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CW-LA  
NY ONLYRFK-SIRHAN PMS BJT  
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LA CANADA, CALIF. (AP)-THE ODDS ARE 400 BILLION TO 1 THAT ANY ONE AMERICAN PERSONALLY KNEW BOTH SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY AND SIRHAN SIRHAN, THE OBSCURE ARAB IMMIGRANT ACCUSED OF KILLING THE SENATOR. BUT A YOUNG CALIFORNIA SOCIAL WORKER FROM A WELL--SITUATED LA CANADA FAMILY IS IN THAT RARE POSITION. HE IS JOHN MCGRAIN, 22. HE WAS A CLASSMATE OF SIRHAN SIRHAN IN JOHN MUIR HIGH SCHOOL IN PASADENA IN 1962 AND 1963.

AS AN OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER, MCGRAIN MET ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WHO WAS THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL, ON A SPONSORED VISIT TO WASHINGTON. HE WAS PRESIDENT OF THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS THEN. HE ALSO MET PRESIDENT KENNEDY AND SEN. EDWARD KENNEDY.

WHEN HE REALIZED THE COINCIDENCE, MCGRAIN SAID, "IT SHOOK ME UP."  
"IT SHAKES ME UP WHENEVER I THINK OF IT. IT IS EERIE, AND IT SEEMS SO IMPOSSIBLE.

"ROBERT KENNEDY IMPRESSED ME IN A WAY THAT I'LL NEVER FORGET, AS I'LL NEVER FORGET THE WAY IN WHICH SIRHAN IMPRESSED ME."

KENNEDY, HE EXPLAINED, EPITOMIZED YOUTH AND STRENGTH. SIRHAN, ON THE OTHER HAND, "SEEMED FRAGILE."

AS FOR KENNEDY, SAID MCGRAIN, "YOU COULD FEEL THAT HE HAD THINGS TO DO, AND THAT HE KNEW WHAT THESE THINGS WERE AND THAT HE WOULD DO THEM. YOU COULD ABSOLUTELY FEEL THAT HE HAD THE CAPACITY TO DO GOOD FOR OUR SOCIETY.

"THESE WERE THE THINGS I'VE ADMIRERD AND THAT I'VE WANTED TO ACCOMPLISH MYSELF. I HAVE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE POLITICALLY ACTIVE AND DO THINGS TO SHAPE THE SOCIETY."

MCGRAIN, A GRADUATE STUDENT IN POLITICAL THEORY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, IS ALSO A SOCIAL WORKER.

IN HIGH SCHOOL IN PASADENA, MCGRAIN SAID, HE FELT DISTURBED BY THE CLASS DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS FROM WELL-TO-DO AREAS SUCH AS LA CANADA AND THOSE FROM MORE HUMBLE SURROUNDINGS, SUCH AS SIRHAN'S.

AS PRESIDENT OF THE JUNIOR CLASS COUNCIL, MCGRAIN SAID, HE INITIATED THE CONTACT WITH SIRHAN.

"HE WAS NOT THE SORT WHO WOULD APPROACH YOU," MCGRAIN SAID. "HE WOULDN'T BEGIN A CONVERSATION, FOR EXAMPLE, WITH A STRANGER. BUT ONCE CONTACT WAS MADE, HE WAS VERY WARM.

"HE WAS A CONSCIENTIOUS WORKER ON THESE SCHOOL PROJECTS. YOU COULD COUNT ON HIM WHEN YOU GAVE HIM A JOB TO DO. I MUST SAY I LIKED HIM."

SIRHAN ENTERED INTO VARIOUS COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS DANCE ARRANGEMENTS, OR PLACING SIGNS IN HALLWAYS, OR HELPING IN FUND-RAISING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS CANDY SALES.

"IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, HE WON A PRIZE AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE CANDY SALE."

THE PROBABILITY OF MCGRAIN'S HAVING PERSONAL CONTACT WITH BOTH KENNEDY AND SIRHAN WAS FIGURED AT 400 BILLION TO 1 BY A MATHEMATICS PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA. HE SAID THERE WERE OTHER IMPONDERABLES, BUT IF ONE TOOK THE NUMBER OF PERSONS THE SENATOR KNEW IN THE U.S. AND THOSE THAT SIRHAN KNEW, FINDING ONE PERSON IN THE ENTIRE POPULATION WHO WOULD COME IN CONTACT WITH BOTH WOULD BE A 400 BILLION TO 1 CHANCE.

KB729PPD JUNE 17