

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 6/7/68

EDWARD MINASIAN, who is employed in the catering department at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, and who resides at [REDACTED] Burbank, California, after having been advised of the identity of the interviewing Agents, stated that he had appeared before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury that morning and had identified SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN as the individual whom he saw shoot Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY and whom he had helped to subdue. He thereafter furnished the following signed statement:

"Los Angeles, California
June 7, 1968

"I, Edward Minasian, make the following free and voluntary statement to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who have identified themselves to me as Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

"I reside at [REDACTED] Burbank, California, and I am employed in the catering department at the Ambassador Hotel, 3400 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California. I have been so employed for approximately five years.

"Shortly after midnight of June 4th, 1968 Senator Robert F. Kennedy finished making a statement to his supporters in the Embassy Ballroom at the Ambassador Hotel. The original plans, upon the conclusion of his speech was to turn left, and go downstairs to the Ambassador Ballroom and at the last minute plans were changed to to take Senator Kennedy and his party to the Colonial Room, which was the working press room. In order to follow through with these plans, it was necessary to go through the pantry adjoining the Embassy Room.

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On 6/7/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156
by SAs [REDACTED] Date dictated 6/7/68

"I was leading the party, and was on the Senator's right, about one step in front. After about fifteen feet inside the pantry door, I sensed the Senator was not as close as when we started into the pantry. I turned to my left, and observed the Senator shaking hands with hotel employees on his left. My partner, Karl Uecker, was on the Senator's left, and about one or two steps in front of him. While the Senator was shaking hands I saw out of the right corner of my eyes someone darted behind my partner, and reached around him, with a gun in his right hand. Before I could react, he fired two shots. My partner grabbed the gunman in a headlock, and I grabbed him around the waist, and forced him up against a steam table. We could not control his gun hand until after he fired a number of shots in rapid succession. A number of the Senator's party helped us to subdue the man and take the gun away. I saw Rafer Johnson put the gun in his pocket.

"At this point I ran to the room-service telephone and called for an ambulance and the police. As I ran to the phone, I noticed the Senator lying on the floor with his head in a pool of blood and his eyes shut. One of the bus-boys, Juan Romero, kneeling down by the Senator. When I returned from the phone, approximately one minute later, I noticed that the Senator's eyes were open, and that there were many more people in the immediate area. I returned to where the gunman was being held down, and remained there until the Los Angeles Police arrived to take custody of the gunman. While there, I heard Rafer Johnson ask the man repeatedly, 'Why did you do it, why did you do it?' The man looked at me and said, 'Let me explain, I can explain.'" At this point someone told him to shut up. Within approximately ten minutes the police arrived and took custody of the man. Uecker and I escorted the police to the Wilshire entrance, and then returned to the pantry, and by the time we got there the Senator and others who had been shot had been taken away by ambulance.

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"The only other individual who I saw shot was the man from the United Auto Workers, whose name I cannot recall.

"I have read the above statement consisting of this and three other pages, and to the best of my knowledge it is true and correct.

"/s/ Edward Minasian

"Witnesses:

b7c /s/ [REDACTED] Special Agent, F.B.I. Los Angeles 6/7/68
[REDACTED] Special Agent F.B.I. Los Angeles 6/7/68"