

KENNEDY IS DEAD

Wife at Side as End Comes

By WALTER R. MEARS
and
JOSEPH E. MOHBAT
LOS ANGELES (AP)—
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy,
felled like his President

brother by an assassin's
bullet, died early today.

His mourning family pre-
pared to take his body home
to New York, across the na-
tion Kennedy had hoped to
lead as President.

AND ON SATURDAY, the
senator is to be buried in Ar-
lington National Cemetery,
probably at the hilltop plot
which is the resting place of
his brother, the late John F.
Kennedy.

Robert Kennedy, 42, never
regained consciousness, never
showed signs of recovery after
a savage burst of revolver
fire sent a bullet plunging
into his brain—at the pinnacle
of his campaign for the White
House.

Kennedy, his pregnant wife
Ethel at his bedside, died at
1:44 a. m., PDT, little more
than 25 hours after the assault
at the Ambassador Hotel.

KENNEDY'S BODY left
Good Samaritan Hospital in a
blue and gray hearse today on
the first leg of a journey

across the country. The
hearse headed for Los An-

SIRHANS WIRE RFK'S

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) —
The family of the accused as-
sassin of Sen. Robert F. Ken-
nedy sent a telegram to the
Kennedy family today, say-
ing, "We pray that God will
make peace, really peace, in
the hearts of people."

The telegram was signed
by Mrs. Mary Sirhan, mother
of Sirhan Bishari Sirhan.

geles International Airport
where the body was to be
placed aboard a White House

jet for a flight to New York.

Pierre Salinger, former
presidential press secretary,
said the body would lie in
state tomorrow at St. Pat-
rick's Cathedral in New York
City.

A requiem Mass will be held
there Saturday morning. Sal-
inger said Kennedy would be
buried about 5:30 p.m. Sat-
urday in Arlington, across the
Potomac River from Washing-
ton, where an eternal flame
flickers in memory of John

Turn to Page 6, Column 1

NEW ORLEANS
STATES-ITEM

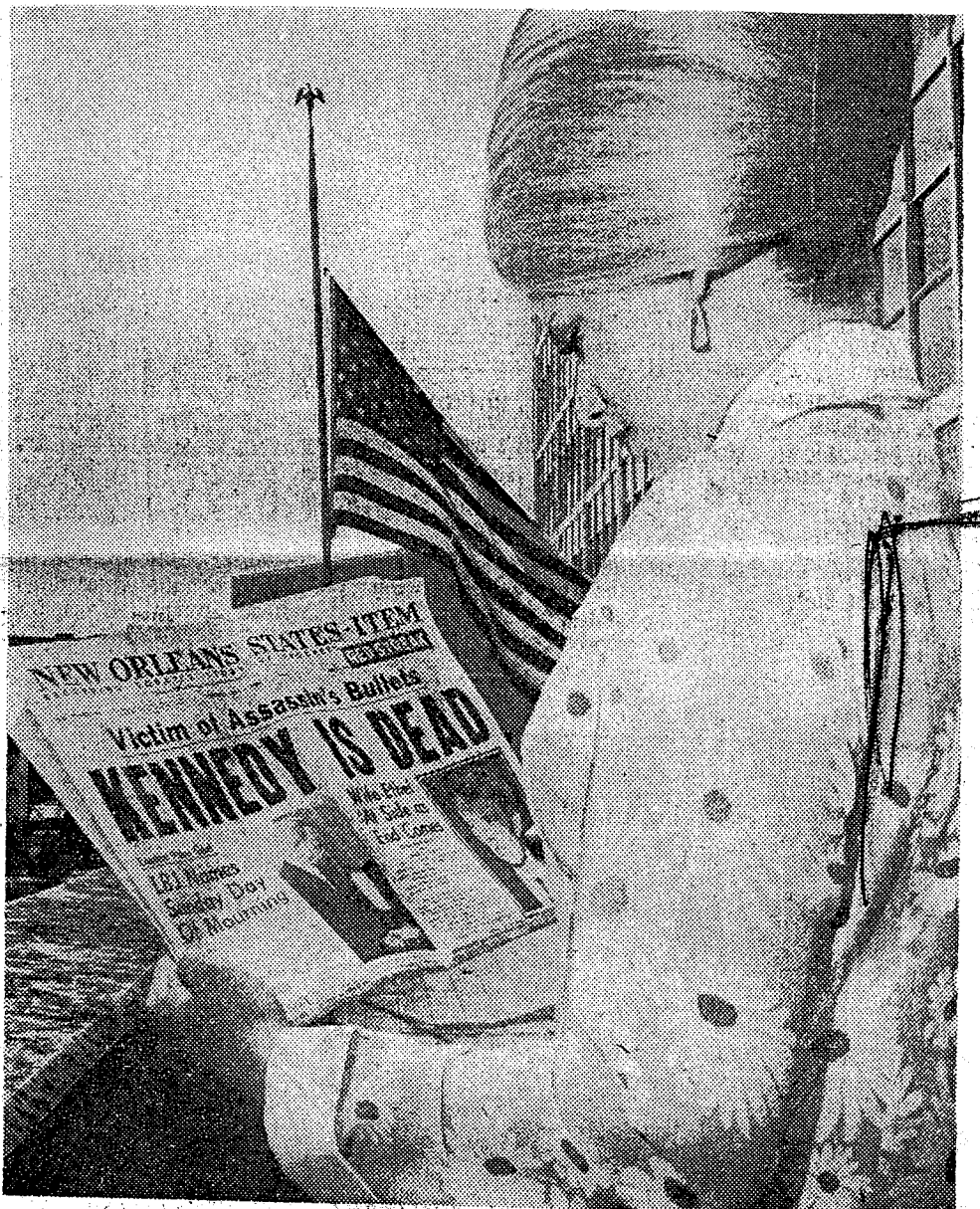
FINAL

SPORTS

MARKETS



ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY



MISS SHEILA LACAVA READS DETAILS of the death of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, victim of an assassin's bullets, as the American flag flies at half-staff in Civic Center.

Continued from Page 1

Kennedy, slain four years and seven months ago.

PATHOLOGISTS MADE a six-hour examination of the body of Sen. Kennedy today seeking the exact cause of death and the extent of damage from an assassin's bullet.

Findings were to be released later.

The autopsy, performed by a team headed by Dr. Thomas Noguchi, the county

coroner's chief medical examiner, started about 3 a. m. and ended shortly after 9 a. m., a spokesman said.

President Johnson, the man who succeeded President Kennedy, issued a proclamation calling for a national day of mourning for the senator next Sunday.

Gov. Ronald Reagan declared a state of mourning in California, for the period through the senator's funeral.

AS KENNEDY DIED, the man accused of shooting him

was under heavy guard at a downtown prison hospital, held in \$250,000 bail for a court appearance which had been scheduled Monday.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was accused of wielding the .22-caliber revolver which cut down Kennedy and wounded five other people early Wednesday as the senator and his supporters celebrated victory in the California presidential primary.

A grand jury hearing into Kennedy's assassination was scheduled for tomorrow morning.

A **SPOKESMAN** for Los Angeles Dist. Atty. J. Evelle Younger said an indictment will be sought against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, already jailed on a formal charge of assault with intent to commit murder.

The spokesman, Jerry Littman, did not specify what charge would be sought. He said plans are to conduct a trial soon if an indictment is returned.

Littman said the only witnesses called at the secret hearing would be those who saw the Ambassador Hotel shooting early Wednesday, after Kennedy's primary election victory celebration.

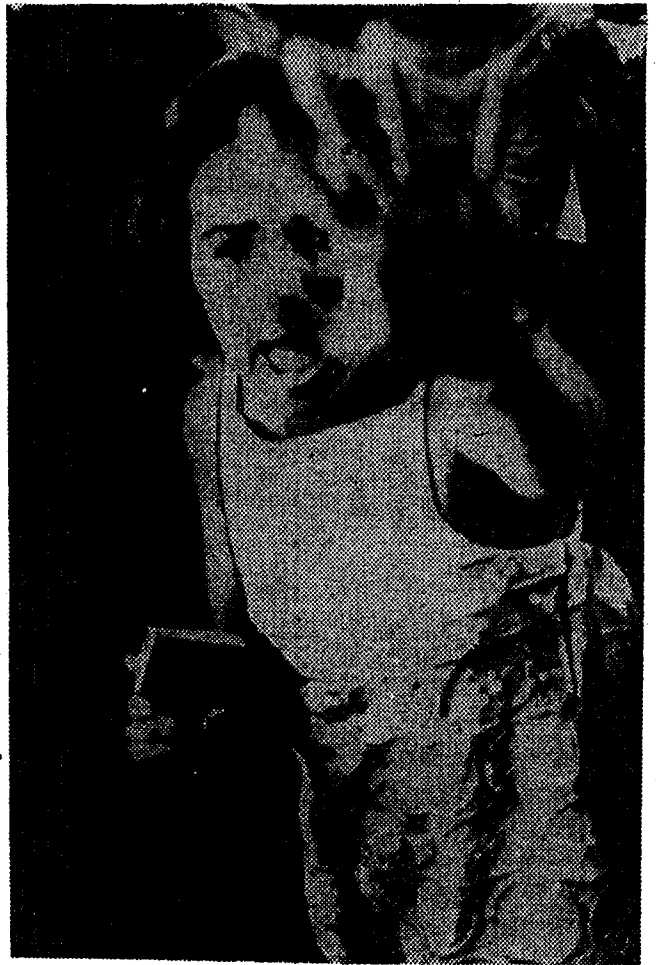
LITTMAN QUOTED from California law which said "the grand jury is not required to hear evidence for the defendant, but it shall weigh all evidence submitted to it."

Charging by indictment rather than through an information—the type of charge Sirhan faces now—eliminates the legal step of a preliminary hearing, an open session.

Instead, the case would go directly to trial.

THE LOS ANGELES sheriff's office refused to say whether Sirhan had been advised that Kennedy was dead.

Sirhan, a Jordanian who had been living in Pasadena, was described by those who knew him as a man inflamed over the hostilities between his native state and Israel. A former employer said he might have been enraged by Kennedy's past words of support for Israel.



—AP WIREPHOTO.

MRS. ETHEL KENNEDY pleads with bystanders to move back and give breathing space to her critically wounded husband, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, as he lies on the floor of a kitchen corridor in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel yesterday. The dramatic picture was made by London Daily Express photographer Harry Benson.

Kennedy's mother, Mrs. Rose Kennedy, was told of the death of her son by a niece, Ann Gargan. She was at Hyannis Port, Mass. Mrs. Kennedy — who had campaigned for Robert in the presidential primaries — went to Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church.

THE SENATOR'S father, Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy, was not awakened immediately to be told of the death.

Mrs. Kennedy had talked by telephone with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., the family's lone surviving son, who was at Robert's bedside at the end.

Kennedy was surrounded by members of his family when he died.

SALINGER SAID Ethel, the widow, "is bearing up very well."

MRS. JOHN F. KENNEDY, widow of the assassinated President, was in her brother-in-law's room when he died.

Two of Kennedy's sisters, Mrs. Stephen Smith and Mrs. Patricia Lawford, were there, too.

Salinger said three of Ken-

nedy's 10 children were in an adjacent room and saw their father before he died.

Pale and haggard, Frank Mankiewicz, Kennedy's press secretary, announced the death to newsmen.

"SEN. ROBERT FRANCIS KENNEDY died at 1:44 a. m. today," he began.

Then he answered questions. What was the specific cause of death?

Mankiewicz looked up numbly.

"The gunfire attack," he said.

HE SAID "the bullet that went into the head near the right ear" was the fatal shot. It entered Kennedy's brain. Surgeons operated for three hours and 40 minutes to remove all but a fragment in a vain attempt to save the senator's life.

But Kennedy never rallied.

"It was not a question of his sinking," Mankiewicz said, "but of not rising. He needed a rally and steady improvement in his condition, and that did not develop."

The body was to be taken from Los Angeles between 12 and 1 p. m. PDT. An earlier departure had been expected at first, but the time was moved back because the autopsy examination of the senator's body took longer than expected.

KENNEDY AIDES announced that at least 33 family members, friends and assistants would be aboard the Air Force jet on the flight to New York.

Among them were Kennedy's widow, three of his children, his brother, Edward; two of his sisters, and Mrs. John Kennedy.

Another passenger was to be Mrs. Martin Luther King, whose husband fell prey to an assassin on April 4.

SALINGER, ONCE press secretary to John Kennedy, announced the funeral arrangements for Robert.

He said the body will lie in state at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York tomorrow from 8 a. m. EDT until 10 p. m. EDT.

The Requiem Mass will be held at 10 a. m. Saturday.

The body will be placed on a train at 12:30 p. m. for the last journey to Washington. It is expected to arrive at about 4:40 p. m.

THE FUNERAL route will take the cortege past the U. S. Senate Office Building where Kennedy worked, and the Department of Justice, where he served as attorney general.

Salinger said Kennedy will be buried at about 5:30 p. m. Saturday in Arlington, probably at the hillside site where his brother's body lies.

Salinger said "all legal requirements" would be met before the body is removed from California. This apparent was in reference to an autopsy.

President Johnson said of Kennedy's death: "This is a time of tragedy and loss.

"DURING HIS LIFE, he knew far more than his share of personal tragedy," Johnson said. "Yet he never abandoned his faith in America."

Kennedy was hit at least twice as his assailant emptied an eight-shot, .22-caliber revolver in a swift volley as

he passed through a kitchen passageway at the Ambassador.

One bullet struck his shoulder and lodged in his neck, the other penetrated to his brain.

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey, in Washington, expressed "profound personal loss" at Kennedy's death.

"WE HAVE all lost a great American," he said. The vice president appealed that America may find the strength "to dispel the forces of irrational hate among us."

Kennedy's assassination brought presidential campaigning to a halt, as candidates suspended their search for political support. And it left the future Democratic picture in turmoil.

Kennedy's victory in California had pledged to him 172 delegates to the Democratic National Convention.

Kennedy entered the race on March 16, four days after Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., demonstrated his opposition to the administration by holding Johnson to a stand-off in the New Hampshire

presidential primary. McCarthy is the candidate Kennedy defeated in the California primary.

Kennedy had just left the victory celebration when the assassin struck.

FIVE OTHER people were wounded, none critically, in the shooting in a kitchen passageway at the Ambassador Hotel at 12:15 a.m.

Kennedy was using the corridor as a shortcut on his way to a news conference after thanking his cheering supporters for his victory in the California presidential primary Tuesday.

That triumph had propelled him to the role of top contender against Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mankiewicz read the 40-word statement to about 100 newsmen and cameramen in the briefing room. Then, he left the room. Reporters rushed for telephones to broadcast the news.

KENNEDY had been in "extremely critical" condition since the shooting and the operation.

Kennedy had for eight years been a man of power in Washington. He served as attorney general to his brother, President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 22, 1963.

He remained in the cabinet

early in President Johnson's administration. Then, in 1964, Johnson eliminated him from the running for the vice pres-

idential nomination by announcing he would not consider any Cabinet member for the ticket.