

# Who Shot RFK

What happened to Robert F. Kennedy, Sr. (RFK)?

When last seen publicly, he won the California and South Dakota Democratic party presidential primaries on Tuesday, June 4th.

Shortly after he declared victory, public reports proclaimed that an assassin, Sirhan Sirhan shot him at the Ambassador Hotel.

He allegedly died approximately twenty-five hours later, on Thursday, June 6.

Sirhan was convicted of first-degree murder and five counts of assault with intent to commit murder with a deadly weapon. He still resides in prison.

## EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS

What do eyewitnesses say about this event? The following are statements by people in close proximity to RFK:

**Paul Schrade**, a union activist who walked right behind RFK, said:

*“on bullet hitting me....was from Sirhan...several witnesses so testified for the Prosecution...Sirhan was aiming his gun about 3 feet in front of RFK fired 2 shots missing RFK with the first one and hitting me in the top of my head as I followed behind Bob to his press conference...I didn't see Sirhan nor know what hit me until a doctor told me as I came to on the floor...Sirhan was captured after those 2 shots and bent over the steam table and piled on by several guys...he continued firing the rest of his 6 bullets aimed away from RFK and wounding 4 more persons...he couldn't shoot RFK as he was piled on and a captive.... and was now out of bullets...the Prosecution never had one witness to testify that Sirhan was seen shooting RFK...he could not and did not”<sup>1</sup>*

To summarize Schrade's statement:

Shot #1 – Sirhan misses RFK from about three feet away.

Shot #2 – Sirhan shoots Paul Schrade, who was behind RFK, in the top of the head.

At this point, Schrade apparently lost consciousness. He later learned that Sirhan fired six more shots, injuring William Wiesel, Ira Goldstein, Elizabeth Evans and Irwin Stroll.

It is worth noting that Paul Schrade was 6' 5" tall.<sup>2</sup> RFK was 5' 9 ¾" tall.<sup>3</sup> Sirhan Sirhan is 5' 5" tall.<sup>4</sup> These height differences likely explain why Schrade could not see Sirhan.

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<sup>1</sup> Email to the Author July 29, 2015. The ellipsis were supplied by Mr. Schrade.

<sup>2</sup> Hunt, John. (2022). *Buried in Plain Sight: One Man's Search for the Truth in the Murder of RFK*, JFK Lancer Publications and Productions, page 219

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0448305/>

<sup>4</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirhan\\_Sirhan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirhan_Sirhan)

**Karl Uecker**, who escorted RFK early that morning, testified to the grand jury that he grabbed Sirhan after the first two shots. He also stated that he pushed Sirhan toward the steam table and moved the gun to point away from where RFK was laying. He maintained that Sirhan was always in front of Kennedy and him (Uecker).<sup>5</sup>

Uecker's co-worker, **Edward Minassian**, who helped escort RFK, testified to the same grand jury that Sirhan's gun was about three feet from RFK when he began shooting.

Minassian was asked about what happened after the first two shots:

*Q. Were those shots fired in the general direction of the Senator?*

*A. I doubt it...I doubt if it was in the same direction as the first two shots.*<sup>6</sup>

To summarize the Uecker and Minassian testimony along with Schrade's statement:

Shot #1 – Sirhan misses RFK from about three feet away.

Shot #2 – Sirhan shoots Paul Schrade, who was behind RFK, in the top of the head.

Shots #3 through #8 – away from RFK

Another nearby witness, **Vincent Di Pierro**, stated in his grand jury testimony:

*Q. How close did-we will call him the suspect-get to the Senator?*

*A. It couldn't have been more than six feet.*

*Q. How close to the Senator was the suspect when this gun started firing?*

*A. Four feet-four to six feet. He kind of went around Mr. [Karl] Uecker [an assistant maitre d'hotel] and he from here he looked like-though he pulled his hand out from here and came around. And then the other boy that got shot in the thigh, he fell on top of me, and they pushed me down, they fell on top of me.*

*Q. Did you see what happened to the Senator before you went down?*

*A. He was on his way, falling-he was falling down. The first shot, he kind of reared back very, very sharply.*<sup>7</sup>

Dan Moldea, in his book, *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy*, interviewed security guard **Thane Cesar**. Moldea says that Cesar, who was standing close to Kennedy, told him that Sirhan's gun was "perpendicular" to Kennedy's head at the time of the shooting.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0507/fbi\\_experience\\_rfk-2017\\_0108-box\\_004\\_folder\\_083-part\\_2\\_of\\_4.pdf](https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0507/fbi_experience_rfk-2017_0108-box_004_folder_083-part_2_of_4.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid

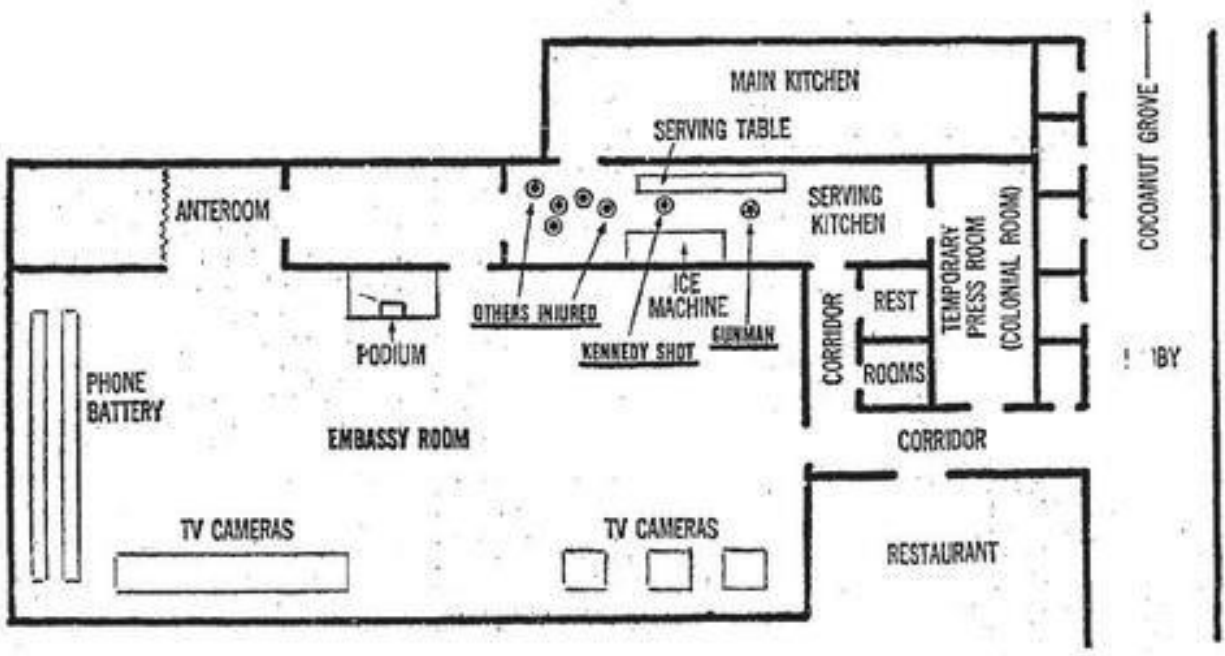
<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/1968/06/14/archives/excerpts-from-testimony-before-jury-that-indicted-sirhan-for.html>

<sup>8</sup> Moldea, Dan E. (1995). *The Killing of Robert F. Kennedy: An Investigation of Motive, Means, and Opportunity*. W. Norton & Company, page 210

Cesar has been the subject of speculation about a second shooter by some (including me, a number of years ago)<sup>9</sup> because he was close behind RFK and was armed. But though he did admit to withdrawing his gun, he denied firing it and no witness ever testified to the contrary.

The reason for RFK’s position is likely because he was apparently shaking hands with Juan Romero, a busboy at the hotel, at the time of the shooting. In his book, *Who Killed Bobby*, author Shane O’ Sullivan says that Romero told the FBI he had just finished shaking hands with the Senator and looked up to see the gun “approximately one yard from the Senator’s head.”<sup>10</sup>

One, apparently unnamed, witness told the FBI that “Kennedy raised his arms over his head and two of the shots entered under his right arm.”<sup>11</sup> This reaction makes sense as Kennedy likely instinctively protected his head.



**DIAGRAM OF SHOOTING SCENE**—Sketch shows the doors leading from behind podium at Embassy Room and the serving kitchen through which Sen. Kennedy was leaving when he and others were shot. Times drawing by Oliver French

Above diagram appears in Garry Rodgers’ blog, *Dying Words*.<sup>12</sup> It shows the basic locations of Sirhan, Kennedy and Schrade (to the left of Kennedy).

<sup>9</sup> My apologies to the late Cesar’s family.  
<sup>10</sup> O’Sullivan, Shane. (2008). *Who Killed Bobby? The Unsolved Murder of Robert F. Kennedy*. Sterling Publishing Co., Inc., page 62  
<sup>11</sup> [https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0507/62-hq-587\\_bulky\\_1208\\_sec\\_001\\_ser1208only-part\\_15\\_of\\_17.pdf](https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0507/62-hq-587_bulky_1208_sec_001_ser1208only-part_15_of_17.pdf)  
<sup>12</sup> <https://dyingwords.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/rfk10.jpg>

## SUMMARY OF EYEWITNESS STATEMENTS

Taken at face value, these witnesses collectively provide the following narration: Sirhan at first missed RFK, who subsequently fell down backwards onto the floor. Sirhan continued to fire shots, which struck people.

Of course, eyewitness testimony is not always reliable. These witnesses heard shots and likely felt panic, which could have distorted their perceptions and their memories of those perceptions.

Though it may not appear probable, it can neither be ruled out that Sirhan got around Uecker and got close enough to Kennedy to fire a shot at him. It also cannot be ruled out that Kennedy had his head turned and his right side exposed to Sirhan, as some witnesses say.

In short, eyewitnesses provide a guideline to what happened. But details may be beyond what a person sees or hears clearly. The physical evidence can help shape conclusions.

What does the physical evidence – the accounts of the weapon(s), the bullets and other items, say?

## PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

### WEAPON AND BULLETS

The weapon wrested away from Sirhan was an empty 22 caliber, eight shot, Iver-Johnson revolver.<sup>13</sup> It would have been impossible for Sirhan to reload the revolver during this incident, so it is reasonable to conclude that Sirhan fired no more than eight shots.

Bullets were said to be found on RFK's body in medical reports. Specifically, RFK was said to have been hit in the head and his right armpit twice. Another bullet went through his right jacket.

**DeWayne Wolfer**, the lead crime scene investigator, accounted for the eight shots in the following way:<sup>14</sup>

- 1) Bullet went behind RFK right ear and into head (“slug”) and split up into fragments.
- 2) Bullet passed through right shoulder pad and into Schrade's forehead - recovered
- 3) Bullet entered RFK right rear shoulder and went to his neck - recovered
- 4) Bullet entered RFK right upper back, through chest and into ceiling tile
- 5) Bullet hit Goldstein in left rear buttock - recovered
- 6) Bullet went through Goldstein pants leg, struck floor and hit Stroll left leg - recovered
- 7) Bullet hit Weisel in left abdomen – recovered
- 8) Bullet hit ceiling and then Evans in head – recovered

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<sup>13</sup> [https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0418/44-sd-394-part\\_2\\_of\\_5.pdf](https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0418/44-sd-394-part_2_of_5.pdf) - The newspaper clipping on the first page of these files has the Los Angeles Police Department identifying the weapon as a pistol. Most reports have stated that it is a revolver.

<sup>14</sup> Hunt, page 87

But Wolfer and others responsible for the investigation made mistakes. Here are some issues with the bullets, as noted by author John Hunt, in his well-researched book, *Buried in Plain Sight: One Man's Search for Truth in the Murder of RFK*:<sup>15</sup>

- The bullet allegedly taken from RFK's neck was not properly marked for evidence.<sup>16</sup>
- There was no chain of possession for the fragments allegedly taken from RFK's head.<sup>17</sup>
- Wolfer never linked the bullets from Sirhan's revolver to RFK's injuries.<sup>18</sup>
- **Thomas Noguchi**, deputy coroner, **Robert J. Scanlan**, the autopsy radiologist and **Henry M. Cuneo**, the neurosurgeon, all failed to view the bullet said to be from RFK's brain.<sup>19</sup>
- X-rays of the slug allegedly in RFK brain showed an image bigger than the size of the bullets that fit in Sirhan's revolver.<sup>20</sup>

Physical evidence may provide a new dimension that witnesses cannot account for. But it must be shown to be reliable first.

Courts typically ask for proof that evidence presented actually came from the crime scene. For example, evidence must be properly marked at the scene so as to ensure proper identification to those who view it. If evidence has been transferred from one party to another, the transfer must be documented properly.

A bullet not properly marked for evidence, such as the bullet allegedly taken from RFK's neck, may not reliably be viewed as a bullet genuinely from the crime scene. A lack of chain of possession, as in the case of the fragments allegedly taken from RFK's head, causes similar, even reasonable, doubts as to where the fragments actually came from.

The mistakes apparently made by those who gathered and transferred evidence do not necessarily mean that their conclusions should be disputed. But the mistakes may, and in fact, should, be taken into consideration in evaluating the weight of their report.

The slug from RFK's brain is especially troubling. If confirmed, the assertion that the slug was bigger than the size that fit in Sirhan's revolver effectively rules Sirhan out as the shooter of the fatal bullet. Hunt expresses this fact clearly:

*"On page seventeen of the autopsy report Noguchi and Scanlan describe the X-rays taken prior to surgery...According to Noguchi and Scanlan: 'The largest metallic fragment is situated in the*

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<sup>15</sup> Hunt took note of Noguchi's own words, conducted an experiment and concluded that one of the bullets that went through RFK's right shoulder struck Schrade.

<sup>16</sup> Hunt, 401-403

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, 408

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 385 and 390

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, 305-306

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 299

*petrous ridge and at about the accurate eminence...This measures 12 mm in transverse dimension, 77 mm in vertical dimension and approximately 12 mm in anterior posterior dimension.'*

*...when compared side by side, the '12x7x12 mm' description of the slug becomes problematic, for the round Sirhan fired was only 5.7 x 13 mm in its pristine state. If Noguchi and Scanlan accurately described the size of the largest bullet fragment remaining in Robert Kennedy's head, it **could not** have come from a .22 caliber weapon... ”<sup>21</sup>*

## CLOTHING

The sleeve of the RFK's jacket presents another troubling aspect of the investigation. The entire left sleeve of RFK's jacket and dress shirt were “completely absent” at the time [Noguchi] examined the clothing.<sup>22</sup>

It is unclear why the sleeves were removed. After all, RFK was said to have been struck on the right side of his body. Hunt adduces that the clothing, including the left sleeves, “made it into LAPD custody...yet...had gone missing by the time Noguchi performed the autopsy.”<sup>23</sup>

We may never know why the sleeves disappeared. At the very least, it casts doubt about the accuracy of evidence collected.

## AUTOPSY REPORT

Thomas Noguchi submitted the official autopsy report. But there were issues with the details of the report as well. Here are some startling facts about it:

- The autopsy had several drafts, with an unidentified “AMJ” as one of the report's authors.<sup>24</sup>
- The report took six months to complete.<sup>25</sup>
- It says the non-embalmed body measured “70-1/2 inches in length...” and the “eye color is hazel”?<sup>26</sup> RFK was said to be 5'9 3/4” (69 3/4”) tall<sup>27</sup> with blue eyes.<sup>28</sup>
- The autopsy report does not mention the size of the bullet hole in skull bones.<sup>29</sup>
- Noguchi, who performed the official autopsy, said, that due to powder burns on the skin, the gun was within 3 inches when the shooting occurred.<sup>30</sup> Yet no witness places the convicted assassin, Sirhan Sirhan, anywhere that close to Kennedy at any time.

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid, 298-299

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 225

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 233

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, 286

<sup>25</sup> Ibid, 406

<sup>26</sup> <https://justiceforrfk.com/evidence/Autopsy-2nd-draft-Noguchi.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0448305/>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/1970/02/15/archives/under-the-skin-of-the-statue-of-liberty-yevtushenko.html>

<sup>29</sup> Hunt, page 269

<sup>30</sup> <https://thejns.org/view/journals/j-neurosurg/aop/article-10.3171-2018.4.JNS18294/article-10.3171-2018.4.JNS18294.xml>

## SUMMARY OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

It is difficult to establish a connection between Sirhan's revolver and bullets to wounds described in the autopsy, particularly the fatal shot. One may reasonably wonder if the autopsy entirely refers to the same incident or the same victim.

The handling of the physical evidence, like the disappearance of the shirt sleeves, fuels suspicion that part of the investigation may well have been designed to mislead the public.

## CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS

A number of photographs were taken of RFK or of a man who appears to be RFK. One of them, attributed to **Boris Yaro**, is particularly interesting:



This image was sent out early on the day of the alleged shooting of RFK to many media outlets. It made the front page of the Los Angeles Times<sup>31</sup> and may be seen on ABC news footage<sup>32</sup> at the 1:59:19 mark. (This point in the footage is approximately 2 hours after the shooting).

Why is the man on the left missing a hand?

Here is Yaro's account, given many years later, of taking photographs at the scene:

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<sup>31</sup> <https://deanhartwell.weebly.com/los-angeles-times-6568.html>

<sup>32</sup>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46zQ8EzJw5A&list=PLcLVnwXd4akF7ZTwcUHY7y8dYwW1w1Qu\\_&index=23](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46zQ8EzJw5A&list=PLcLVnwXd4akF7ZTwcUHY7y8dYwW1w1Qu_&index=23)

*“...When I covered the RFK shooting, I owned the camera and two lenses, one of which was a 50mm 1.8 lens that I left in the car. I didn't bring a flash with me, since I wasn't on assignment and wanted to make only natural light photographs.*

*The pantry area was dimly lit, and I recall thinking that I should go get my flash unit, but I didn't.*

*I did use Kodak Tri-X film. It was the film of choice by most press photographers, and I felt comfortable with it in badly lit situations. When things quieted down a bit, I aimed my camera and at the same time a television photographer turned on his very bright light, which made it possible for me to make photographs.*

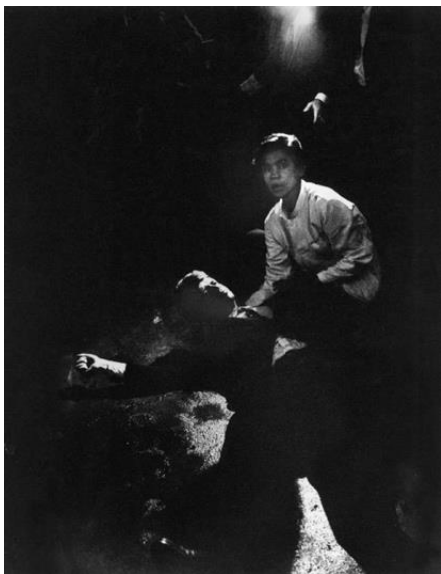
*The FTn meter was not working, so I had to make my exposures by guesstimate. I ended up making the photographs at 1/30 of a second and the lens set wide open at F 2.8 (this was the maximum aperture) ...*

*...I moved in to make a "sure" shot (one that I knew would show his face). I made a total of six shots in that mess...”<sup>33</sup>*

Upon learning of the missing left shirt and suit sleeves, I took a second look at this picture and others from the crime scene. A pattern emerged: none of the pictures appears to show Kennedy's left arm clearly. Is there a connection?

The reader is encouraged also take note of Kennedys hair partings in the different pictures as they appear to differ markedly.

This picture is perhaps the most famous of the crime scene. It shows Kennedy on the floor comforted by Juan Romero, a hotel employee (Source: Bill Epperidge, Life magazine)



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<sup>33</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/visuals/photography/la-me-fw-archives-boris-yaro-covers-the-assassination-of-robert-kenedy-20180424-htmllstory.html>

And another (Getty Images)<sup>34</sup>:



Yaro made another interesting comment in the same interview:

*“...I had my camera at chest level, but I didn't make a photo during the shooting. It was dark, and I think I was afraid.”*<sup>35</sup>

Why wouldn't a professional photographer take pictures during a shooting? He could have captured evidence that could have provided definitive proof as to what actually happened. Or is that the reason why he did not take pictures then?

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.gettyimages.com/photos/robert-kennedy-assassination>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/visuals/photography/la-me-fw-archives-boris-yaro-covers-the-assassination-of-robert-kenedy-20180424-htmlstory.html>

## SUMMARY OF CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS

I cannot find any explanation by Yaro specifically about the missing hand. Would the dim lighting only affect part of the picture in this manner?

Said “picture” appears to be a composite. The most likely explanation is that the “doctor” inadvertently chopped off the hand of the man on the left from another picture when they superimposed a face over the body on the right.

Why would anyone do that? The best explanation would be in order to deceive the public as to the identity of the man on the floor. If it were RFK on the floor, there would be no need for anyone to doctor any pictures. More about the man on the floor in a moment.

This specific photograph gives reason to believe that the event was “practiced” ahead of time with the use of a double. This rehearsal could have been done to make sure the real RFK would be visible but not in a place to get hit by bullets in the later event.

The fact that different photographs show differences in hair partings lends even more strongly to the hypothesis of a staged event. RFK would have needed the opportunity to change his parting and staging the event in different “takes” would have allowed him to do that. Or to use a double.

I have a candidate for that double, based upon a mysterious post he wrote publicly and about other similarities between the two men.

**Tommy Lasorda**, best known as the manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers from 1976 to 1996, wrote the following on his blog, reflecting back on the events of June 4, 1968:

*“It just so happens that I was supposed to be at that dinner. My wife Jo, and I, ate lunch at the Ambassador that afternoon, and my good friend **Zach Manasian**<sup>36</sup>, who was the food and beverage manager, told me that [Robert] Kennedy wanted to meet me and talk to me, which was an invitation I was honored to accept.*

*Before going to the dinner though, I planned to going [sic] to the Dodger game because Don Drysdale was on the mound and besides him being one of my favorite pitchers, and a great friend, he was going for his sixth straight shutout. His scoreless innings pitched streak was the big topic in baseball, and I wanted to be on hand to watch. 58 2/3 scoreless innings was amazing.*

*As I dressed that morning, I put on a brand new pair of shoes. They were CoreFam shoes, and as I wore them around that day, they really started to hurt my feet. So much so, that I had to leave the game, and I walked to my car with the CoreFam’s in my hand. That’s how badly they hurt.*

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<sup>36</sup> Lasorda refers to Edward Minasian as Zach Manasian. See the following article that clarifies that Edward or Eddie Minasian was the food and banquet manager for the Ambassador Hotel at the time:  
<https://www.mainlinemedianews.com/2023/10/20/new-book-lasorda-university-reinforces-lasordas-reach/>

*We decided to skip the dinner at the Ambassador. When we got home, we turned on the TV and saw that Kennedy had been shot.*

*It was a night of mixed emotions. While I was happy for Big Don, I was sad and angry about the assassination. No matter what your politics are, or which party you align yourself with, an assassination of any elected official, or national leader, is tragic.”<sup>37</sup>*

By his own admission, Lasorda was present at the same hotel as RFK that day and the two had a common friend who worked there. What’s more, Lasorda’s story reeks of implausibility:

Who can believe that Tommy Lasorda, a baseball aficionado, would leave a Dodger game early? This game had special importance to Lasorda especially because a friend was trying to set a major league record.

Also, it is hard to understand how he would go to the Dodger game first, then go to dinner! The game started at around 7:00 PM and Lasorda would have known the game would last about three hours. What time was he expecting to have dinner, especially with a man who would be watching election returns all night!

And his account of arriving home and turning on the TV to learn of the shooting makes no sense, either, especially if he left the game early. The shooting made the news two and a half hours after the game ended. Even in the notorious Los Angeles traffic, the drive late at night from Dodger Stadium to Lasorda’s home in Fullerton would have taken about an hour.

More likely, Lasorda stayed at the hotel and later had to figure out an “alibi” as to his whereabouts during the time of the staging of the event.



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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.latimes.com/archives/blogs/opinion-la/story/2007-01-15/opinion-the-lasorda-kennedy-conspiracy>

Did the two have a close physical resemblance, particularly in regard to their build and their height? Here are pictures of the two men roughly the same period of time.

In the picture on the left<sup>38</sup>, RFK is on the left. His brother John, on the far right and clearly taller, was 6' 1" tall. In the picture on the right<sup>39</sup>, Lasorda is second from the left. To the right is Steve Garvey, who stood at 5' 10" tall.

Therefore, it can be reasonably ascertained that RFK and Lasorda had a close enough physical resemblance to make Lasorda an effective double for a "rehearsal."

#### OTHER WITNESS STATEMENTS

Singer and actress **Rosemary Clooney**, the aunt of actor George Clooney, befriended RFK. She campaigned for him in his bid for the presidency and was present at the Ambassador Hotel that night.

She also publicly expressed disbelief that RFK had died.

A Ladies Home Journal article reported that "Robert Kennedy died June 5, but Rosemary Clooney refused to believe it. She told people that the report of his death was just "a plot to scare us." Concerned friends brought her to both a hospital and a psychiatrist."<sup>40</sup>

Is it normal for someone to go around saying that they refuse to believe that an event happened? Maybe. But to be institutionalized for it? Typically, in order for a person to be confined to an institution, they must be shown to be a threat to themselves or to others. Whom did she threaten?

It isn't hard for me to believe that she knew the truth, spoke the truth and faced reprisal for revealing it.

RFK'S wife, **Ethel Kennedy**, had a run-in with Max Alma Behrmann, who worked in the ambulance that took her and RFK to the hospital. She is quoted as saying of an ambulance worker, "he's asking too many questions."<sup>41</sup>

The story on its face makes little sense. If the Senator had truly been shot, who in their right mind would look at the Senator and ask questions as to what had taken place, especially given that his brother had been murdered a few years before? It is easier for me to believe that Behrmann sensed that something did not look right.

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<sup>38</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_F.\\_Kennedy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_F._Kennedy)

<sup>39</sup> St. Lake Tribune - <https://www.sltrib.com/sports/2021/01/08/gordon-monson-tommy/>

<sup>40</sup> [https://www.rosemaryclooney.com/\\_1libraryfiles/LHJ3-76.html](https://www.rosemaryclooney.com/_1libraryfiles/LHJ3-76.html)

<sup>41</sup>

[https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0612/25367874\\_lbj\\_office\\_files\\_of\\_mildred\\_stegall\\_b31a.pdf](https://www.archives.gov/files/research/rfk/releases/2025/0612/25367874_lbj_office_files_of_mildred_stegall_b31a.pdf)

## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

“In its final years, the empty [Ambassador] hotel was used exclusively as a film and television shooting location, hosting as many as 100 productions a year.”<sup>42</sup>

Robert F. Kennedy served as the Attorney General of the United States and in the United States Senate. As such, he had connections to law enforcement throughout the nation, especially in the City of Los Angeles.

“Kennedy spent the night before the California primary in [**John**] **Frankenheimer's** Malibu home.”<sup>43</sup> Frankenheimer was a film director. One of his most famous films, the *Manchurian Candidate*, involves a man “brainwashed” into assassinating a United States politician.

## MY HYPOTHESIS

To introduce my own hypothesis, I will reiterate Wolfer’s account of the bullets:

- 1) Bullet went behind RFK right ear and into head and split up into fragments. Aka “slug”
- 2) Bullet passed through right shoulder pad and into Schrade’s forehead - recovered
- 3) Bullet entered RFK right rear shoulder and went to his neck - recovered
- 4) Bullet entered RFK right upper back, through chest and into ceiling tile
- 5) Bullet hit Goldstein in left rear buttock - recovered
- 6) Bullet went through Goldstein pants leg, struck floor and hit Stroll left leg - recovered
- 7) Bullet hit Weisel in left abdomen – recovered
- 8) Bullet hit ceiling and then Evans in head – recovered

As noted, Hunt provided strong evidence that the shot that Wolfer says hit RFK in his right upper back and then went into the ceiling (#4) really hit Schrade. To alter the Wolfer hypothesis with this assertion would make the account of bullets look like this:

- 1) Bullet went behind RFK right ear and into head and split up into fragments. Aka “slug”
- 2) Bullet passed through right shoulder pad – not recovered
- 3) Bullet entered RFK right rear shoulder and went to his neck - recovered
- 4) Bullet entered RFK right upper back, through chest and into Paul Schrade forehead - recovered
- 5) Bullet hit Goldstein in left rear buttock - recovered
- 6) Bullet went through Goldstein pants leg, struck floor and hit Stroll left leg - recovered
- 7) Bullet hit Weisel in left abdomen – recovered
- 8) Bullet hit ceiling and then Evans in head – recovered

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<sup>42</sup> <https://clui.org/ludb/site/ambassador-hotel-site>

<sup>43</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Frankenheimer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Frankenheimer)

There are glaring issues with shot #1. According to Noguchi, as noted, it was too big to be fired from Sirhan's gun. Also, no one saw Sirhan (nor any potential shooter) in close enough proximity to RFK to have made the shot. I will leave the alleged head bullet, the "slug" aside for now.

Hunt states that Wolfer's bullet #4, which went into the ceiling and was never recovered, "could obviously not have been fired by Sirhan."<sup>44</sup> Here is a rare point at which I disagree with Hunt, who appears to assume that Sirhan was attempting to hit someone with this shot.

I suggest that there is no basis for the assumption and maintain that Sirhan was placed properly to make the shot. I will get to my reasoning for saying the shot was intentionally fired at the ceiling later.

The following is my hypothesis of Sirhan's eight shots, in their likely order, using the letter "H" to prefix:

**H1** – Sirhan intentionally fires bullet into the ceiling. The bullet is never recovered.

**H2** – Sirhan fires bullet intentionally into the ceiling again. This time it goes down through the ceiling and then Evans in head. The bullet is later recovered.

Recall earlier that Paul Schrade, a percipient witness, told me that Sirhan "fired two shots, missing RFK with the first one." It is quite possible that Schrade did not hear the first shots so I will start with his statement as the basis for the third shot and link it to Hunt's suggestion for #4, which he asserts went through RFK's right upper back, then his chest and then into Schrade's forehead.

He discusses a bullet "hitting me in the top of my head."

**H3** – Sirhan fires bullet into RFK right upper back, through his chest and into Paul Schrade forehead.

One may ask: doesn't that mean that Sirhan was behind RFK? No, it doesn't. In all likelihood, RFK raised his hands in reaction to the first shot. Furthermore, some eyewitnesses claim that he turned his head as much as ninety degrees and was completing a handshake with a supporter when the shots started.

Per Hunt, as noted, the trajectory of the bullet from Sirhan's position goes through RFK in such a position and onto Schrade. He also notes the trajectory would also include RFK's **left** shoulder as well.

The next bullet likely struck RFK in the same place.

**H4** – Sirhan fires bullet into RFK right rear shoulder through to his neck. The bullet is recovered.

The next bullet also likely struck RFK in a place close to the previous one.

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<sup>44</sup> Hunt, page 455

**H5** – Sirhan fires bullet into right rear shoulder pad. Hunt rules out it hitting the ceiling.<sup>45</sup> It was never recovered.

By this point, per Uecker, Minassian and others, Sirhan was apprehended and in all likelihood, began to fire wildly. These stray shots likely account for the rest of the bullets and the victims.

**H6** – Sirhan fires bullet that hits Goldstein in left rear buttock. This bullet was recovered.

**H7** – Sirhan fires bullet which goes through Goldstein pants leg, strikes floor and hits Stroll left leg. This bullet was recovered.

**H8** – Sirhan fires bullet that hits Weisel in left abdomen. This bullet was recovered.

This accounts for all eight bullets from Sirhan's revolver. Now, what about the "slug" bullet?

We know that Sirhan did not fire it.

We also have no reason to believe that anyone else at the pantry fired it.

To recap other significant facts about the bullet:

- There was no chain of possession for the fragments allegedly taken from RFK's head.
- Wolfer never linked the bullets from Sirhan's revolver to RFK's injuries.
- Thomas Noguchi, deputy coroner, Robert J. Scanlan, the autopsy radiologist, and Henry M. Cuneo, the neurosurgeon all failed to examine the bullet said to be from RFK's brain.
- The autopsy report does not mention the size of the bullet hole in skull bones.
- X-rays of the slug allegedly in "RFK" brain showed an image bigger than the size of the bullets that fit in Sirhan's revolver.

Where did this bullet really come from? We may never know but we can begin to answer that question by asking where it is now and then work backwards in chronology.

Officially, the slug is still in the brain of the corpse of RFK, which is officially at Arlington National Cemetery.

Officially, doctors decided it was too dangerous to remove the slug from RFK's brain so they decided to leave it in.

Officially, X-rays were taken of the slug.

Officially, the slug and the fragments caused RFK to bleed out his ear.

The public received a narrative about the event and about the bullet in the form of statements from officials. But if the officials were given wrong information?

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<sup>45</sup> Ibid, 150

My hypothesis presents an alternative to the entire official story of what happened to RFK. The story of the bullet is part of a larger narrative designed to convince the public falsely that RFK had been killed.

In other words, he faked his death.

In assessing whether a person did or did not commit an action, we may consider the same factors that police consider in determining whether a person is a suspect in a crime: Means, Motive and Opportunity.

## MEANS

Robert F. Kennedy, as the former Attorney General of the United States and a sitting United States Senator, had arguably more contacts with law enforcement officials (and other leaders like coroners) than anyone in the nation. He could use these contacts to provide the tools with which to convince the public of his fatality: access to medical records, like autopsy reports and X-ray pictures of homicides; access to physicians who would agree to state they operated on him; and witnesses who would secretly act on his behalf.

The contacts could help create the story of a fatal bullet. They could provide a (possibly brainwashed) actor who could fire two warning shots to get RFK in position to protect himself. The contacts include his friends at the Los Angeles Police Department who could destroy evidence that would expose the hoax. His contacts could act out the shooting ahead of time to ensure that he would be injured but not killed later. His contacts could arrange for pictures from the “acting” to be used to help convince the public of a murder.

## MOTIVE

His brother, President John F. Kennedy, had been assassinated in Dallas, Texas just five years prior. RFK shared many of the same enemies with his brother and reasonably feared that they might murder him as well, especially if he became the president with the authority, among other things, to re-open his brother’s controversially decided case.

## OPPORTUNITY

He could easily book space at a hotel which had famously been the scene of movies and where friends of his worked. He could spend time just prior to the event with a film director who gained notoriety in part because of a film he directed about a man who assassinated a U.S. politician. He could depend upon the sympathy of the world about the latest “tragedy” in his family.

In conclusion, RFK had the means, the motive and the opportunity to fake his death.