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California Primary 9th NL

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LOS ANGELES AP - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot in the head early Wednesday by a gunman who turned a California victory celebration into a scene of terror. Witnesses said Kennedy was conscious and spoke a few words as he was taken to an ambulance.

His condition was not immediately known. He was taken to Los Angeles Central Receiving Hospital. An Associated Press reporter saw blood rushing from Kennedy's head.

The New York senator had just finished thanking his supporters for their help in winning California's presidential preference primary election.

Police captured a man believed to be the assailant. He was about 25, curly haired, and olive skinned. They hustled him out through the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel, a shotgun at his back.

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

So was a television newsman, and perhaps others.

A doctor who said he treated Kennedy at the scene said the senator was conscious and talking with his wife, Ethel.

The turmoil and terror of the shooting was broadcast on live television by cameras set up for the victory statement.

The shooting came as Kennedy won the California Democratic primary over Senator Eugene J. McCarthy.

It was near 2nd graf A032.

DH1254apd June 5

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Kennedy insert

LOS ANGELES Kennedy lead A037LE insert after 3rd graf: primary.

Kennedy's wife, Ethel, was at his side during his victory talk. He mentioned his dog Freckles and said the pet had been maligned during the campaign.

Kennedy then waved to his supporters and was ushered backstage through a kitchen passageway enroute to a room where he was to hold a news conference.

Four or five pistol shots rang out.

The reporters ran into the kitchen passageway and saw a tumultuous scene.

"Oh my God!"

"Not again!"

"No, no!"

These were cries from the crowd.

"Stand back! Give him room!" others shouted as they tried to make space around the fallen Kennedy.

At least, etc., 4th graf A039LE

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