

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 14, 1968

1

Mr. JESSE M. UNRUH, Speaker of the California State Assembly, home address [REDACTED] Inglewood, California, furnished the following information:

On June 4, 1968, he was on the fifth floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, California, along with members of his staff and Senator KENNEDY and his staff, awaiting the results of the California Presidential Primary. People in the room off the main lobby, who were awaiting the arrival of Senator KENNEDY, began to get restless and it was suggested that he (UNRUH) go down to speak to them.

At about 11:30 p.m. he went down and spoke to the group. At approximately 11:45 p.m. he felt there were sufficient returns for Senator KENNEDY to claim victory and sent his assistant, Mr. JACK C. CROSE, to get the Senator and his party.

The Senator came down to the hall and addressed the group congregated there for about eight minutes . . . and then started to walk away. He proceeded to his right, towards a table where PIERRE SALINGER and DICK KLINE were seated. He was propelled, by someone whom he could not see, towards the back of the stage. The stage was so jammed he (UNRUH) decided to go down the stairs from the stage and go to the hallway by the door located at the foot of the stage.

When he stepped out into the hallway Senator KENNEDY had already passed that area and was about ten paces ahead of him. He then heard two or four pops followed by four or five more. At this point he did not realize these were pistol

ALL  
b7c

On 6/13/68 at Sacramento, California File # SC 62-76

- 129 -

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 6/14/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



2  
SC 62-76

b7c

shots and thought they might be balloons. All at once the crowd parted in front of him as he continued to walk forward. He then observed PAUL SCHRADE lying on the floor with an obvious bullet wound in his head and immediately noticed Senator KENNEDY lying on the floor ahead of SCHRADE. Senator KENNEDY brought his hand down from his head and appeared to clutch at his stomach, hence he believed the Senator had been shot there. Someone had already gotten to the Senator and had undone his shirt.

Inasmuch as the crowd was pressing in, his first thoughts were to make room for the Senator and prevent his being trampled on. He then attempted to push newsmen, photographers, and other people in the area away. Noticing a photographer on top of a table where ROOSEVELT GRIER had pinned SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, he pulled him off the table and into the corridor. At this point it was the first time he had seen SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN and at no time did he ever observe SIRHAN holding the gun.

Recalling the fate that had befallen LEE HARVEY OSWALD, and hearing voices in the crowd yelling to kill SIRHAN, he recalls yelling to the group holding SIRHAN to protect him. He could not recall exact words used but, remembering the events in Dallas when OSWALD had been shot, he did not want to see the same thing happen there. He did recall saying something like, "If the system works at all, we are going to try this one".

When the police arrived he attempted to keep the police all around SIRHAN . . . to protect him. He . . . grabbed SIRHAN by the scruff of the neck and helped to propel him down the hallway through the lobby and to a police car parked in front of the hotel.

He accompanied the police officers in the car that SIRHAN was in to the Rampart Division. He sat in front with the driver and SIRHAN was in the back seat between two other

b7c

<sup>3</sup>  
SC 62-76

police officers. About the time they entered the car SIRHAN mumbled, " I did it for my country". He could not recall at just what point he (UNRUH) asked the question during the ride, but since SIRHAN looked like a Latin-American he asked SIRHAN, "Why him? Why him? He was trying to do something". SIRHAN muttered, "It's too late, it's too late". He also recalls SIRHAN saying, "I can explain, I can explain". He could not, however, recall the exact sequence of the statements except for the one made as they entered the car.

They arrived at the Rampart Division and SIRHAN was taken into a room there by one of the officers. His sole concern there was that SIRHAN not be in a position to do himself any harm and he was assured by an officer that SIRHAN was still handcuffed and would not be able to do himself any harm. Shortly after their arrival at the Rampart Division he noticed the time was 12:43 a.m.

SIRHAN subsequently was brought out, placed into a police car, and taken to the Central Division. He followed in another car. Upon arriving SIRHAN was taken to an isolation room and interrogated and that is all he saw of SIRHAN.

He added that he was not aware of any formal plans for Senator KENNEDY to address the press. The only plan he was aware of was that there was to be a victory celebration at the "Factory" a discotheque in Hollywood, California, to which he and his staff had been invited. To his knowledge all plans were made by the Senator's staff.

