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5 June 1968

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1227 APD

BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES AP - Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the hip at 12:15 a.m. today as he left the platform from which he made a victory statement over his apparent California primary. The scene at the Ambassador Hotel was one of shock and terror.

Sen. Kennedy, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy, lay on the floor of the hotel kitchen. Blood streamed over his face. His eyes were open but unseeing.

"Will you please clear the room for medical aid for the senator," said a man at the rostrum.

The senator's assailant, as yet unidentified, was being held a few feet away by a half dozen of the Kennedy supporters.

They included Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson.

The shooting happened just after Kennedy had left the stage of the Embassy room where he had spoken before the nation's television cameras and 2,000 cheering supporters.

Kennedy had claimed victory in his primary race with Sen. Eugene McCarthy.

LOS ANGELES AP - Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the hip at 12:15 a.m. today as he left the platform from which he made a victory statement over his apparent California primary election win.

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BULLETIN

Kennedy Lead

LOS ANGELES AP - Robert F. Kennedy, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy, was shot early Wednesday in a moment of political triumph.

His condition could not be immediately ascertained, but Associated Press reporter Bob Thomas saw blood gush from the senator's face.

Kennedy had just made a victory statement on the California Democratic presidential primary.

The scene 2nd graf AC36LE.

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BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES Kennedy lead AC37LE add: primary.

At least two other persons were reported hit by the gunman.

The apparent assailant, a man about 25 years old, curly haired and of Latin appearance, captured by Kennedy supporters. He was rushed through the Ambassador Hotel lobby by police.

The scene of shock and turmoil was nationally televised, for the shooting came moments after Kennedy had gone before the cameras with his primary victory statement.

A television reporter said the man who fired the shot was about 10 feet from Kennedy.

The reporter said Stephen Smith, Kennedy's brother and campaign manager, also was shot.

The American Broadcasting Co. said its unit manager, William Wiesel, also was shot.

Kennedy was taken to Los Angeles Central Receiving Hospital.

Before he was removed from the hotel, a priest said he attempted to give the senator final rites of the Roman Catholic church but the surging crowd pushed him away.

The priest said, "I gave him the rosary and he clenched it tightly and I was pushed away. There was blood on his head."

The arrested man was hurried through a lobby through still yelling and screaming at the news of the shooting.

"Kill him! Lynch him!" many in the crowd shouted. Many tried to reach the man.

But police hustled him out of the lobby and down the stairs to an exit.

Senator Kennedy was brought into Central Receiving Hospital on a stretcher.

David Esquith of Los Angeles, Michael Agron and Ron Udell all of Los Angeles brought in a friend whom they said was also wounded in the shooting.

They identified him as Irwin Stroll 17, of Los Angeles. They said he didn't appear to be seriously injured.

The gunman was caught standing on some sort of box. The shooting occurred in a small anteroom off the main ballroom.

Only those near the door knew at first there was a shooting.

Five doctors treated the senator before removal to the hospital.

Several Kennedy supporters called for towels immediately after the shooting. A news reporter hastily stripped off a velvet tablecloth and rushed into the kitchen area, jammed with shouting political supporters of the senator.

The scene was complete confusion. Television cameramen and men carrying tape recorders stood on serving tables and tried to hold their equipment close to where first aid was being applied to the wounded.

All the men were bleeding.

A tablecloth was used to stem the flow of blood from a blond man who was stretched over a chair. His shirt was up and he was bleeding profusely around the body.

Kennedy's eyes were reported to be open. He was licking the blood on his lips. The wife of one of the doctors said his condition seemed not to be critical.

Kennedy CORRECTION

LOS ANGELES Kennedy Lead A03/LE sub for 8th graf. Kennedy.

The reporter said Stephen Smith, Kennedy's brother-in-law and campaign manager, also was shot.

The American etc., 9th graf.

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