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Kennedy Investigation Lead No Pickup 330

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LOS ANGELES AP. - The man who shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy refuses to identify himself and has said but one word - "yes" - since his arrest, Police Chief Thomas Reddin said today.

"He just sits there and says nothing," Reddin told a news conference.

The man is the only known suspect, he said.

The chief said the gunman fired all eight shots in an Iver Johnson .22 calibre pistol when he blazed away during a Kennedy California presidential primary victory celebration at the Ambassador Hotel.

The New York Democrat was hit twice in the head and one bullet lodged in the brain.

Four or five other persons were wounded.

Reddin gave these details.

-The gunman carried a few scraps of paper, not identified, but had no identification. "We made a skin search of him, checking that he had nothing on him to take his life." He is under 24-hour guard.

- "We have advised him of his rights. He doesn't want a lawyer now."

-Questioning continues at Central Jail, with a representative of the district attorney's office. Any statements will be tape recorded, which Reddin says was not done after the Dallas assassination in 1963 of Kennedy's brother, President John F. Kennedy.

- "We describe him as a male caucasian, around 25, 5 feet 5 and about 120 pounds, swarthy complexion. His hair is described as wiry or bushy."

-The gun is the only evidence.

Reddin, asked if the gunman appeared to be of Latin-American extraction, replied: "I don't know. I can't tell."

He said the man might possibly be Eurasian.

Did the gunman speak English?

"He didn't speak any English, but he obviously understood English, as at one time he responded with a 'yes.' But I don't know what the question was."

The chief said during the campaign Kennedy twice was offered a police bodyguard, and each time refused.

Reddin gave this account of the shooting:

"Sen. Kennedy walked from the ballroom with members of his party to another room and that was when the shots were fired. Rosie Grier giant tackle for the Los Angeles Rams seized the suspect and handed the weapon to Rafer Johnson former Olympic decathlon star, lately a Kennedy aide."

"When the shots were fired pandemonium broke out. There were early reports of three suspects. We are now reasonably sure there's only one."

In Washington, the Justice Department said the suspect's fingerprints had been sent from the FBI office in Los Angeles to Washington to aid in identification.

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