

## Warmer

Fair through tomorrow, slightly warmer. Low tonight 45 to 55, high tomorrow low 70s to low 80s. Westerly wind 10 to 25 mph.

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# San Francisco

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FRIDAY,

# Examiner

## LATEST NEWS

JUNE 14, 1968

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DAILY 10c

# More Testimony on Kennedy

## Last Minute Route Change Told to Jury

By United Press International and Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—A last-minute change in the route taken by Sen. Robert Kennedy after his victory speech led to his death by an assassin's bullet, grand jury testimony has revealed.

Sirhan B. Sirhan practiced firing a .22 caliber pistol at a target range, littering the ground with hundreds of shell casings, 12 hours before the slaying, a witness said.

A dark-haired girl "with a very good figure" wearing a polka dot dress stood smiling next to Sirhan moments before he aimed a gun inches away from Kennedy's head and pulled the trigger, according to another witness.

### SICK SMILE

A witness standing a few feet away from the Senator when he was shot said Sirhan had "a sick-looking smile on his face" as he fired the first two shots.

The 273-page transcript of the secret grand jury proceedings that one week ago resulted in a first-degree murder indictment against the 24 year old Jordanian immigrant was released to the public yesterday.

It contained the testimony of 23 witnesses and other persons investigating the slaying of the 42-year-old Senator.

## SHOT 3 TIMES

The transcript disclosed:

- Kennedy was shot three times, not twice as believed earlier. The fatal bullet penetrated his brain. Another entered his right armpit, apparently as his hands flew up instinctively to protect his face. The third struck a half inch below the second.

- Powder burns indicated the weapon was fired not more than two or three inches from Kennedy's right ear.

- The crowd around the mortally wounded senator hit and cursed at the assassin. "Everyone was trying to kill him."

### PLANS CHANGED

Karl Uecker, assistant maitre d' at the Ambassador Hotel, escorted Kennedy from the stage of the Embassy Room early that Wednes-

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day morning after the senator had delivered a speech before cheering supporters claiming victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

He said plans were changed at the last minute and Kennedy was to go to a news conference in the Colonial Room by way of the pantry.

"He was supposed to — the first plan — was that he was supposed to go downstairs, the next floor, and he was supposed to make a speech over there and their minds were changed at the last minute.

"When I came out I just remember that somebody told me, 'Turn to your right — bring him toward the Colonial Room.'"

### LAST MINUTE

Uecker said he believed the order was given by Uno Timanson, manager of the hotel's food and beverage department.

Edward Minasian, the banquet captain, said it was decided to go to the Colonial Room, where press headquarters were set up.

"So the last minute — it couldn't have lasted more than 10 seconds or so — the whole party decided to turn right," he testified.

Police said an all points bulletin is still out for the mysterious girl in the polka dot dress reported seen in the pantry by several witnesses to the shooting.

Vincent Thomas di Pierro, a waiter, told the grand jury he was four to six feet away



**KARL UECKER**  
Held Kennedy's hand



**HENRY A. CARREON**  
Saw suspect at range

gether they were both smiling."

As Sirhan stepped down the four inches from the stand to the floor, "he was smiling. In fact, the minute the first two shots were fired, he still had a very sick-looking smile on his face," the waiter said.

Pressed for details on the girl, di Pierro said:

"I would never forget what she looked like because she had a very good-looking figure — and the dress was kind of lousy . . . it looked like it was a white dress and it had

either black or dark purple polka dots on it."

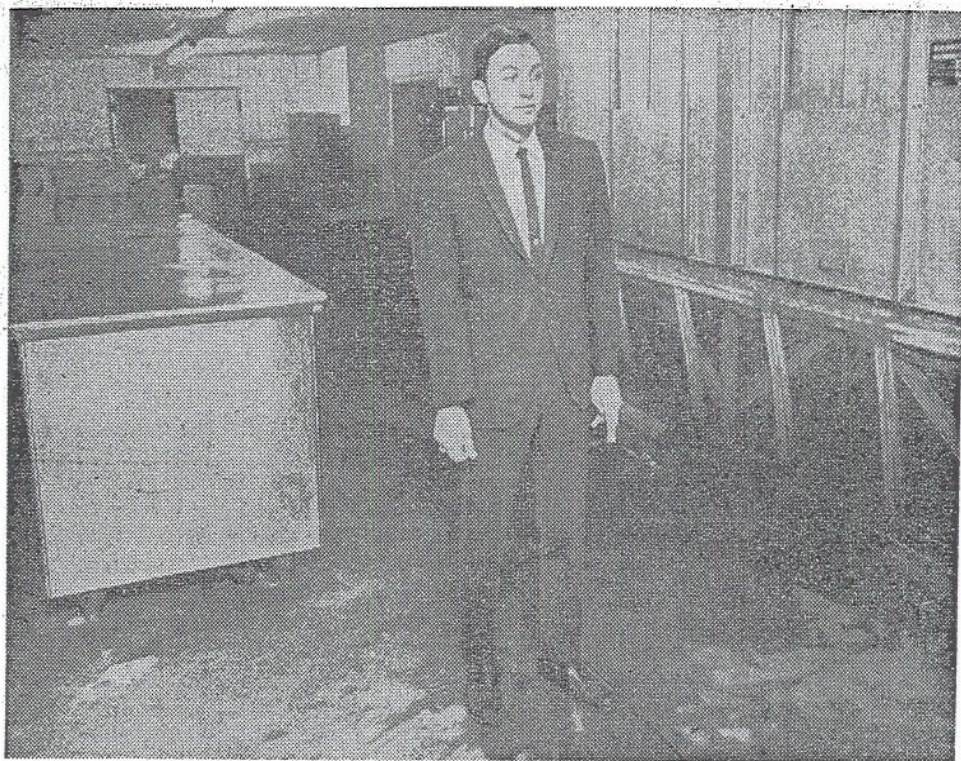
Di Pierro did not see the girl after the shooting.

Detectives have questioned three women who stepped forward and identified themselves as being in the Embassy Room of the Ambassador wearing polka dot dresses the night of the victory celebration. All were released.

Henry A. Carreon, a playground director for the Los Angeles city schools, said he saw Sirhan the slaying at a target practice range in San Gabriel.

He said Sirhan was shooting "very rapidly" with a .22 caliber pistol. He estimated 300 to 400 bullet casings were on the ground around Sirhan.

Carreon had come to the range with a friend, David Montellano, an expert on guns, and said Sirhan asked



**VINCENT DI PIERRO AT SPOT WHERE KENNEDY FELL**  
Light area at right of his feet is where the dying Senator lay

—UPI Photo

him:

"How do you hold you gun to get better accuracy because this gun doesn't have a sight on it? Do you hold it so the front part is definitely straight ahead with it or do you hold it up?"

#### 'MINI-MAGNUMS

Carreon said Sirhan had a box of ammunition set aside which contains "mini-magnum" bullets, a type that splits out in different directions when it strikes an object.

Other highlights of the grand jury testimony included:

Ira Goldstein, 19, a young newsman wounded by one of the eight shots fired from the pistol, said he asked Ethel Kennedy how Kennedy was.

"How dare you talk to my husband that way," she said, and slapped him across the face.

"Goldstein said he told her he was sorry, that he had been shot too. Mrs. Kennedy told him, "Oh, I'm sorry, Honey," and kissed him.

#### CONSTANT WATCH

Jesus Perez, a kitchen helper in the Ambassador, said Sirhan was in the pantry for about half an hour before Kennedy came in. He asked Perez three or four times whether Kennedy would come through the pantry.

Sirhan, short, slender and swarthy, remains under constant surveillance in a heavily guarded cell at Central Jail. He is scheduled to plead to the indictment June 28.

The youth held a variety of odd jobs before his arrest. He emigrated to this country with his family as a boy and lived with his mother and brothers in adjoining Pasadena.

Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, who lives alone in the village of Taiybe near Jerusalem, may fly to see his son.

In Jerusalem, Israeli authorities cleared the way for Bishara to fly to the United States. The father has been given permission to go to Amman to draw funds from his bank account.