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LOS ANGELES KENNEDY Bjt-Pms wrapup AO77IE
add: shoes.

The gunman refuses to identify himself or make a statement, Police Chief Thomas Reddin reported.

"We don't know who the suspect is," Reddin told a news conference. "He has made no statement. He would not speak, except once he said 'yes.'"

"We describe him as a male Caucasian, around 25, 5 feet 5 and about 120 pounds, swarthy complexion. His hair is described as wiry or bushy."

Four other men and a woman were wounded in the gunfire, which took place in a kitchen corridor of the hotel.

One witness said the shots came so close together that he could hardly believe they were fired from one gun. This reporter heard the shots from an adjoining room and they sounded almost like a brief burst of machine-gun fire. The gunman was booked on suspicion of assault with intent to commit murder.

Reddin said the gunman used an eight-shot .22 calibre pistol and expended all eight shots.

Three of the others also hit were identified as Paul Schrade, 30, a union leader, Irwin Stroll and William Wiesell.

Reddin declined to say where the gunman was held, but added he is under 24-hour guard.

Here is what happened:

The gunman appeared in the kitchen area behind the bandstand of the Embassy Room, where Kennedy backers, including movie stars and students, were listening to their candidate's light-hearted victory speech. The gunman carried papers, which he spread out on a stainless steel table. One waiter described them as sketches.

The backstage area was crowded with waiters, press and others, and the man's presence caused little notice.

Kennedy finished his speech and began working his way off the platform and into the kitchen, followed by close associates and members of his family. His wife, Ethel, had been at his side during the speech, but she became enveloped in the crowd. Kennedy gazed around as if searching for her.

At that moment the gunman pushed through the throng, reached his arm around others in front of him and shot the senator.

Roosevelt Grier, beefy tackle for the Los Angeles Rams, grabbed the man's arm. Joe LaHive, a local Kennedy campaigner, wrested the gun away. Grier and Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson lifted the assailant and spread him on a steel kitchen table.

"Nobody hurt this man!" one of the athletes shouted. "We want to take him alive!"

This reporter was in the adjoining press room. I rushed into the kitchen to a scene of horror. Women were screaming, "Oh, no!" "God, God, not again!"

Kennedy was stretched on the floor, his face covered with blood. "Give him room! Step back!" someone yelled.

Kennedy seemed to hear nothing. His face was blank, his eyes staring sightlessly.

Grier, Johnson and two or three others held the gunman on the table 10 feet away. Screams began to be heard in the ballroom as news of the shooting spread to the campaigners, who had been cheering their candidate two minutes before.

"Let me explain!" the gunman shouted. "I can explain."

A priest handed Kennedy a rosary, and he clutched it in his hand, but the priest was jostled aside.

Kennedy was given emergency treatment by a doctor summoned from the ballroom. Then he was wheeled on a stretcher to the hotel service elevator and put into an ambulance.

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