with the autopsy report (without for the moment considering additional evidence), firmly establish that two guns were being fired in the kitchen pantry concurrently.

D. There is no reasonable likelihood that the shots from Firing Position B could have been fired by a person attempting to stop Sirhan. This is because the person shooting from Firing Position B was in almost direct body contact with the Senator. This person could have seen where his shots would strike the Senator, since the fatal shot was fired (muzzle) from one to three inches from the Senator's head. Had Sirhan been the intended target, the person shooting would have extended his arm beyond the Senator and fired directly at Sirhan. Furthermore, two of the shots from Firing Position B were steeply upward, one shot actually penetrating the ceiling overhead.

E. The police appear to have concluded that a total of eight shots were fired with seven bullets accounted for and one bullet unrecovered. This apparent conclusion fails to take into account that their evidence shows that a fourth shot from Firing Position B went through the right shoulder pad of the Senator's coat from back to front. This shot was fired from a distance of approximately one inch according to the testimony. It could not have been the shot which struck victim Paul Schrade in the forehead since Schrade was behind the Senator and traveling in the same direction. The bullet producing this hole in the shoulder pad from back to front could not have returned by ricochet or otherwise to strike Schrade in the forehead. This fourth shot from Firing Position B would indicate 9 (nine) shots were fired, with two bullets unrecovered. This indication provides an additional basis for the contention that two guns were involved, since the Sirhan gun could have fired only 8 (eight) shots.

F. The prosecution testimony attempted to establish that the Sirhan gun, and no other, was involved in the assassination. It is a fact, however, that the only gun actually linked scientifically with the shooting is a second gun, not the Sirhan gun. The serial number of the Sirhan gun is No. H53725. The serial number of the second gun is No. H18602. It is also an Iver Johnson 22 cal. cadet. The expert testimony, based on matching the three test bullets of Exhibit 55 in a comparison microscope to three of

the evidence bullets (Exhibit 47 removed from the Senator, Exhibit 52 removed from Goldstein and Exhibit 54 removed from Weisel) concluded that the three evidence bullets were fired from the same gun that fired the three test bullets of Exhibit 55. The physical evidence shows that the gun that fired the three test bullets was gun No. H18602, not the Sirhan gun. Thus, the only gun placed at the scene by scientific evidence is gun No. H18602. Sirhan's gun was taken from him by citizens at the scene. I have no information regarding the background history of gun No. H18602 nor how the police came into possession of it.

G. No test bullets recovered from the Sirhan gun are in evidence. This gun was never identified scientifically as having fired any of the bullets removed from any of the victims. Other than the apparent self-evident fact that gun No. H53725 was forcibly removed from Sirhan at the scene, it has not been connected by microscopic examinations or other scientific testing to the actual shooting.

H. The only reasonable conclusion from the evidence developed by the police, in spite of their protestations to the contrary, is that two guns were being fired in the kitchen pantry of the Ambassador Hotel at the time of the shooting of Senator Kennedy.

I. From the general circumstances of the shooting the only reasonable assumption is that the bullet removed from victim Weisel was in fact fired from the Sirhan gun. This bullet is in near perfect condition. I have, therefore, chosen it as a "test" bullet from the Sirhan gun and compared it with the bullet removed from the Senator's neck. The bullet removed from the Senator's neck, Exhibit 47, was one of those fired from Firing Position B, while the bullet removed from Weisel, Exhibit 54, was one of those fired from Firing Position A, the position of Sirhan. My examinations disclosed no individual characteristics establishing that Exhibit 47 and Exhibit 54 had been fired by the same gun. In fact, my examinations disclosed that bullet Exhibit 47 has a rifling angle approximately 23 minutes (14%) greater than the rifling angle of bullet Exhibit 54. It is, therefore, my opinion that bullets 47 and 54 could not have been fired from the same gun.

The above finding stands as independent proof that two guns were being fired concurrently in the kitchen pantry of the Ambassador Hotel at the time of the shooting.

J. The conclusions I have arrived at based upon my findings are as follows:

- (1) Two 22 calibre guns were involved in the assassination.
- (2) Senator Kennedy was killed by one of the shots fired from Firing Position B, fired by a second gunman.
- (3) The five surviving victims were wounded by Sirhan shooting from Firing Position A.
- (4) It is extremely unlikely that any of the bullets fired by the Sirhan gun ever struck the body of Senator Kennedy.
- (5) It is also unlikely that the shooting of the Senator could have accidentally resulted from an attempt to shoot Sirhan.

Dated: December 28, 1970  
William W. Harper  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

s.

On this ... day of December, 1970, before me appeared, personally, WILLIAM W. HARPER, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the within instrument, and acknowledged that he executed the same.

Notary Public in and for  
said County and State.

(Seal)

(Reprinted from the Los Angeles Free Press, January 21, 1972.)

#### Notes by William W. Harper

Assume that Sirhan had escaped from the scene of the Kennedy assassination with the gun without being seen by any eye witnesses. Assume also that the autopsy and medical reports and other physical evidence were the same as we find them today. What effect would these circumstances have had on the investigation? Would the police have been searching for one assassin or for two?

Upon completion of the autopsy it would have been immediately evident that the Senator had been fired on by some gunman in close proximity to him and to his right and rear.

It was also apparent at this time, or very shortly thereafter, that the five additional victims were following the senator and to his rear. Had the gunman, after shooting the Senator, turned to his left and fired apparently indiscriminately into the crowd of his followers? If so, why?

The Senator was the "target" victim. The shooting of the additional victims would certainly have to be considered as accidental. No one could reasonably believe that Schrade, Stroll, Goldstein, Evans and Weisel had been deliberately chosen for elimination as well as the Senator. The trajectories of the shots wounding these accidental victims necessarily came from a position ahead of the Senator, not from behind him.

These circumstances would suggest to any experienced homicide detective, as well as to any criminalist, that two guns were involved and two gunmen had to be tracked down.

Multiple-gun shootings are not a rarity in police work. When bullets of different calibers are removed from victims and/or found at the crime scene, it is obvious that more than one gun is involved. When all recovered bullets are the same caliber, the conclusion that a single gun is involved must not be hurriedly reached.

The capture of Sirhan with his gun at the scene resulted in a total mesmerization of the investigative efforts. The fact that all recovered evidence bullets were the same caliber further contributed to the general euphoria. The well established teachings of criminalistics and forensic pathology were cast aside and by-passed in favor of a more expedient solution and, unfortunately, an erroneous oversimplification.

January 1, 1971

William W. Harper

#### References - Partial List

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The Pantry Where Senator Robert Kennedy was Assassinated  
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2. "The Conspiracy to Assassinate Senator Robert F. Kennedy and the Second Conspiracy to Cover It Up,"  
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#### NOTICE

"The Construction of Living Robots" by Edmund C. Berkeley, Part 2, was not printed in this issue for lack of space. The publication of Part 2 has been postponed to a future issue of *Computers and Automation*.