

Kennedy

3 Hours in Surgery

By Associated Press and United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Senator Robert Kennedy, shot in the head and critically wounded, underwent surgery for three hours today and afterward doctors said there is hope he will recover without brain damage.

After the surgery, Frank Mankiewicz, Kennedy's press secretary, said his condition still was "extremely critical."

He said one bullet remained in the back of Kennedy's neck. Kennedy was placed in the intensive

care unit.

The man who shot Kennedy at point-blank range, described as a Caucasian with a swarthy complexion, was still unidentified.

NOT IDENTIFIED

He refused to say who he was and his clothing bore no clues, and despite a fingerprint check the FBI was unable to identify him.

He was secretly arraigned and held on lieu of \$250,000 bail. Authorities, remembering the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, said "nobody would get within a thousand feet of him."

The 42 year old brother of the late President Kennedy was shot from about three feet away by the mysterious gunman, who was subdued by three Kennedy aides but not until he had emptied all eight bullets from a .22 caliber revolver toward the senator.

Five other persons in the surging crowd around the victorious California primary candidate were wounded.

Kennedy's wife Ethel, who

is expecting their 11th child, was not hurt.

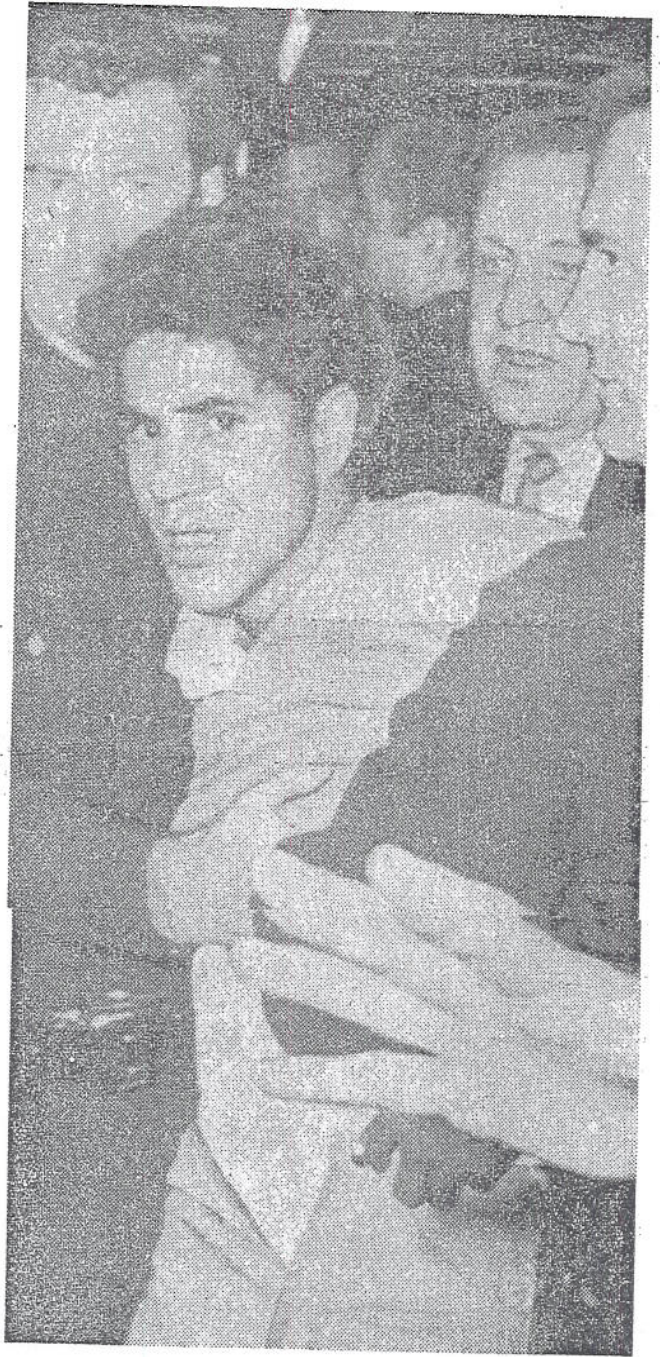
She bent over her husband as he lay bleeding from the wound near his right ear and another in his shoulder, whispering to him and trying to console him just as Jacqueline Kennedy had bent over her husband in Dallas in 1963.

THOUGHT DEAD

Kennedy was taken by ambulance to Central Receiving Hospital where the examining physician, Dr. Victor Baz, first believed he was dead. He slapped him on the face, saying "Bob, Bob," and the wounded Kennedy stirred.

After 3 hours and 40 minutes on the operating table in

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Kennedy's mystery assailant is rushed to a police car moments after shooting. At right, Jesse Unruh.

—UPI Photo

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Good Samaritan Hospital, to which Kennedy was moved, Deputy Mayor Joseph Quinn said the doctors told him that the senator's condition was encouraging.

"There apparently is no brain damage but they won't know for three or four days," he said. He said Kennedy's personal physician, a Dr. Poppin, is flying here from Boston.

The gunman was not immediately identified. He refused to talk about the shooting.

NO EXPLANATION

Police Chief Thomas Reddin told a news conference that the assassin finally broke hours of silence and proved to be "extremely articulate with an extensive vocabulary, very much at ease