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NEW YORK AP - Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was in the midst of answering a radio interviewer's question about his fight with Vice President Hubert Humphrey when he was shot and critically wounded early Wednesday morning in Los Angeles.

The copyrighted interview was conducted by Andrew West for the Mutual Broadcasting System. The broadcast includes the background noise of a gunshot, followed by screams from the crowd.

Portions of the interview follow:

West: "How are you going to counter Mr. Humphrey and his backgrounding you as far as the delegate votes go?"

Kennedy: "It just goes back to the struggle for it . . . "

At this point, the shot was fired and Kennedy broke off. The rest of the tape includes a description of the scene by West.

The interviewer said, "Sen. Kennedy has been shot . . . Is that possible? Is that possible? It is possible . . . It is possible . . . I am right here and Rafer Johnson

Olympic Decathlon champion has hold of the man who apparently has fired the shot . . . He still has the gun pointed at me right this moment . . . Be very careful. Get the gun. Get the gun . . .

"Sen. Kennedy right now is on the ground . . . He's bleeding profusely . . . Apparently the senator has been shot from the frontal area. . . .

"Ethel Kennedy is standing by. She is calm. . . A woman with a tremendous amount of presence . . . It's impossible to believe . . . Can you see if he is conscious? . . . "

An unidentified observer interrupted at this point to say Kennedy was "half conscious."

West's interview continued, "I was directly behind him. You heard a balloon go off and a shot. You didn't really realize that the shot was a shot . . ."

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