

KENNEDY

NEAR DEATH

...ARAB

GUNMAN

HELD

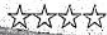
Cloudy

Mostly cloudy through tonight with chance of sprinkles or light shower. Clearing tomorrow. Low tonight in 50's, high tomorrow 65-70. Westerly wind 12-25 mph.

Full Report on Page 67.

San Francisco

103rd Year No. 297



SU 1-2424

WEDNESDAY,

Examiner

9 STAR
FINAL

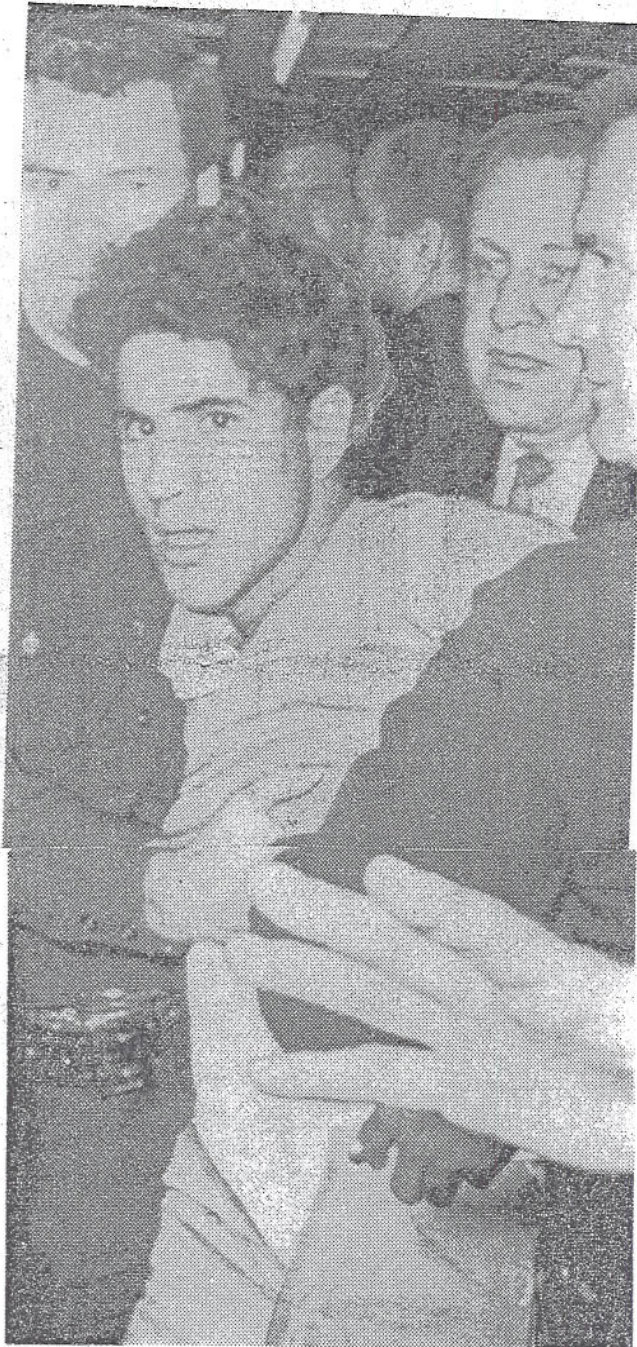
STOCKS-SPORTS

JUNE 5, 1968



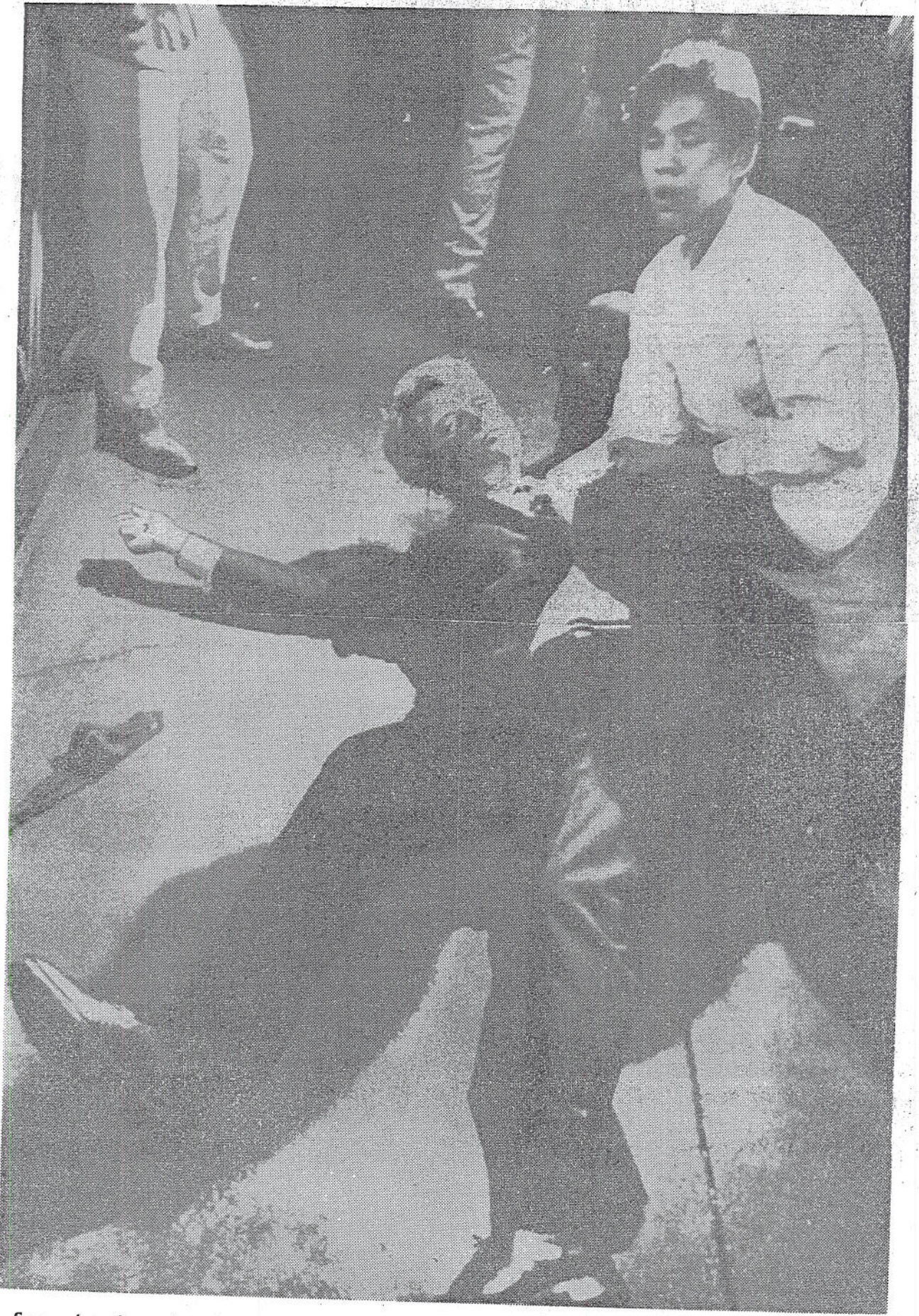
72 PAGES

DAILY 10c



Kennedy's mystery assailant, Sirhan Sirhan, is rushed to a police car. At right is Jesse Unruh.

—UPI Photo



Seconds after the shooting . . . only a busboy is at the side of the fallen Senator

—AP photo ©1968 Los Angeles Times

Surgeon Gives RFK Slim Hope

LOS ANGELES—Sen. Robert Kennedy lay gravely wounded today, his condition extremely critical after surgeons removed all but a fragment of a bullet fired into his brain by a 24 year old Arab gunman.

The man accused of shooting the New York Senator as he celebrated his California primary victory was captured on the spot. He was later identified as Sirhan Sirhan, 24, a Jordanian born in Jerusalem.

A team of brain surgeons operated for three hours and 40 minutes, striving to save the life of the New York senator — brother of the assassinated President Kennedy — shot down at the moment of his greatest victory as he campaigned for the White House.

One of the operating team was quoted as saying there was but a slim chance of Kennedy's recovery.

NEARING CRISIS

Dr. Henry Cuneo was said to have told an associate

"the outcome may be extremely tragic."

Physicians said the next 12 to 36 hours would be decisive.

The accused gunman, anonymous for hours, was identified at mid-morning as Sirhan. He is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

Los Angeles Mayor Samuel Yorty said the identification finally was made by Sirhan's brother, Munier "Joe" Sirhan, with whom he lived in Pasadena.

Yorty said Los Angeles police traced the Sirhans and another brother, Abel Sirhan, through the gun the assailant used.

There were reports that Sirhan had cried out, after the shooting:

"I di it for my country."

SPOKE TO JEWS

Observers pointed out that Kennedy had made several campaign appearances recently before Jewish congregations in California, calling

— Turn to Page 2, Col. 1

—From Page 1

for Arab recognition of Israel.

Today, it also was noted, was the first anniversary of the start of the Mideast June war.

Frank Mankiewicz, press secretary to Kennedy, said the senator faces a period of crisis tomorrow.

Kennedy bodyguards, led by two Negro athletes, grabbed the gunman, wrestled a .22 caliber pistol from him in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel. Five others were wounded at the shooting, none seriously.

4 \$100 BILLS

More than nine hours after the shooting, Yorty announced the identification of the gunman. He said he was born in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem.

Yorty said four \$100 bills were found on Sirhan, "with which he was planning on leaving if he could get away." He said Sirhan also carried a Pasadena newspaper clipping unfavorable toward Kennedy and a schedule of where Kennedy was speaking in June.

A Pasadena state office worker said he knew Sirhan and that he was a Moslem who "hated Kennedy because he hated everyone with money."

In Washington, records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service showed that Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in Jordan. He was admitted to the United States as a permanent resident on Jan. 12, 1957, at New York City, and became a naturalized citizen in 1965.

Sirhan would tell police nothing about himself or his deed.

Prior to his identification, he was secretly arraigned as John Doe, on six counts of assault with intent to commit murder, and was held in \$25,000 bail.

His act, at shortly after midnight, turned from triumph to terror the scene at the ornate hotel on Wilshire Boulevard, where Kennedy had just thanked his cheering supporters for their part in the biggest victory of his White House campaign — his capture of the California presidential primary.

And in that speech, Kennedy called upon those who fa-

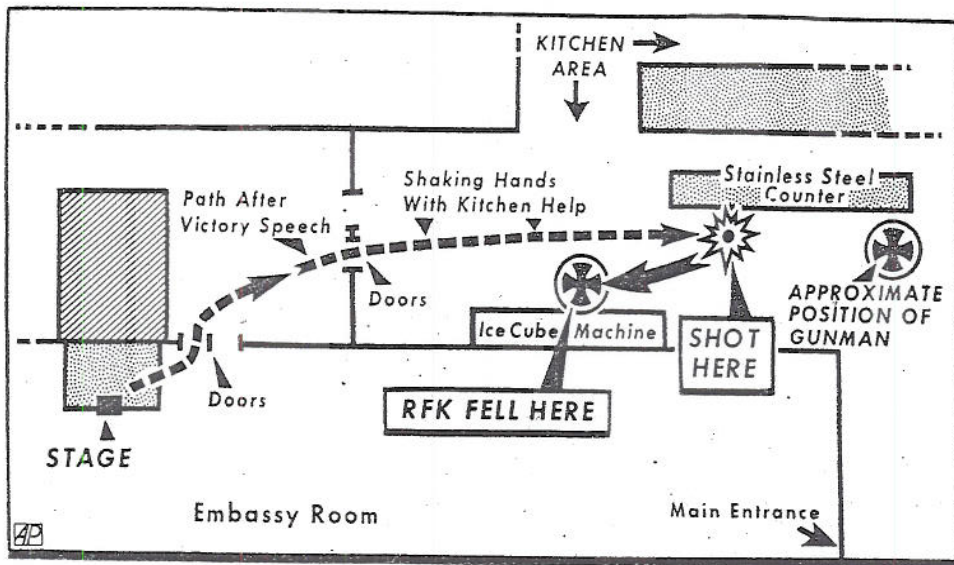
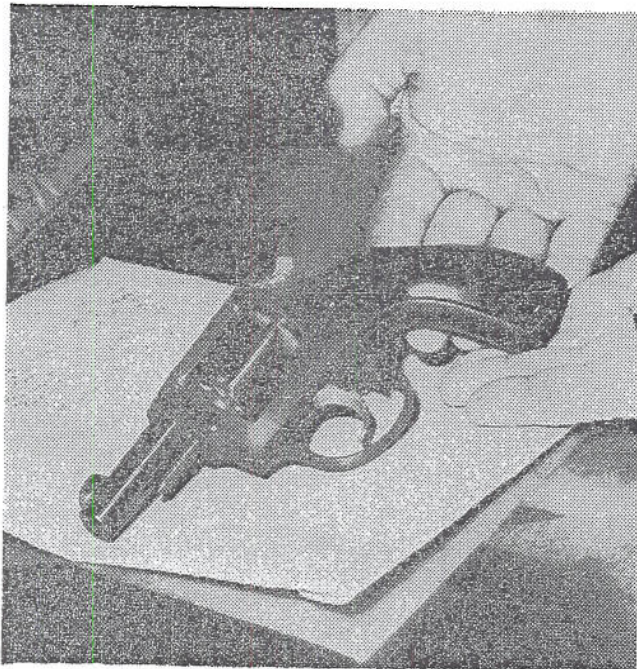


Diagram shows route Senator Kennedy took from victory speech to the ambush



L. A. POLICE SAY THIS GUN SHOT KENNEDY
It's an eight-shot .22-pistol

—AP Photo

vor his nomination to help him overcome "divisions, violence, disenchantment" in America.

Then he turned, taking a short cut through a kitchen passageway, to go to a news conference and met the violence he had condemned.

FIRES 8 SHOTS

The assailant, apparently standing on a box or a can for better vantage, swiftly pumped eight shots from his revolver at Kennedy.

None of the other wounded was hurt as critically as the senator.

Those who were in the corridor had differing accounts of the gunman's words.

Some said he cried as he shot:

"I can explain. Let me explain."

Others told of hearing him shout:

"I did it for my country."

CAMPAIGN HALTS

The deed sent a wave of shock through the world's capitals, and brought to a halt amid confusion and dismay the campaign for the White House.

President Johnson promptly ordered "Secret Service protection for all presidential candidates and the Pentagon announced several thousand troops had been put on precautionary alert.

Before Sirhan was identified both Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin and

U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said there was no evidence of a conspiracy in the shooting.

Kennedy was hit three times, near the right ear, in the shoulder and the forehead. The slug that hit near his ear plunged into the brain.

Kennedy was first taken to Los Angeles Central Receiving Hospital. The doctor who treated him there, Victor Baz, said the senator "was practically dead" when he arrived.

He was transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital and there, the team of six surgeons began operating at 3:12 a.m.

BULLET IN NECK

When their work was done, he was pronounced in "extremely critical condition."

All but a fragment of the bullet was removed from his brain, Mankiewicz said. A second bullet, considered to have inflicted less serious injury, remained in the back of Kennedy's neck.

He said vital signs, such as pulse and breathing were in good order, but there "may have been some impairment of the blood supply to the center of the brain."

Mankiewicz said that center controls the pulse, blood pressure and tracking of the eyes, but not the process of thinking.

ON LIVE TV

The scene was turmoil, tears and hysteria which followed the shooting was televised live by cameras which had just carried Kennedy's victory talk on the California race.

Kennedy and his assailant were out of sight of the television cameras.

Across town, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, the man Kennedy defeated in the California contest, led his supporters in silent prayer after the shooting.

Today, McCarthy went to the hospital.

The shock of the shooting quickly turned the roomful of some 2000 election night celebrators into a scene of chaos.

FALLS TO FLOOR

With startling speed, the gunman fired all the eight shots in his pistol, hitting Kennedy and bystanders.

Kennedy fell to the floor. Blood gushed from his head.

His wife, Ethel, had been at his side during the victory pronouncement. Walking from the microphone, Kennedy had looked around, as if searching for her.

The shots brought pande-

lynch him," shouted people in the crowd.

But police rushed Sirhan past the entrance to the Coconut Grove night club, down the stairs and off to the Central Jail.

Sirhan was sullen and silent through the early hours of police questioning. "He would not speak except once he said 'yes,'" said Police Chief Reddin.

'VERY COOL'

Later he began to talk, but not about himself or the shooting.

Reddin said he was "very cool, very calm, very stable and quite lucid."

Whenever the questioning came to the shooting, Reddin said, he would reply only:

"I prefer to remain incommunicado."

The police chief said the key to a 1959 automobile, parked near the hotel, was found in the gunman's pocket. He said the car belonged to a hotel employe who worked in the kitchen.

After the shooting, President Johnson ordered the Secret Service to guard all presidential candidates. And Congress swiftly went to work to approve the step.

'GUILT BURDEN'

McCarthy said the nation bears "a burden of guilt" for the shooting of Kennedy. He suspended his own campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination. So did Vice President Humphrey.

Kennedy aides said six of the senator's children were being flown back to Washington in an Air Force plane arranged by Humphrey.

The actual surgery on Kennedy was performed by Drs. Maxwell Ambler of the University of California at Los Angeles Medical School, and Nat Downes Reid and Henry Cuneo of the University of Southern California Medical School.

It was Cuneo who was quoted as talking grimly of the outlook.

Dr. Lawrence Pool of New York said Cuneo did so in a conversation with him.

lance to Central Receiving Hospital.

There, the Rev. Thomas Peacha administered last rites of the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr. Baz, on duty at that hospital, said Kennedy at first had no pulsebeat. The doctor said he administered a closed cardiac massage, gave Kennedy oxygen and adrenalin, and slipped a tube into his mouth to facilitate breathing.

HEARD HEARTBEAT

Mrs. Kennedy was with her husband.

"She didn't believe that he was alive, sort of because she could see that he wasn't responding," the doctor said. "So when we began to get a heartbeat, I put the stethoscope in her ears so she could listen."

At the Ambassador, the gunman was in police hands.

Roosevelt Grier, Negro lineman of the Los Angeles Rams, held the assailant, smashed the man's hand against a serving table, trying to force loose the gun. It fell free.

LYNCH CRIES

Grier, Olympic athlete Rafter Johnson and Kennedy bodyguard William Barry hauled the assailant away from the fallen senator.

"Kill him," a man shouted. Police took over, hustled the assailant at gunpoint through the lobby of the rambling old hotel. "Lynch him,

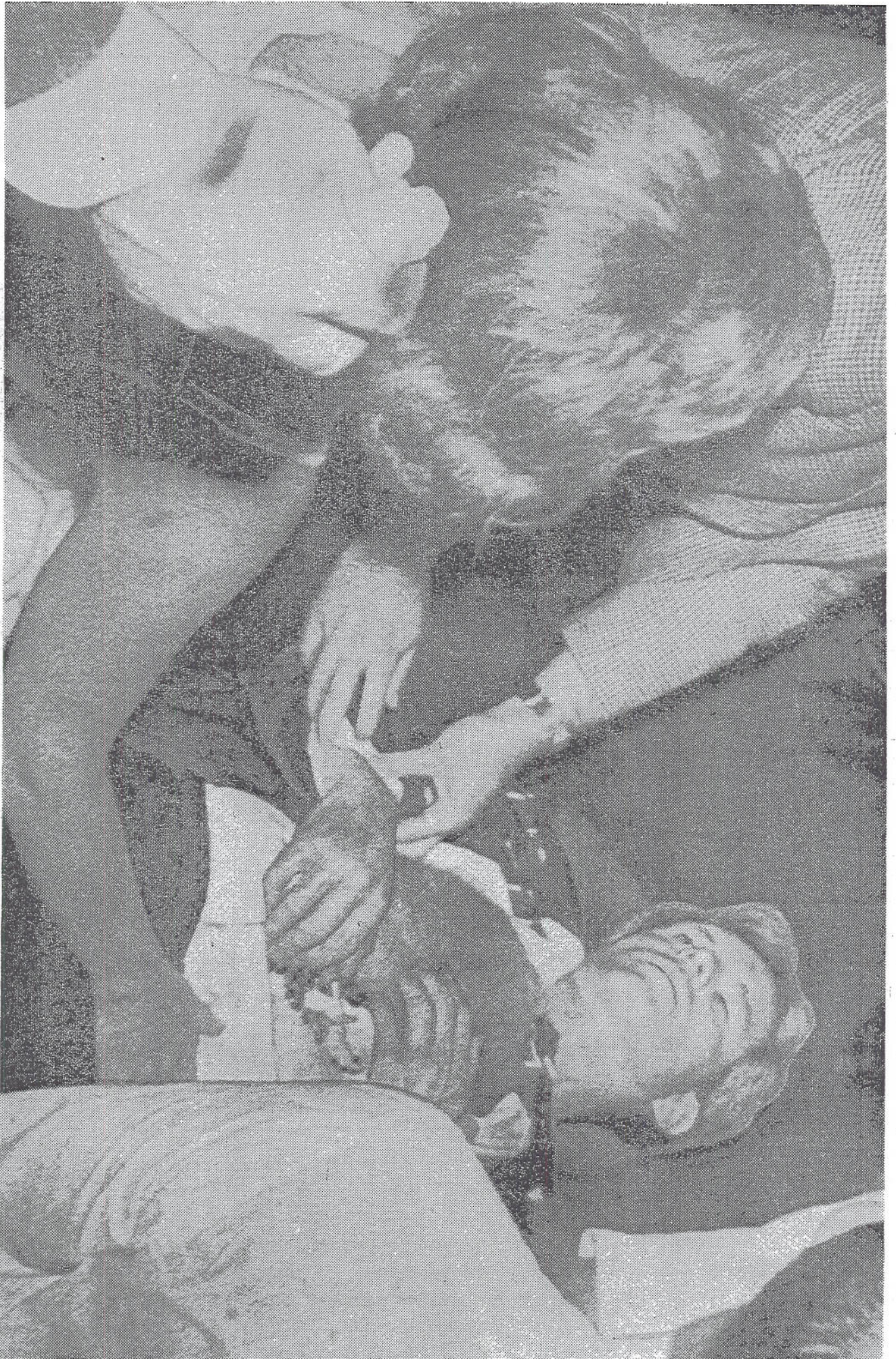
monimu. There were shrieks of "God, God, not again." There were curses, too.

"Get a doctor," someone shouted. "Please get a doctor."

CLUTCHES ROSARY

A doctor administered emergency treatment. A priest said he held a rosary toward Kennedy and the senator clutched it, but the crush of people came between them.

Kennedy was wheeled on stretcher to the hotel service elevator, taken by ambu-



Clutching rosary beads given him by a priest, Robert Kennedy lies, one eye open, as his wife comforts him

—UPI Photo

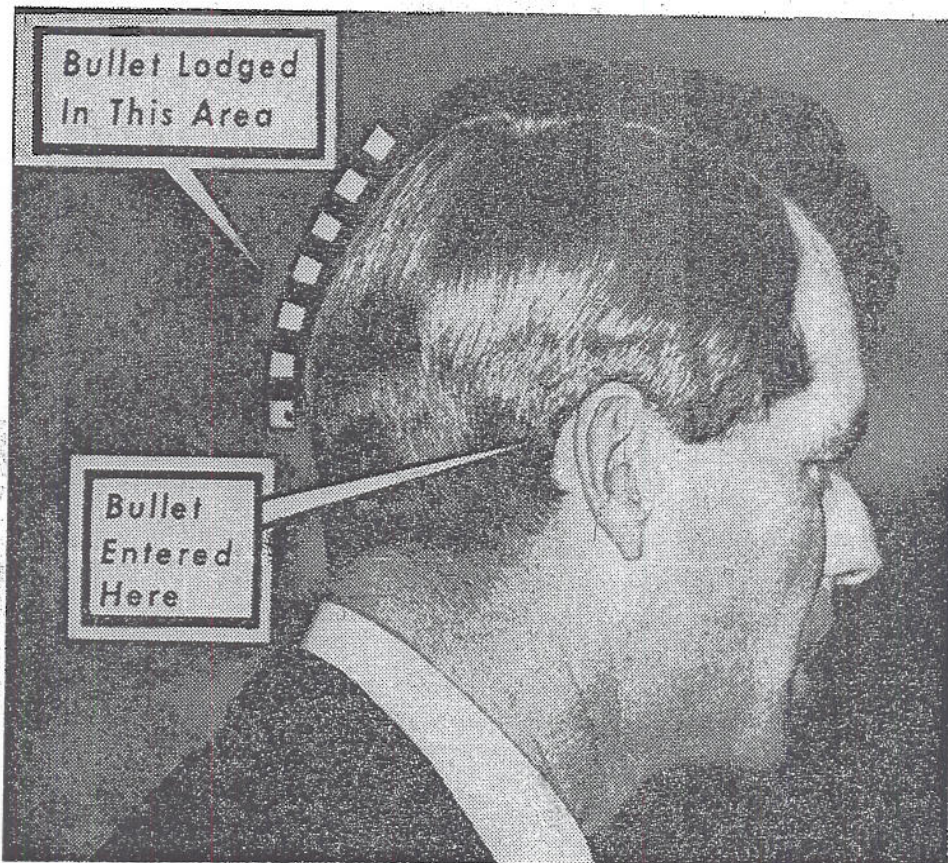


Photo-diagram shows where would-be assassin's bullet entered Kennedy's head