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# SEN. KENNEDY'S LIFE

# HANGS IN BALANCE

## Bullet Chip In His Brain

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sen Robert F. Kennedy emerged from three hours of surgery today in “extremely critical condition,” Frank Mankiewicz, his press secretary, announced.

Mankiewicz said all but one fragment of a bullet in Kennedy’s head was removed by the team of surgeons.

Another bullet remains “somewhere in the back of the neck,” he added.

Kennedy lost a “considerable amount of blood as a result of the bullet which passed through the mastoid bone on the right side of his head,” he added.

Mankiewicz said Kennedy was breathing without the use of special oxygen following the operation but he was in a resuscitator.

Kennedy was taken to an intensive care unit at Good Samaritan Hospital following the operation.

The medical bulletin said the next 12 to 36 hours would be the “very critical period.”

“He’s living and he’s breathing on his own,” Mankiewicz said.

With the senator at the hospital were his wife, Ethel, and his brother, Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Doctors reported some of the bullet fragments and bone penetrated the midsection of the brain. Doc-

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**SHOOTING SUSPECT HELD IN LOS ANGELES**  
Police said he refused to identify himself.—(AP)

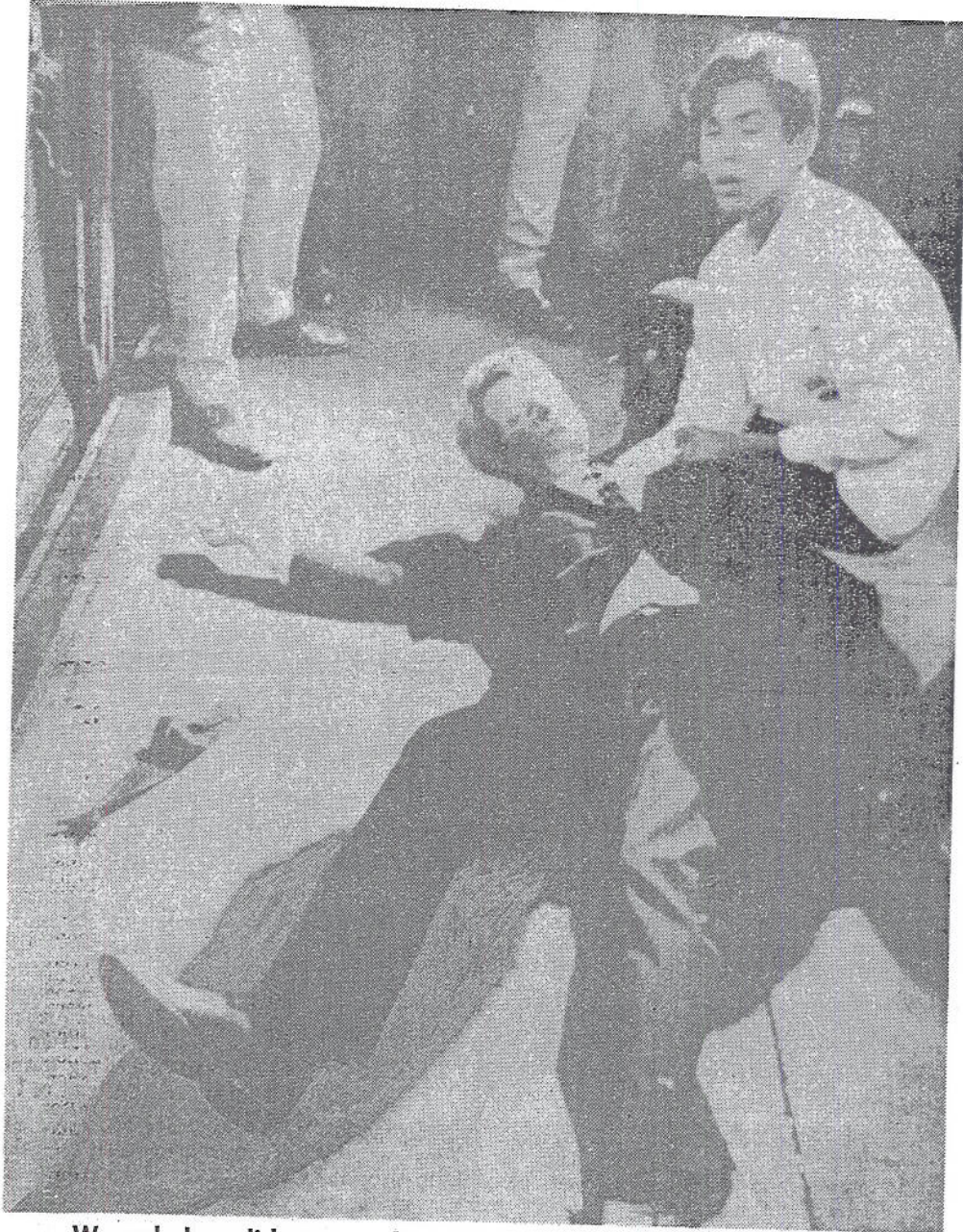


Two men pin down suspected gunman as they struggle to get pistol out of his hand.—(AP)



Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lies gravely wounded on floor at Ambassador Hotel shortly after shooting.—(AP)

Copyright, Los Angeles Times



Wounded candidate sprawls on floor awaiting medical aid.—(AP)

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tors said this area governs certain functions but is not the thinking process.

Briefing newsmen some seven hours after the attempted assassination, Mankiewicz said there "may have some impairment of the blood supply to the center of the brain," which controls such vital signs as pulse, blood pressure, and the tracking of the eye — but "not the thinking processes."

The next 24 to 36 hours, he said, will be critical and will allow a determination whether such damage has occurred.

Six neurosurgeons were fighting to save Kennedy's life.

The New York senator, who Tuesday won the prize California delegation in his race to become the Democratic nominee for president, was shot down with a .22 caliber pistol by a young man who refused to tell who he was or why he committed the crime.

Kennedy had just accepted the cheers of about 2,000 supporters for his victory in California's Democratic presidential preferential primary.

Kennedy's condition was listed as critical. His press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, said the senator had been struck by two pistol bullets. One penetrated the right mastoid bone near the ear and lodged in the brain at the midline of the skull. The other wound was described as superficial.

The senator was shot down four years and six months after his brother, the late President John F. Kennedy, was slain by two bullets from an assassin's rifle while riding in a motorcade in Dallas, Tex.

The Los Angeles gunman was captured immediately. He was identified as Latin-looking, about 25, of medium height and with curly hair. He wore blue jeans and tennis shoes.

The gunman refused 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."

When asked later whether newsmen could photograph the suspect one of Reddin's assistants said:

"After Dallas, nobody is going to get within a thousand feet of him."

Lee Harvey Oswald, the accused assassin of President Kennedy, was shot and killed by gambler Jack Ruby while being removed from jail. Ruby died of cancer while ap-

pealing his conviction.

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 caliber pistol and expended all eight shots.

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!"

A reporter was in the adjoining press room. He said, "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 starring 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.

He was treated at Central Receiving Hospital, where the Rev. Thomas Peacha administered last rites of the Roman Catholic Church. Kennedy was then taken a few blocks to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he entered the intensive care unit.

The gunman, apparently unharmed, was rushed through the Ambassador lobby by police 10 minutes after the shooting. By this time the crowd knew that Kennedy had been shot.

"Kill him! Lynch him!" onlookers shouted. They milled forward to get at the man, but the police ran him down the stairs next to the famed Coconut Grove night club and got him to the central jail.

Chief Reddin said there was only one suspect in the case, the man in custody.

The gunman carried no identification, Reddin said, adding that "We made a skin search of him, checking that he had nothing on him to take his life. We have advised him of his rights. He doesn't want a lawyer now."

Asked if the man was of Latin-American extraction, Reddin said: "I don't know. I can't tell." He added that he might possibly be of Eurasian extraction.

"He sits there and says nothing," Reddin said.

There were scraps of paper in the man's pockets, Reddin said, but he declined to identify them.

The Police Department identified those other wounded in the Kennedy shooting as:

William Weisel, 30, 2700 Upon, Washington, D.C., who suffered a bullet wound in the left side near the abdomen. He was taken to Kaiser Hospital, Los Angeles. Weisel is a unit manager for the American Broadcasting Corp.

Ira Goldstein, 19, 4077 Havenhurst, Los Angeles, who received a bullet wound in the left hip. He was transferred to Encino Hospital, Encino. Goldstein is an employe of Continental News Service at nearby Sherman Oaks.

Elizabeth Evans, 16032 W. Placentia, Saugus, Calif., wounded by a glancing bullet at the hairline. She was transferred to Huntington Memorial Hospital.

Irwin Stroll, 17, 6089 Horner,

Los Angeles, who was wounded in the left shin. He was treated and released by Central Receiving Hospital.

Paul Schrade, 43, who received a skull fracture. A spokesman for the United Auto Workers, of which Schrade is a local officer, said doctors were to operate to remove a bullet which lodged in Schrade's head and caused the fracture. He was listed in good condition at Kaiser Hospital.

Patrick Thornton, 208 S. St. Andrews, Los Angeles, sustained a three-inch scalp laceration when hit by a camera. He was treated and released at Central Receiving.

Officers added that two other persons were treated for shock and released.

At first, Stephen Smith, the senator's brother-in-law, was believed to have been shot, but the report proved untrue.

President Johnson was notified of the shooting. He issued the statement from the White House:

"There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with Sen. Kennedy, his family, and the other victims.

"All America prays for his recovery.

"We also pray that deviousness and violence can be driven from the hearts of men everywhere."

Kennedy's opponent for the Democratic nomination, Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota, had retired to his Beverly Hilton Hotel room. He was awakened, and he went to his hotel ballroom to ask his supporters to pray for the life of Senator Kennedy.

Kennedy's brother, Sen. Ted

Kennedy of Mass., was reported to have arrived at Los Angeles International Airport and been flown by helicopter to Good Samaritan Hospital.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., Vice President Hubert Humphrey said "Our hopes and prayers are with Senator Kennedy and those others who have been the victims of this

dreadful act of violence. It is a shocking and terrible thing that has happened. Our hearts go out to Mrs. Kennedy and the children and the families of the other wounded."

The senator was a half step ahead of his wife, Ethel, when the shooting occurred.

"He was walking through the kitchen toward a corridor going to the freight elevator," said Norbert Schlei, a prominent Los Angeles Democrat who was 10 feet behind the senator.

"He stopped to shake hands with the kitchen help and I heard a sound . . . clap, clap, clap, clap. It didn't sound at all like gunfire.

"It sounded like a cap pistol or someone popping a paper sack. There were four people lying on the floor after the shots . . . there was a tremendous crush of people.

"I ran out and shouted for a doctor and about three of them came in.

"Sen. Kennedy lay on the floor and his face was tense and white but he seemed conscious. I didn't hear him say anything."

After the shooting a crowd of nearly 500 persons knelt in prayer around the fountain in the main lobby of the hotel.

John Chambers, a UPI correspondent at Kennedy headquarters, reported when Kennedy walked off the podium after making a victory statement "there was sudden pandemonium."

"A girl rushed to the front of the podium and said 'he's been shot'," Chambers reported. "They've shot Kennedy."

Kennedy's brother-in-law Stephen Smith rushed to the podium and shouted "Is there a doctor in the house? Is there a doctor in the house? A doctor is needed urgently!"

Gabor Kadar, who said he was waiting at the rear exit to the room to shake hands with the senator, heard four or five shots and saw Kennedy and a woman fall to the floor.

"Sen. Kennedy was holding the right side of his chest and there was blood on his head," Kadar said.