

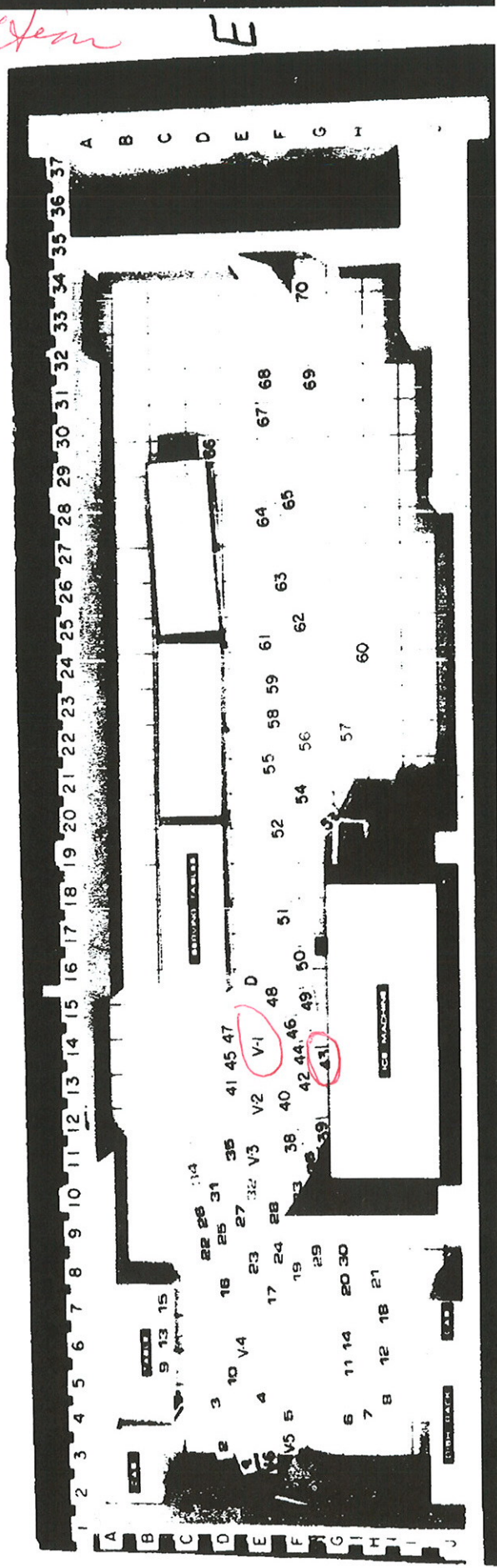
# VICTIMS AND WITNESSES

- |                        |                         |                      |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. PEREZ, JESUS        | 23. RICH, WALTER        | 44. KAMLEK, S        |
| 2. ROMARO, JUAN        | 24. SULLIVAN, ACQUILINE | 45. URSO, LISA       |
| 3. PATRUSKY, MARTIN    | 25. TOIGO, ROBERT       | 46. ROYER, JUDY      |
| 4. UECKER, KARL        | 26. LOCKE, SUZANNE      | 47. GALLIVAN, JACK   |
| 5. BURNS, FRANK        | 27. LA GUERRE, MICHELLE | 48. WAYNE, MICHAEL   |
| 6. LUBIC, RICHARD      | 28. MANKIEWICZ, FRANK   | 49. ROSEN, RICK      |
| 7. SCHULTI, VALARIE    | 29. DI PIETRO, VINCENT  | 50. KLASE, ROBERT    |
| 8. CESAR, THANE        | 30. DEAN, LARRY         | 51. TIMINSON, UNO    |
| 9. YARO, BORIS         | 31. JACKSON, LARRY      | 52. GRIFFIN, BOOKER  |
| 10. FREED, EVAN        | 32. WEST, ANDY          | 53. LEE, MURIEL      |
| 11. MINAZIAM, EDWARD   | 33. UNRUH, BRADLEY      | 54. WITCOBER, JULES  |
| 12. AUBRY, RICHARD     | 34. MURRAY, BARBARA     | 55. MURRAY, DAVE     |
| 13. DREW, RICHARD      | 35. CUMMINGS, JAMES     | 56. HEALY, ROBERT    |
| 14. UNRUH, JESSE       | 36. WILLAMAN, EARL      | V-1 KENNEDY, ROBERT  |
| 15. BEILENSEN, ANTHONY | 37. JAYNE, DAVID        | V-2 SCHRADER, PAUL   |
| 16. BEILENSEN, DELORES | 38. PANDA, RONALD       | V-3 GOLDSTEIN, IRA   |
| 17. CASDIN, ROBBIN     | 39. BRUCE, RAE          | V-4 STROLL, IRWIN    |
| 18. ELMORE, RALPH      | 40. GABOR, KADAR        | V-5 EVANS, ELIZABETH |
| 19. HARDY, CAPT.       | 41. PLIMPTON, FREDDIE   | V-6 WEISEL, WILLIAM  |
| 20. HOLME, BARBARA     | 42. GUY, VIRGINIA       | D SIRHAN B. SIRHAN   |
| 21. HEATH, THADIS      | 43. PLIMPTON, GEO       |                      |
| 22. RICH, TIMONTHY     |                         |                      |

*Clear position*

*70 witness  
Dist in pantry*

N



*#43 Caesar  
VI Kennedy*



# VICTIMS AND WITNESSES IN KITCHEN

1. ROTHSTEIN, ALLEN	26. BEILINSON, DELORES	51. AUBRY, RICHARD
2. GABOR, KADAR	27. ELMORE, RALPH	52. PLIMPTON, FREDY
3. BRUCE, RAE	28. RUBIN, BARBARA	53. HAMILL, PETE
4. PANDA, RONALD	29. DEAN, LARRY	54. LAWN, CONSTANCE
5. JAYNE, DAVID	30. CETINA, GONZALO	55. GUY, VIRGINIA
6. WILLAMAN, EARL	31. CASDEN, ROBIN	56. KAWEELEC, STANLEY
7. MAMEY, NORMAN	32. DUTTON, FRED	57. URSO, LISA
8. CLARK, SONIA	33. DI PIERRO, VINCENT	58. PLIMPTON, GEORGE
9. LA GUERRE, MICHELLE	34. BEILENSEN, ANTHONY	59. ROYER, JUDY
10. MANKIEWICZ, FRANK	35. UNRUH, JESSE	60. WAYNE, MICHAEL
11. CUMMINGS, JAMES	36. BENNETT, RONALD	61. GALLIVAN, JACK
12. MOONEY, GEONINE	37. DREW, RICHARD	62. ROSEN, RICK
13. LOCKE, SUZANNE	38. WITKER, KRISTI	63. KLASE, ROBERT
14. MURRAY, BARBARA	39. BARRY, WILLIAM	64. TIMINSON, UNO
15. SULLIVAN, ACQUILINE	40. YARO, BORIS	65. GRIFFIN, BOOKER
16. TOIGO, ROBERT	41. PATRUSKY, MARTIN	66. JONES, JOSEPH
17. RICH, WALTER	42. SCHULTE, VALARIE	67. LEE, MURIEL
18. WEST, ANDY	43. CESAR, THANE	68. WITCOBER, JULES
19. JACKSON, LARRY	44. LUBIC, RICHARD	69. MURRAY, DAVE
20. UNRUH, BRADLEY	45. ROMERO, JUAN	70. HEALY, ROBERT
21. MULLIGAN, GLORIA	46. BURNS, FRANK	V-1 KENNEDY, ROBERT
22. HOLME, BARBARA	47. PEREZ, JESUS	V-2 SCHRADE, PAUL
23. HEATH, THADIS	48. UECKER, KARL	V-3 GOLDSTEIN, IRA
24. RICH, TIMOTHY	49. FREED, EVAN	V-4 STROLL, IRWIN
25. HARDY, CAPT.	50. MINASIAN, EDWARD	V-5 EVANS, ELIZABETH
		V-6 WEISEL, WILLIAM
		D SIRHAN, SIRHAN

Cesar interview

No. 126

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STATEMENT OF THANE EUGENE CESAR, TAKEN IN ROOM 113,  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE,  
524 N. SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, BY  
SIDNEY TRAPP, DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WILLIAM R.  
BURNETT, JR., INVESTIGATOR, D.A., DeWITT LIGHTNER,  
DETECTIVE, D.A., CHUCK COLLINS, SERGEANT, LAPD, AND  
PHIL SARTUCHE, SERGEANT, LAPD, ON JULY 14, 1971, AT  
7:30 P.M.

In the matter of  
Sirhan, Kirschke and Terry  
Cases Inquiry

Questions by:

Sidney Trapp, DDA  
William R. Burnett, Jr., Inv., D.A.  
DeWitt Lightner, Det., D.A.  
Chuck Collins, Sgt., LAPD  
Phil Sartuche, Sgt., LAPD

Present:

Sidney Trapp, DDA  
William R. Burnett, Jr., Inv., D.A.  
DeWitt Lightner, Det., D.A.  
Chuck Collins, Sgt., LAPD  
Phil Sartuche, Sgt., LAPD

Reported by:

Virginia M. Dumas, L.S.R.

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1 LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 1971, 7:30 P.M.

2 -oOo-

3  
4 BY MR. TRAPP:

5 Present are District Attorney's  
6 investigator Dee Lightner; District Attorney's investigator  
7 Bill Burnett; Sgt. Chuck Collins, LAPD; Thane Cesar;  
8 myself, Deputy District Attorney Sid Trapp; and --

9 BY MR. SARTUCHE:

10 Sgt. Sartuche, S-A-R-T-U-C-H-E.

11 BY MR. TRAPP:

12 That's LAPD, right?

13 BY MR. SARTUCHE:

14 Right.

15 BY MR. TRAPP:

16 It is now the fourteenth of July,  
17 1971, about 7:30 P.M.

18 To start things rolling off, we will  
19 have questions by Sgt. Collins. He's had the biggest  
20 background in this.

21 BY MR. COLLINS:

22 Q All right. Mr. Cesar, I know you  
23 have been questioned regarding this incident at the  
24 Ambassador Hotel and the shooting of Senator Kennedy on  
25 many occasions before. Since the last time, some compli-  
26 cations have come to our attention.

1 About three of us were in a line.  
2 then the security guy in charge of security came up and  
3 asked us to go back out in front of the swinging door. And  
4 keep people from coming into the kitchen.

5 That was approximately the extent  
6 of it.

7 The rest of the night we were around  
8 there until the black and white took us down to Rampart.

9 Q Did you see Sirhan or any persons  
10 around there?

11 A No. He asked me if I had seen a girl  
12 in a polka dot dress. My God, I had seen ten thousand  
13 people.

14 Q Had you seen any shots fired?

15 A I had seen a flash.

16 Q From a gun?

17 A From the muzzle. And that is when I  
18 ducked.

19 Q Do you recall how many shots you  
20 heard?

21 A No.

22 Q Was there more than one?

23 A Oh, yes. It sounded like firecrackers  
24 going off. If it hadn't been for me seeing the flash, I  
25 would have really thought it was firecrackers, you know.  
26 That's what it sounded like in that room.



1 BY MR. LIGHTNER:

2 Q How close were you at that time  
3 to Kennedy?

4 A Oh, when he reached over to shake  
5 hands, maybe two or three feet; maybe a little farther.

6 Q How much room was between the steam  
7 tables and the ice box where you were standing, or the  
8 ice machine?

9 A I would guess it to be about four  
10 feet.

11 Q Was the room quite crowded?

12 A Yeah. In fact, I couldn't see  
13 anything because in front of me were the cameramen with the  
14 lights and the cameras and they were backing up as we were  
15 walking through the corridor.

16 Q As you came through, was it sort of  
17 necessary -- don't let me put words in your mouth -- but to  
18 push the crowd aside to give him room?

19 A Yeah. They were trying to line up,  
20 you know, on the side, like this, you know (indicating), and  
21 I just, you know, kind of fished him through and, of course,  
22 when we made this stop, they kind of spread back a little  
23 bit. And the cameramen backed up a little bit, I would say  
24 a couple of feet, three feet, something like that.

25 And they stopped. They seemed to stop  
26 right at the edge of the steam tables.

1 I thought they were steam tables.  
2 Maybe they weren't. That's what I called them that night  
3 and I still figure that's what they are.

4 But they sort of stopped at the edge.

5 And when the first flash went off,  
6 I, myself, I still feel that I seen the guy's arm between  
7 the cameramen, sticking out. All I could see was a flash,  
8 the first flash. After it went off, to my own visual  
9 knowledge, why it seems like I seen an arm sticking out.

10 And, of course, I ducked immediately  
11 and I immediately got knocked down. So after that, the  
12 only thing I seen was what I saw after I got up.

13 And they had Sir---, there were  
14 several guys around there, but they had his hand up in the  
15 air, and I don't remember whether I saw the gun or whether  
16 they had it out of his hand or what. I really -- I was,  
17 you know, in a thing like that, never been shot at before,  
18 I was in shock, more or less.

19 Q Was Uecker sort of escorting him  
20 through the crowd?

21 A Yeah. He had hold of him all the  
22 time. As far as I can remember, he had hold of him all  
23 the time. I think the only time he broke away from Karl  
24 Uecker was when he went to shake hands with this busboy.  
25 There was a Mexican busboy.

26 Q Were there other people between you,



1 Uecker, and Kennedy at the time you heard the shooting?

2 A No. I don't think so. There might  
3 have been somebody to my right in front of me because we  
4 were very congested. I don't remember if there was anybody  
5 closely behind me, you know, if they were six inches, six  
6 feet. I really don't know.

7 Q You drew your revolver?

8 A After I got up off the floor.

9 Q Did you ever fire a shot?

10 A No.

11 BY MR. TRAPP:

12 Q Did you unload the weapon when you  
13 got back home that night?

14 A No. I keep it up in the closet  
15 loaded all the time. Actually, the weapon, when I am not  
16 using it for a part time moonlight job, is at the house  
17 for my wife, you know, when she's home alone.

18 Q Did you clean it sometime later?

19 A Ah --

20 Q Days later, months later, weeks  
21 later?

22 A I had only fired the gun one time  
23 after I had bought it.

24 I say one time, I shot about twenty  
25 five rounds with a friend of mine on the Sheriff's Depart-  
26 ment. We went up to the San Fernando Shooting Range, you

1 know, the little indoor shooting range.

2 Q Was this before the assassination?

3 A Yeah, long before. And we shot this  
4 .38 Rohm and the one that I bought originally wasn't any  
5 good. There was something wrong with the sights, so I took  
6 it back and he gave me another one just like it and all he  
7 did was just have me sign a slip. He sent a different  
8 serial number in.

9 And, but he did exchange my gun. He  
10 gave me the same type of gun. And then we took it back to  
11 the San Fernando Range again and tried it out. And this  
12 one was all right. But the one I bought originally, the  
13 sights were bad.

14 Q When was the next time you fired it  
15 after the assassination?

16 A Hummm-- I guess it was several months  
17 after that. I was out hunting and I took it with me just to  
18 get some practice, you know, shooting.

19 Q When was the next time after the  
20 assassination that you checked the cylinder?

21 A It was the time I shot -- I never  
22 checked it at all until I shot it the next time, and then  
23 I brought it home and I cleaned it.

24 Q And there were eight live rounds?

25 A On a thirty eight it's six.

26 Q Six live rounds in that cylinder--



1 A Right.

2 Q --the next time you fired it?

3 A That's right.

4 Q Did you ever tell anybody that you  
5 didn't draw your gun?

6 A No. As far as I recollect, I even  
7 told the Police Department on each interview that I drew  
8 my gun.

9 Q Has anybody written you any letters  
10 in connection with this matter?

11 A Hu hu.

12 Q Do you know an attorney by the name  
13 of Barbara Blehr -- Barbara Warner Blehr?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you know Attorney Luke McKissack?

16 A Nope.

17 Q Do you know Attorney George Shibley?

18 A No.

19 Q Do you know a man by the name of  
20 William Harper, criminalist?

21 A No.

22 Q Have any of these people attempted  
23 to contact you in any way?

24 A No.

25 Q Has anybody offered you money for  
26 your story?

1 A No. I wish they had now. A couple  
2 of hundred thousand wouldn't be bad.

3 BY MR. COLLINS:

4 Q When you say "drew your gun", what  
5 do you mean by drawing your gun?

6 A Well, I took it out of my holster and  
7 I held it like this (indicating) maybe for five seconds at  
8 the longest and then put it back.

9 Actually, I was -- I don't know what  
10 you call it. I was never in the Service and never been  
11 under fire, but I think it was a natural response. Anytime  
12 a gun is fired, that's the first thing you think of.

13 And I couldn't do it any sooner than  
14 that because I was on the floor.

15 Q Try to describe the motions of your  
16 arm. Do you mean extended, fully extended, sticking out?

17 A No, no. I never did. I just brought  
18 it out, and -- (indicating)

19 Q That's about a forty five degree  
20 angle?

21 A Yeah, about like that. And then  
22 put it right back.

23 Q You extended it, that was your right  
24 hand, at about the height of your waist?

25 A Yeah. And it only took me long  
26 enough to see that he was subdued and then I put it back.



1 I mean, the time between taking it out and looking up and  
2 seeing that they had somebody subdued, that's the amount  
3 of time for me to put it back.

4 BY MR. TRAPP:

5 Q Are you right handed?

6 A Yes, I am.

7 Q Where was Kennedy at the time you  
8 drew your gun?

9 A I really don't know. I didn't even  
10 look down there. In fact, I didn't look at Kennedy until --  
11 As soon as I drew my gun and put it back, I went right out  
12 the door. I didn't even look -- I didn't even think of  
13 looking back at Kennedy. I seen him after I came back in  
14 laying on the floor.

15 And the only visible blood I seen,  
16 to me it looked like he had been hit on the face. There  
17 was blood on his face. And I was only in there for a very  
18 short time and they sent me right back out.

19 BY MR. COLLINS:

20 Q In what position were you in when  
21 you pulled the gun? Were you still on the floor?

22 A As I was getting up, that's when I,  
23 I reached for the gun the first thing. As soon as I got to  
24 my feet, started to my feet, I reached for my gun, pulled  
25 it out, and when I seen, you know, that they had him, then  
26 I put it back.

1 time they were looking for bullets, stray bullets.

2 And the reason I went back in there  
3 was to tell them, you know, they were gathering up people  
4 for testimony. Nobody came around me. They didn't know  
5 that I was that close or I had been in the kitchen. So  
6 I went up and I told one of the police officers there who  
7 I was and then he took me into the back room, and fifteen  
8 minutes later they drove me down to Rampart.

9 Otherwise, maybe they never would  
10 have interviewed me if I hadn't said something, because  
11 nobody knew that I was standing that close.

12 Q To go back to this, now. When  
13 Senator was shot, did you at any time see him fall to the  
14 floor?

15 A I might have.

16 Q Did he fall in your proximity of  
17 where you were situated?

18 A He wasn't -- when I came in the  
19 second time, estimating where I was standing, he wasn't too  
20 far away. I would say his head was, oh, that far (indicating)  
21 from the ice cabinets -- a couple of feet.

22 Q Okay. While you were on the floor  
23 while you had your gun drawn, Senator Kennedy was within  
24 two feet of you, to your knowledge?

25 A Oh, yeah. Because when I come back  
26 in and did get a look at him, his body was, I would say,



1 a couple of feet from the ice cabinets, and the way I was  
2 situated at an angle off the edge of the steam tables --

3 Q From what you are saying, I am  
4 assuming you are assuming. You had left the pantry and  
5 you came back and you are assuming the positions.

6 I'm talking about at the time of the  
7 shooting. Can you tell me where Senator Kennedy was, where  
8 he fell in relationship to where you were standing and had  
9 fallen?

10 A I couldn't say exactly.

11 Q Did you see Senator Kennedy falling?

12 A I really don't think so. I might have.  
13 I mean, I don't remember whether I did or not.

14 Q From what you have said --

15 A I might have. I don't know.

16 Q Your attention was directed to where  
17 as you were getting up off the floor?

18 A From where the flash -- where the  
19 shots came from. That was my main attention at the time  
20 when I got up.

21 Q You made a statement to the FBI --  
22 or, I don't know whether it was to the FBI or not -- to  
23 an investigator that you drew your gun, you moved to the  
24 center and at this time several men were on top of the  
25 assassin trying to get the gun from his grasp. You took a  
26 position near the Senator's body to protect him from further

1 attack.

2 Do you recall making a statement  
3 like that?

4 A No, but I might have.

5 I'm trying to piece back together  
6 what I did that night. I might have moved over to him.  
7 I know I did go out the swinging doors to get some help.  
8 It might have been a couple of minutes after the shooting --  
9 not much after that. Because, you know, people were going  
10 crazy in there.

11 Q At any time during this commotion,  
12 did you discharge your gun?

13 A No.

14 Q Have you ever made a statement to  
15 anyone that you did discharge your weapon --

16 A No.

17 Q --while you were standing at the rear  
18 of Kennedy?

19 A No.

20 Q The only tape recordings that you  
21 know of any interviews that have been made regarding the  
22 situation were made by the Los Angeles Police Department --

23 A And Theodore Chanach.

24 Q --and Theodore Chanach? Is that  
25 correct?

26 A Now, well, when I went down to Rampart,



1                   A       I can't remember the times that I  
2 gave before, but it was before midnight -- I would say ten,  
3 eleven, something like that -- the guy that was in charge  
4 of the Ambassador security put me in the kitchen area by  
5 the swinging door. That's the outlet coming out of the  
6 kitchen, going into the hallway going to one of the ball-  
7 rooms. And my specific job was to see that nobody got into  
8 the ballroom through that way except for reporters.

9                   That was a useless battle trying to  
10 keep them out. Everybody had some kind of a pass, you know,  
11 staff card or something, but, you know, I did as good as  
12 I could.

13                   And then he came down and told us  
14 that Kennedy was coming through the back way, through the  
15 kitchen and up the corridor.

16                   And he put me up at the door. There  
17 is a little, oh, like a little dressing room or something  
18 just before you go into the ballroom behind the stage. He  
19 put me at that door. He didn't want anybody malling around  
20 there because when Kennedy come through there was going to  
21 be newsmen and cameramen and they wanted that area kept  
22 clear.

23                   And right behind the door there was a  
24 T.V. set and there was Milton Berle, Jesse Unruh, and some-  
25 body else sitting in a chair watching T.V.

26                   And I think it was around a quarter to

1 twelve, Kennedy came down to the door up on the stage and  
2 gave his little speech.

3 And I was inside this little room,  
4 and the security guard came down and he said,

5 "Stay next to Bobby and try and clear  
6 a pass so that they don't gang up on him."

7 And the camera crews were right in  
8 front of me with the lights. When they came down, we  
9 proceeded down the hallway toward the steam tables.

10 And just as we got to the edge of  
11 the steam tables, there was a busboy standing over at the  
12 edge, and he turned to shake hands with him, and Karl  
13 Uecker was in front of me at an angle, and I was against  
14 the ice boxes behind Karl Uecker to the left of Kennedy.

15 And at one time, I had hold of his arm  
16 coming down and when he went to shake hands with the busboy,  
17 he sort of broke away and he went over to the left of me.

18 And when the shots were fired, I  
19 ducked, and Karl Uecker either by ducking or backing into  
20 me, he knocked me down to the floor.

21 And when I finally got up to my feet,  
22 I pulled my gun, and I seen whoever done the shooting.  
23 There were a lot of guys on him, had him subdued.

24 I put my gun back and went out  
25 through the swinging doors to get some help from some  
26 of the guys working there with me.



1 A Just this section.

2 Q --halfway the forearm?

3 A That's all I could see. I didn't  
4 see no gun. But when I instantly seen the flash, I seen  
5 this section of the arm. And then, of course, I got knocked  
6 down right away.

7 And the flash I seen was the, you  
8 know, depending on how fast he fired, the first or second  
9 shot -- probably only the first shot. But as I was going  
10 down, as I said, it sounded like firecrackers going off.

11 Q All right, at that point in time,  
12 did you see Senator Kennedy?

13 A I don't remember looking over to him.  
14 In fact, I think when I got up, after I put my gun back,  
15 I went right outside. I did see him on the floor when I came  
16 back in.

17 Q When you came back in, but not at that  
18 time, the time of the shooting?

19 A Yeah, when I came back in. I know  
20 for sure I seen him then. I deliberately looked over that  
21 way. You can call it curiosity, call it morbid, something.  
22 I knew -- it was obvious what was going on, what had  
23 happened. I was only there a minute or a minute and a half  
24 and was told to go outside. I never went back to the kitchen  
25 again until, oh, maybe an hour or an hour and a half later,  
26 and the Sheriff was in there. They were looking -- at the

38

1 time they were looking for bullets, stray bullets.

2 And the reason I went back in there  
3 was to tell them, you know, they were gathering up people  
4 for testimony. Nobody came around me. They didn't know  
5 that I was that close or I had been in the kitchen. So  
6 I went up and I told one of the police officers there who  
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19 second time, estimating where I was standing, he wasn't too  
20 far away. I would say his head was, oh, that far (indicating)  
21 from the ice cabinets -- a couple of feet.

22 Q Okay. While you were on the floor  
23 while you had your gun drawn, Senator Kennedy was within  
24 two feet of you, to your knowledge?

25 A Oh, yeah. Because when I come back  
26 in and did get a look at him, his body was, I would say,