

SIRHAN IS INDICTED ON MURDER COUNT

Jury Acts in Kennedy Death
—Girl Denies to the Police
She Said, 'We Shot Him'

By GLADWIN HILL
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, June 7 — The Los Angeles County grand jury late today indicted Sirhan Bishara Sirhan on a charge of murder in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The murder charge was accompanied by a five-count charge of assault with intent to kill five other persons at the Ambassador Hotel early Wednesday.

The indictment was handed down by the grand jury shortly after a woman who identified herself as Kathy Fulmer, 19 years old, surrendered to the police, saying she believed she was the woman in a white polka dot dress whom the police had been seeking.

A woman so attired had been quoted as shouting soon after Mr. Kennedy was shot, "We shot him! We shot him!"

Today she said she had not said this, but merely had screamed that Mr. Kennedy had been shot. The police said her description closely answered that of the woman they had been seeking.

Says She Was Hysterical

She explained that she was hysterical as a result of the shooting and ran screaming from the scene. She said she had no connection with Sirhan.

"I was scared," she said. "The guy next to me got shot. I was running and on the way out somebody yelled 'What happened?' I yelled, 'Kennedy was shot.'"

The murder charge was in the first degree, involving a possible death penalty. The charge of assault with intent to murder carries a penalty of one to 14 years' imprisonment.

The grand jury heard testimony that Sirhan loitered in a Los Angeles hotel corridor at least half an hour before Mr. Kennedy was shot there shortly after midnight Wednesday.

After appearing before the grand jury, Jesus Perez, a dishwasher at the Ambassador Hotel, told newsmen that a man he identified as Sirhan had lingered in the pantry corridor nervously shuffling papers, and had asked him "three or four times" if Senator Kennedy would be going through the corridor.

Mr. Perez said he himself was shaking hands with the

Continued on Page 13, Column 1

5 ASSAULT COUNTS ARE ALSO BROUGHT

Girl Goes to Police to Deny
She Said 'We Shot Him'
Following the Murder

Continued From Page 1, Col. 4

Senator at the moment the bullets struck him.

He did not see the shots fired, he said, and in the crush their sound was so drowned out that he realized something had happened only when Senator Kennedy's hand suddenly pulled from his grasp and the victim slumped to the floor.

The dishwasher was the first of a score of witnesses presented to the grand jury.

Another witness, Henry Carreon, told reporters that he encountered Sirhan at a shooting range in San Gabriel, a suburb adjoining Pasadena, Tuesday afternoon.

He said Sirhan attracted his notice and they had a conversation because of Sirhan's rapid-fire shooting, which was against range rules.

Sirhan, he said, was firing a .22-caliber revolver—the same type of weapon that killed Senator Kennedy.

Sirhan, seized at the shooting scene, was an unemployed clerk, a resident alien for 11 years and an ardent Arab nationalist.

Tells of Conversation

Police Inspector Peter Hagen today confirmed a report that W. J. Wood, a geologist and Arabic linguist, had told investigators of overhearing a conversation among three men who seemed to be Arabs last Sunday night at Kennedy campaign headquarters at 5615 Wilshire Boulevard.

Mr. Wood, 43, who recently spent five years in Saudi Arabia, was quoted by The Los Angeles Herald Examiner as saying:

"They began speaking in a distinct Jordanese dialect. One of them said: 'He won't be in the hotel tomorrow night, but we can get him there the next night.'"

The "next night" was Tuesday when Senator Kennedy was fatally wounded shortly after midnight.

Inspector Hagen pointed out that the phrase "we can get him" could have had an innocuous meaning. He suggested the police did not attach major importance to it, among scores of leads being pursued. But he acknowledged that the identity and whereabouts of the three were being investigated.

Mr. Wood, who did some volunteer work in Senator Kennedy's Democratic presidential primary campaign, could not be reached for comment.

The witness list included seven police officers, four hotel employes, eight ambulance attendants, two doctors who treated the stricken Senator, County Coroner Thomas Noguchi, an acquaintance of Sirhan, a friend of Senator Kennedy and two others shot in the hail of bullets.

The friend was Paul Ziffren, Los Angeles lawyer and a former Democratic national committeeman.

One of the shooting victims, Irwin Stroll, 19, testified from a wheelchair, with his wounded leg propped up. The other victim was Ira Goldstein, 19, a radio newsman.

The district attorney's office and the sheriff arranged for an unusual arraignment proceeding in the infirmary section of the county's central jail, a mile south of the city's center.

Sheriff Peter Pitchess said the jail arraignment was occasioned by the fact that the defendant was in the infirmary with a sprained ankle and broken finger, along with "the obvious need for total security."

Daily since Wednesday the prisoner has been visited by A. L. Wirin, chief of counsel for the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Each meeting has lasted about an hour and a half.

Sirhan's counsel is now Public Defender Richard S. Buckley, a county employe.

But the A.C.L.U. said its proposal that private counsel be selected by a judge from a list of nominees had received favorable reaction from Superior Judge Arthur Alarcon. Judge Alarcon is filling in for the presiding judge of the Criminal Courts, Richard Shauer, whom the A.C.L.U. suggested to select counsel for Sirhan.

It was suggested that the list might be prepared by the county bar association and the criminal courts bar association, in collaboration with the public defender and the A.C.L.U.

District Attorney Evelle Younger said personnel of his office as well as police investigators had questioned Sirhan, but "in a sense it was like talking to the man in the moon."

"It was a one-sided conversation—he wouldn't even answer to what his weight was," Mr. Younger said.

The District Attorney told reporters he was "uneasy about anything" connected with the case, because of possible international repercussions.

"Everything that is done or said will be scrutinized by politicians all over the world," he said. "Some will want our country and our system of justice

to look as bad as they can make it look."

The police reported today that they had discovered a car belonging to Sirhan only about a block from the Ambassador Hotel, where it had apparently been since Tuesday night.

The car is a 1956 DeSoto painted pink and white.

Officers said a key found in Sirhan's pocket Tuesday night fitted both the car door and ignition switch.