

Fragment Of Bullet In Brain

Associated Press

Los Angeles

Senator Robert F. Kennedy lay in extremely critical condition yesterday after surgeons removed from his brain all but a fragment of a bullet.

Kennedy underwent a series of medical tests at Good Samaritan Hospital, but they did not show measurable improvement, his press secretary, Frank Mankiewicz, said.

"His life forces, pulse, temperature, blood pressure, heart, remain good," Mankiewicz said, "and he continues to show the ability to breathe on his own, although his breathing remains assisted by a resuscitator."

TESTS

The tests included X-rays and an electroencephalogram.

"His condition as of 1:30 p.m. remains extremely critical," Mankiewicz said.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senator's physicians were concerned over "his continuing failure to show improvement during the post-operative period, his press secretary said.

His condition is still "extremely critical as to life," he said at that time.

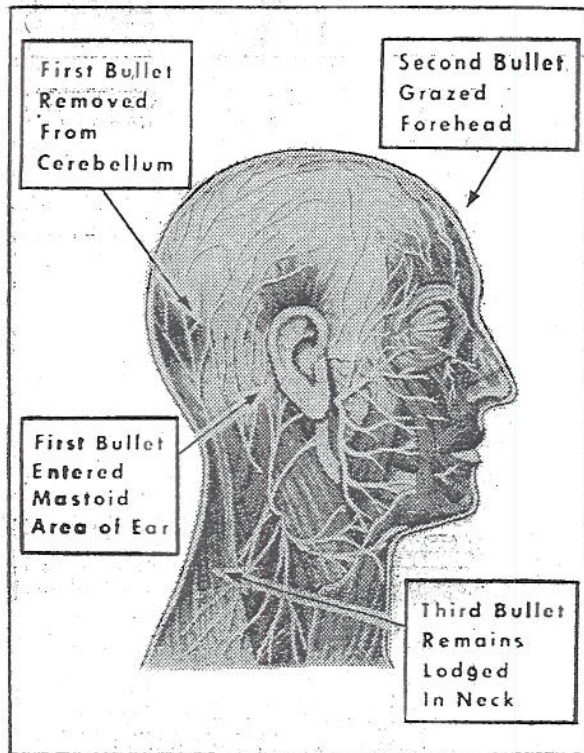
The man accused of the shooting was captured on the spot, and identified hours later as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, a Jordanian native who lived in Pasadena since boyhood.

SURGERY

A team of brain surgeons operated for three hours and 40 minutes, striving to save the life of the New York senator, brother of the assassinated President John F. Kennedy.

Robert was gunned down at the moment of his greatest victory in the California primary as he campaigned for the White House.

His wife, Ethel, kept vigil in a hospital room near that in which her wounded 42-year-old husband was under intensive care at Good Samaritan Hospital.



AP Wirephoto

The three places Kennedy was wounded

WARD

The accused assailant was hospitalized, too. Police said he was under maximum security in a hospital ward at Los Angeles County Central Jail.

Sirhan was treated for a broken index finger and a sprained left ankle, suffered in the shooting melee at the Ambassador Hotel early yesterday.

Police said his identity was

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'Extremely Critical'

Kennedy Fails To Show Progress

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traced through the .22 caliber pistol the assailant turned on Kennedy moments after the senator had thanked cheering supporters for his victory in the presidential primary.

The shots fared into Kennedy's head signaled a halt to the presidential campaign. The extent of the moratorium was pronounced by Blair Clark, campaign manager of Senator Eugene J. McCarthy, who said he had wired all his headquarters: "Close up."

JOHNSON

President Johnson kept in touch with Kennedy's situation, and talked directly with his brother, Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

At his early afternoon medical briefing, Mankiewicz said there were no plans for further surgery "at this time."

He said two bullets, one fragmented, lodged in Kennedy's head.

One bullet had gone into the Senator's brain, past the mastoid bone back of the right ear, with some fragments going into the brain stem. Another bullet went into the back of the neck. A third and minor wound was an abrasion on the forehead.

FRAGMENT

It was after 7 a.m. before Mankiewicz reported that more than three hours of surgery had been completed, with all but one fragment of the upper bullet removed, but with the neck bullet remaining. The latter, he said, "Is not regarded as a major problem."

He said the Senator's vital signs remain about as they were, except that he is now breathing on his own which he was not prior to the surgery.

"There may have been an impairment of the blood supply to the mid-brain, which the doctors explained as governing certain of the vital signs — heart, eye track, level of consciousness although not directly the thinking process," he added.

'PARALYSIS'

It was learned that Kennedy has "some paralysis" on his left side, but it is not known whether the impairment is permanent or temporary.

Neurosurgeons who performed the three-hour brain operation were not available to confirm or deny the report which came from an informed source.

However, medical sources speculated that under the circumstances some degree of paralysis is almost inevitable.

The permanence of the paralysis depends on its cause, according to background information obtained from the department of neurosurgery at the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

BLOOD

It is possible that the paralysis may also be due to an impairment of the blood supply in the mid-brain.

One of the hospital medical bulletins stated that there "may have been" such an impairment. Such an impairment, if it occurred, could be due to the closing off of major blood vessels by the swelling brain tissue.

If it is due either to pressure on the brain or hemor-

rhaging resulting from the brain wound, the chances are very good that the paralysis will be temporary and will gradually subside as treatment continues to relieve the pressure and stop the bleeding.

But if the paralysis is due to tissue tearing caused by the passage of the bullet through parts of the brain, the paralysis may be permanent.