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LOS ANGELES Kennedy lead A037-39 add: critical.

Word of the shooting of Sen. Kennedy swept like a shock wave through the bars and ballrooms of the Beverly Hilton Hotel where McCarthy backers were celebrating what they considered an election victory.

Unbelieving, they crowded toward television sets and asked one another, "Is it true? Is it true?"

Great sobs and gasps rippled through the crowd which moments before had been laughing and chanting, "We want Gene."

Soon a melancholy silence fell over the rooms and corridors of the hotel.

The apparent gunman was pinned against a dish rack by Rafer Johnson, the Olympic decathlon champion; and others.

About 200 people were crowded in the kitchen passageway at the time of the shooting.

A short time before the shooting, McCarthy had retired at his suite in the Beverly Hilton.

He was awakened, told of the shooting, came out to the hotel's grand ballroom and asked the crowd there to join him in a moment of silent prayer.

DHlapd June 5

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Telegraph Editors

We will continue to expedite developments on the Kennedy shooting. Expanded staff arrangements have been set up in Los Angeles. The pms California primary story will be handled separately from the developing account of the shooting.

A separate backgrounder on Kennedy family troubles is being prepared.

The AP

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AP NEWS DIGEST

Wednesday Pms June 5

KENNEDY-PRIMARIES

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is shot after claiming victory over Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy in the California primary.

From Los Angeles, developing, Wirephotos upcoming

With Calif. primary separate, other sidebars on shooting.

an AP News Analysis on the California primary by Walter R. Mears.

Sen. Kennedy scores a runaway victory in the South Dakota primary.

From Pierre, new material

The slate headed by Gov. Richard J. Hughes wins 58 of 80 delegates in the New Jersey primary. Sen. McCarthy backer claims a "significant victory."

With Alabama, Mississippi, Montana, The Political Scene roundup and at-a-glance.

George Wallace has attracted little support in primaries but an aide says efforts have been concentrated on getting on the November ballot as a third-party candidate, not on the primaries.

From Montgomery, Ala., new, will stand

Viewed through foreign eyes, the "new politics" of the United States is an expensive version of the old variety.

From London, A085 June 4