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Would-Be Assassins Bjt 450 Two Takes Total 700
By FRANK CAREY

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON AP - A psychiatrist who studied 137 persons linked with threats to U.S. presidents says the would-be assassins generally are social misfits and loners unconsciously trying to gate-crash into immortality.

And, adds the researcher, they view the threatened act as a "stroke of national policy or patriotic heroism."

Dr. Edwin A. Weinstein's just completed study came to light when it was mentioned last week by another psychiatrist testifying at the Los Angeles trial of Sirhan Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

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The witness, Dr. Eric Marcus of Los Angeles, said Weinstein's study was commissioned by the Secret Service. Weinstein, contacted at his New York office, refused to say who requested or financed the survey. But he referred a reporter to a scientific journal "Psychiatry," where results of the study were recently published.

The report is based on material "from 137 male subjects who, over the period 1945-1965, had made threats or gestures of assassination serious enough to lead to arrest and-or psychiatric evaluation."

Some of the threateners "tried persistently or forcibly to enter the White House to confront the president," the article said. It added that one man "threatened to kill both the president and Fidel Castro" and another "threatened to kill the president and throw his heart to the pigs" because "he wanted the president to have a new heart so he could have more feeling for the misery of poor people."

One young man "who planned to shoot President Johnson in the manner of the Dallas assassination" exhibited a prime example of "a lifetime of frustration and unhappiness," the report said.

Still another who had made "a highly dangerous gesture of assassination" against a president told interviewing psychiatrists later "he had done so in order to save the country because the president was suffering from an incurable disease."

Most of the threats were in letters to the presidents or members of their families, it said, but some were made verbally—apparently at close range during public appearances of the presidents.

The major conclusion of the report, co-authored by Weinstein, a neurology professor at New York's Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, and Mrs. Olga G. Lysterly of the Washington School of Psychiatry, was this:

"The study . . . indicates that the individuals most dangerous to the safety of the president are those socially isolated persons who adapt to stress by symbolizing their problems in a political idiom and who identify with the president in terms of violence and death.

"In the context of such an identification, the act becomes institutionalized and is perceived as a stroke of national policy or patriotic heroism."

The researchers added that "in a society where power and violence are esteemed by so many, the name of Booth is inseparably linked with that of Lincoln and Lee Harvey Oswald lives on with John F. Kennedy."

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