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LA 56-156

b7D [[REDACTED] Los Angeles County Human Relations
Hall of Records, 320 West Temple,
Los Angeles, California, advised SAs [REDACTED]
and [REDACTED] on June 6, 1968, that one of his
field workers, DARNELL JOHNSON, had witnessed the shooting
of Senator KENNEDY, and had seen a woman in a polka-dot dress
b7D [at the scene. [REDACTED] had JOHNSON come to his office for
interview.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date 6/7/68

DARNELL JOHNSON, [REDACTED]

telephone [REDACTED], extension [REDACTED] advised he lives at [REDACTED] California, telephone [REDACTED] and works 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He was interviewed at his office. Also present was [REDACTED] Rampart Detective Division, Los Angeles Police Department.

DARNELL JOHNSON advised he was at the Ambassador Hotel the night that Senator KENNEDY was shot. He saw KENNEDY complete his speech just before the shooting and start off the back side of the platform where the speech was made. JOHNSON walked around the platform to the narrow space in the serving area where the shooting took place and got there before KENNEDY. Already present in this area were five people described as follows:

- (1) A white female wearing a white dress, with 25¢ size black pokadots; the dress was fitted, was not miniskirt but was above the knees; was not a loose shift but was fashionable for the time. She was 23-25 years of age, tall, 5'8", medium build, well built, 145 pounds, long light brown hair, carrying an all white sweater or jacket, pretty full face, stubby heel shoes in the fashion of the time.
- (2) A person whom JOHNSON identified as SIRHAN SIRHAN from photographs shown at the time of this interview and further as the person he saw who was seized immediately following the shooting by persons in the area.
- (3) A white male, wearing a light blue washable sport coat, white shirt and tie, 6'1", tall, slim, 30-35 years, blond hair parted far over on the left side with the right side long and hanging towards his face like a surfer haircut, outdoor type.

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On 6/6/68 at Los Angeles, California File # Los Angeles 56-156

by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 6/7/68

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- (4) A white male, 5'10" tall, 165 pounds, trim, 24-25 years of age, brown, long hair but not hippie, dark coat, darker trousers, white shirt and tie.
- (5) A white male, 6'1", tall, slim, darkish brown hair, shiny brown sport coat made of hopsacking, white shirt and tie.

These people were standing in a group between JOHNSON and the door through which KENNEDY came to make his way to the next ballroom for another speech. This is the same area where he was shot.

JOHNSON states these people were standing in proximity to each other; he says they were "together" but he states he has no knowledge they knew each other, were talking to each other or were members of the same party.

As the KENNEDY party entered this area, balloons were being broken, some small firecrackers were being set off and JOHNSON was not aware of any difficulties or any trouble until he saw a woman slump against the wall and say, "Oh my God, Oh my God." JOHNSON still did not realize what had happened but saw a furor around the KENNEDY party. At this time a photographer with lights on his camera took a picture of someone on the floor, who turned out to be KENNEDY. This photographer then put the lights up to take a picture of the persons standing and when his lights showed on SIRHAN, the photographer said, "Grab him, that dude has a gun." This was the first time that JOHNSON realized there had been a shooting. 4-30

Just at this point, the woman in the polka dot dress and the three men in her area left and walked toward the ballroom from where the KENNEDY party had just come. Several people seized SIRHAN and began beating on him. The crowd pressed around him and hit at him whenever they could. While SIRHAN was being held and before police arrived, the girl in the polka dot dress and the one man in the light blue washable sport coat came back and looked, then both left again. JOHNSON followed the persons who took SIRHAN out of this area and when

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he got back to the ballroom, he saw the girl in the polka dot dress talking to a white female Mexican near the podium where KENNEDY had just been speaking. This white female Mexican was 19 to 20 years of age, plump, 5'2"-5'5", long black hair, full pleated dress, avocado color, part of the KENNEDY group; JOHNSON assumed she was a Youth Campaign Manager.

JOHNSON did not see any of the others again and did not see the girl in the polka dot dress again after seeing her on the podium.

JOHNSON was shown a photograph by [REDACTED] of a white female, CHERYL WESSELS, Los Angeles Police Department [REDACTED] and could not positively identify her as the girl he saw in the polka dot dress, although he felt the profile looked similar. DARNELL JOHNSON then said he believed he could identify photographs of the girl in the polka dot dress and the man in the light blue sport coat.

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