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Kennedy Bjt 4th lead

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LOS ANGELES AP - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the head by a mysteriously silent gunman today after winning the California Democratic presidential primary and emerged from more than three hours of surgery in "extremely critical condition."

An aide said all but a fragment of a bullet was removed from Kennedy's brain and a second bullet, less serious, remains in the back of his neck.

Vital signs—pulse and breathing—are in good order, Frank Mankiewicz, his press secretary, told newsmen, but the next 24 to 36 hours will be critical. He said there "may have been some impairment of the blood supply to the center of the brain" — which controls pulse, blood pressure and tracking of the eye—but "not the thinking processes.

The 42-year-old New York senator came from behind in California's crucial primary to accrue a winning lead over Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy around midnight. Kennedy had proclaimed his win to about 2,000 supporters at an Ambassador Hotel rally and was taking a shortcut through the kitchen to a meeting with newsmen when shots rang out.

With stunning rapidity at 12:15 a.m., a man police described as a Caucasian, about 25, 5 feet 5 and 120 pounds, with dark hair and complexion, emptied the chamber of an eight-shot .22 pistol.

Kennedy fell, hit apparently three times. Five others near him were wounded, none as badly as the presidential candidate.

Kennedy lay for a time flat on his back in the kitchen, eyes open, crowd milling around him. Some observers say they heard him say, as he was lifted into a police ambulance, "Oh, no. No. Don't."

Pandemonium broke loose. Roosevelt Grier, giant Negro tackle for the professional Los Angeles Rams, quickly grabbed the much smaller gunman, wrestled the gun from him and held him for police.

Officers later questioned the man for hours at Central Jail, and said he stonily refused to say anything, except "yes" to one question.

They said they had no clue to his identity.

President Johnson and others around the nation—including Kennedy's rival on the campaign primary trail, Minnesota's Senator McCarthy—expressed shock and sorrow. Johnson ordered the full resources of the FBI thrown into the case and ordered secret service protection for major candidates.

Kennedy was brought first to Central Receiving Hospital where a doctor said he was "practically dead" upon arrival.

Physicians there administered closed cardiac massage, oxygen and adrenalin. "At first he was pulseless," said a doctor who treated him, "then his pulse came back and we began to hear a heart beat and he began to breathe—a little erratically."

The doctor, Victor Baz, said Ethel Kennedy, who accompanied her husband in the ambulance, was frightened—"she didn't believe he was alive because she couldn't see that he was responding. I put the stethoscope to her ears so she could listen and she was tremendously relieved.

She was "very distraught but superb. . . ver edgy, but my own wife wouldn't have done as well, I don't think. She was gracious at all times."

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