

Schulman

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Bk. #2-II

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STATEMENT OF DONALD SCHULMAN, TAKEN BY SIDNEY D. TRAPP, JR.,
DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, TAKEN IN THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT
ATTORNEY, ROOM 113, 524 NORTH SPRING STREET, LOS ANGELES,
CALIFORNIA, AT 10:00 A.M., ON JULY 23, 1971

File No: 100-272
Offense:
Title: Sirhan Bishara Sirhan
Deputy:

Questions by: Sidney D. Trapp, Jr.

Present: DeWitt C. Lightner, Detective
District Attorney's Office

William R. Burnett, Jr., Investigator
District Attorney's Office
[present part time]

Frank Patchett, Lieutenant
Los Angeles Police Department

Phillip Sartuche, Sergeant
Los Angeles Police Department

Reported by: Janet Ward
Legal Statement Reporter

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MR. TRAPP:

Mr. Schulman, we've called you down here to ask you a few questions about what happened to you at the scene of the Kennedy shooting in 1968; some of the people you've talked to since that time, and some of the statements you've made since that time.

DONALD SCHULMAN

having been called as a witness, was examined and testified as follows:

BY MR. TRAPP:

Q I take it from conversation I just heard you relate to one of the Investigators that you do have a copy of the interview with Ruth Ashton Taylor?

A Yes, I do.

Q And you have read the police interview statement, is that correct?

A Yes, I have.

Q All right.

In addition to the Ruth Ashton Taylor interview, I'd like to show you something here from

1 ... of our ... [unclear] ...
2 ... to ...
3 you if you're familiar with that time, or if you've heard
4 it, or if you recall making a statement like that to some-
5 body.

6 A [WITNESS EXAMINES DOCUMENT]

7 I didn't see the security guard
8 hit Kennedy all three times. That's -- that's, you know --

9 [REPORTER REQUESTS CLARIFICATION]

10 Oh, excuse me. I never said that
11 a security guard, as stated here [INDICATING DOCUMENTS] hit
12 Kennedy all three times.

13 But, I have said a security guard
14 fired back.

15 Q I see. Now, could we --
16 Calling your attention to the fact
17 that apparently there's no indication in the Ruth Ashton
18 Taylor interview that you saw a security guard fire.

19 A Uh-huh.

20 Q But, rather that you saw him draw
21 his gun -- I believe, pull his gun out.

22 Could you tell us exactly what you
23 recall now as having happened at the Ambassador, starting
24 first with where you were standing when you heard the first
25 shot fired? In other words, would you relate to us what
26 happened?

27 A From that point. How about if I
28 just start from the beginning and --

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I was with KXZT News. The camera crew had been standing out in the lobby quite some time. They asked me to signal them when Kennedy was going to come in and when he was going to leave.

Kennedy finished his speech and he started to go in the back, back in the pantry area. And I just finished talking to Gene Barry [PHONETIC] and Ira Goldstein very briefly. And he had passed me and I had been pushed along with the crowd.

The reason that I was following him was because -- I forgot who, somebody, had mentioned that Kennedy may be stopping in the kitchen to talk to a few people. And I thought I would get a good spot for the camera crew. Because you usually, during a news story, the camera crew is right behind anything that happens. And every once in awhile -- I was a runner at the time. We could go for something, or get more film, or help them in any way that's possible.

As I recall, a man stepped out and shot Kennedy three times, and the whole place broke out into a panic. There was a lot of guards around, I saw their guns. And one fired back, as I recall, and that's it.

That I then fought my way out of there and there was a woman who was bleeding about the forehead very badly. And I remember her, I think I had some of her blood on my jacket, as I recall; or somebody's blood.

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and I went to the kitchen and I saw her.

At that time I left her in the kitchen and said, "Don, you were in the kitchen."

"Right."

"What happened?"

I then related to him on the tape.

And from there I went to -- to Ruth Ashton Taylor who was on the air and she asked me some questions.

From there I -- No one was allowed to leave for quite some time. And I was then asked by KNXT to go to the hospital Kennedy was at and the -- I was in a communications car relaying to them what I was told.

From there I went back to the studio and then was interviewed by Jerry Dunphy, Ralph Story and Cleve Roberts.

And then -- I don't recall right now whether it was a day or two later, or sometime later, that I was interviewed by a policeman from the -- or the FBI, I'm not sure what -- who he said now, at that time.

I was then interviewed by the police department.

That's about it.

Q I wonder if you could tell us by going over there to the board [INDICATING BLACKBOARD] exactly where you were when the first shot was fired, if you can recall the layout of the pantry.

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3 indicate for you what I saw at the time to give you
4 your bearings.

5 A Well, I remember seeing the ice
6 machine, and there were all kinds of lights all over the place.
7 And I was around by the ice machine.

8 LT. PATCHETT:

9 Kennedy was right in this area
10 here [INDICATING ON DIAGRAM].

11 A Okay.

12 LT. PATCHETT:

13 And on the map that would be the
14 first serving table --

15 A I haven't been back there since,
16 and I haven't had a chance to review any of this, but as I
17 recall right now, and I'm not really sure, I was somewhere in
18 the area of twenty-eight, twenty-seven, there.

19 BY LT. PATCHETT:

20 Q Twenty-eight or twenty-seven?

21 A Yeah. I was around in that area.

22 Q This would be about even with the
23 large partition?

24 A That I -- I don't -- I honestly
25 don't remember. As I say, I haven't been back there since.

26 MR. TRAPP:

27 This is just for description
28 purposes --

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... . I -- --
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-- on the map.

A All right. Okay, well, I just --
I don't recall. If somebody would say to me right now, "Well,
you were standing further over," I couldn't contest it. But
I was in that area.

BY MR. TRAPP:

Q Now, did you see the person who
fired the three shots?

A No, I did not. I was asked on
the Ruth Ashton Taylor interview if I could identify. I didn't
know it was the suspect, Sirhan Sirhan, until somebody --
Until this day I -- You know, I didn't know what he looked like
until I'd seen pictures.

Q All right. But, the man --
You said you saw a man pull out a
gun. Did you see a man pull out a gun?

A Yes, there was. It was a guard.

Q You saw a guard pull out --

A Yes.

Q -- the gun? I see.

You say here, though [READING FROM
DOCUMENT], "I saw a man -- Well, I was standing behind him,
directly behind him, I saw a man pull out a gun. It looked
like he pulled it out from his pocket and shot three times. I
saw all three shots hit the Senator. Then I saw the Senator
fall and was picked up and carried away." Then you say, "I

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Perhaps you can take a look at
your own -- [HANDING DOCUMENT TO WITNESS]

A Well, that's --

Q Could you explain this?

A Yes.

As I said, I was first interviewed
by Jeff Brent as I walked out of there. And I had told Jeff
Brent that I saw the Senator hit three times and that I saw
other guns.

As I recall right now he asked,
"What other guns?"

I said, "I saw security guards pull
out a gun and fire."

When I got to Ruth Ashton I --
Apparently she didn't ask the same questions that he asked,
and, you know, even though it was a couple minutes difference,
the response was different. Not a different story, but just
some left out, some more detail.

Q Well, now, again referring to your
first paragraph --

A Okay. I know what you're looking
for, and -- I should say, I -- It's just that it was three
years ago.

Q Oh, I understand that, but --

first statement that said that Oswald -- I think it said, "the guard shot Kennedy three times." I've never said that.

I've had people approach me; Ted Charach for one. And he mentioned this.

And I told him, "Well, this is what I said -- What I said is on the Jeff Brent tape, the -- the Ruth Ashton Taylor interview and CBS materials." I'm --

One of the papers in Europe reported an entirely different story. And I -- You know, I don't know how they got that. I don't know how they misinterpreted, or what. I just know -- I didn't see everything that went on at all, but what I did see, I saw.

Q All right. Well, let me ask you
some questions --

A Yes, sir.

Q See if you can pin down your questions.

A Okay, I'm sorry.

Q All right. Now --

That's quite all right. We want to get as much as you want to give us.

This statement here [READING],
"It looked like he pulled it out of his pocket and shot three
times."

You saw somebody pull a gun out of
a pocket and shoot three times, is that right?

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Q. -- Did you see
anybody else shoot? --

A. -- that --

Q. Well, did you see Sirhan shoot the
Senator?

A. I -- I don't know.
As I said, I focused my attention
mostly on Senator Kennedy.

Q. Well, when you -- When you made
this statement to Ruth Ashton Taylor that you saw somebody
shoot three times, had you seen somebody shoot three times?

A. I saw the Senator hit three times.
It might have been a matter of semantics at that point.

Q. Well, did you see somebody pull out
a gun?

A. I saw the -- I saw a guard pull
out a gun. I saw several guns.

Q. How many guns did you see?

A. I don't know.

Q. Well, was it two, or three, or more
than two?

A. More than two, but as to a number
I didn't pay much attention.

Q. And the man who pulled a gun out
of his pocket --

A. I don't recall right now, I think
at this time I was referring to Sirhan.

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And did you actually see this person take it out of his pocket?

A Now that I don't recall right now. I may have at the time. I know I'm being confusing to you but --

Q No, you're not at all.

A I just don't recall right now.

Q All right.

Now, did you see someone fire a gun three times?

A No, I did not see anyone fire three times. I saw the Senator hit three times.

Q And could you describe what you mean?

A Well, I saw -- what I saw at the time, as I recall, was three blood splashes.

Q And where was the Senator --

A One -- Excuse me.

Q Where was the Senator at the time you saw the three blood splashes?

A Well, he was -- As I -- He was -- Like I said, everything happened so quickly. But, one minute he was standing up and the next minute he was on his way down. And then there was so many people around him and everything it was just impossible. You know what I --

the time -- that it was the last time that anyone ever threw
blood splatters on him.

2. no standing on.

Q He was standing up when you saw
the --

A Well --

Q -- three blood splotches?

A Well, here's another thing. I shouldn't -- I'm assuming now, and it's just -- I don't know whether he was on his way down, or standing up, or what.

Q. Okay.

A And I don't mean to be so ambiguous.
It's just, after all this time, it's just really hard to
recall.

Q You say you saw the security men pull out their weapons. Do you recall seeing more than one security man?

A No, I don't.

Q Then -- then what you -- Is it fair to say that what you did see was one security man pull out his weapon?

A Well, I did see one, I don't know
if there were any more ~~at this time.~~

Q. I see.

And you did see him raise his weapon?

A Yes.

Q All right.

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fire that weapon!

A I recall -- as I said there,
he pulled it out and fired.

Q Did you see a flash come out of
the muzzle?

A That I don't remember.

Q Did you hear a sound?

A Well, there were so many -- It
was like firecrackers going off.

Q Can you -- can you say with cer-
tainty in your own mind that that particular security guard
fired a weapon at that time?

A Well, as I said in the past -- I
can be pretty sure -- I can be pretty sure that he pulled out
the weapon and fired. I can be pretty sure somebody fired
back.

Q What was it that you saw to indi-
cate to you that he fired?

A Well, I had thought somebody had --
Well, this is another -- I had thought somebody had hit
Sirhan, because it all happened so fast.

He was yelling, "My leg, my leg."
And then everybody was yelling
everything.

And I -- They said he was -- the
Senator was hit.

And then I saw other guns. And the

1 security guard fired the first shot.
2 Q Yes, I saw Sirhan --
3 Could it have been the combination
4 of circumstances of the many shots that were fired, plus
5 Sirhan yelling, "My leg, my leg," that led you to believe that
6 the security guard fired?

7 A Yeah, it could have been -- It
8 could have been a flash. It could have been other things.
9 Like I said, things -- It was all -- happened so quickly.

10 Q All right. Are you absolutely cer-
11 tain in your mind that you saw that security gun's man --
12 security man's gun fired?

13 A I'm pretty sure in my mind, yes.

14 Q Whereabouts was the security man
15 standing at the time you say he fired the gun?

16 A He was standing behind the Senator.

17 Q And how many times did he fire?

18 A Well, I -- I saw him once.

19 Q You saw him shoot his gun once?

20 A Yeah, I saw him fire once.

21 Q Now, it seems a little odd to me
22 that you'd give an interview to Ruth Ashton Taylor where
23 you'd -- you'd say that you saw Sirhan, in effect, shoot the
24 Senator three times, or you saw the Senator hit three times.

25 And then in a separate statement
26 you say, "I also saw the security men pull out their weapons."
27 But you wouldn't indicate if they had fired, if at that time
28 you had seen them fire. I'm wondering --

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Q Now, did you see any other people?

A Yes.

Q And then later on so, or yes, or what?

A Yes.

Q Is that what you're asking?

A Yes.

A Well, as I said, Jeff Brent was the first one -- as I walked out, he grabbed me. And then Ruth Ashton Taylor was, oh, minutes afterwards. And it was just something that -- For Ruth Ashton Taylor it was just something she didn't ask about and I didn't volunteer at that time.

Later on I also -- In the police report I told the gentleman who did interview me that I definitely saw the Senator shot three times. At that time he insisted, "No, all the reports said he was only shot twice," and that I was probably mistaken.

I said, "Well, maybe so, but I did see him shot three times."

And also I said I saw other guns.

And he informed me, very nicely, he told me that there had been no other reports of this. And that in the excitement he was sure that I had -- I don't remember -- recall exactly, but he was sure that I had been mistaken, and there was many other witnesses who had been there that night.

Also the reporters and other people

1 who I was with -- I was with -- I was with -- I was with --
2 I know you were there -- I was there -- I was there -- I was there --
3 mistaken about him not being there and to one who has ever
4 said anything about other weapons."

5 So I just decided just -- to just
6 stick to what I had seen and anyone who, you know, wished to
7 write it down, or whatever they said, fine -- those who wished
8 to say I was mistaken, that was all right with me too. I
9 just -- So --

10 Q Okay. Your statement was that you
11 saw the security guard fire back, is that correct?

12 A Right. I did not tell that to the
13 policemen. I don't know -- I don't know whether I did or not,
14 I just said I saw other guns.

15 * I got to the point where everybody
16 was telling me I'm out of my mind, anyway, because he wasn't
17 shot three times; this, that, and the other. And I just related
18 the story. I saw their weapons, and the gun fired, and I --
19 like that.

20 Q Well, where did you see -- You say
21 he fired back. You mean he fired back at Sirhan?

22 A This I -- At that time I just saw
23 him pull out his gun and fire. I didn't -- I was halfway on
24 my way out at that time.

25 Q What position was the security
26 guard in in posture when he fired the shot?

27 A This I don't know.

28 Q Was he laying down?

A No.

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A I was standing up. Because I
couldn't have seen him. You know, there was so many people
there, it was hard to really get a chance to see anything.

Q Now, you indicate that the security
guard who fired the shot was behind the Senator. By "behind"
do you mean between the Senator and the ice machine?

A Where is the Senator on that
diagram, please?

LT. PATCHETT:
The Senator will be right in this
area here [INDICATING].

A Okay, well, let's -- Just for this
conversation, let's say the Senator is "two" over there [INDI-
CATING].

LT. PATCHETT:
Well, if we can talk this way on
the map --

A Yes, sir.

LT. PATCHETT:
We'll assume that the map -- Up
here is north, down at the bottom is south, east --

A Okay.

LT. PATCHETT:
-- to your right and left here.

A Okay. The guard was to the east of

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LT. PATCHETT:
Let's start this table area then the southwest corner of the table, and this will be the north end of the ice machine.

A Okay. And where is the Senator right now?

LT. PATCHETT:
Facing right about number two.

see p. 17 re "two"

A Okay.

LT. PATCHETT:
At this point.

A Okay. Then if the Senator is number two, then the guard was standing to the southeast of him.

BY LT. PATCHETT:

Q The guard would have been to the southeast?

A No, the other -- Well, let's see. The other way.

Q The southwest?

A Yes, south -- Be right behind him to the right.

Q About where number three is.

A No. No. No. It would be --

Q Pardon me.

A Excuse me. Number two, a little

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A ... the other way. To
the right.

Q I'm going to the right now.
A Would it be easier if I just
pointed?

Q Sure.
A I'm sorry. Excuse me. [WITNESS
WALKS TO DIAGRAM] It would be about right there [INDICATING
ON DIAGRAM].

Q That would be about where the guard
was?

A Well, in that approximate area.

Q Well --

A Like I said, it's hard to judge
distance because, you know, I was -- I was, you know, over in
this area right around here [INDICATING ON DIAGRAM].

BY MR. TRAPP:

Q Could we have that again, where the
guard was. About?

A As I recall it this -- He was
around in this area, right around behind the Senator.

BY LT. PATCHETT:

Q You would put the guard then in a
position northeast from the Senator which would put him in

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Q Now, the Senator is in front of me, and the guard is in front of me and behind the Senator.

A Well, the Senator is in front of me, and the guard is in front of me and behind the Senator.

Q Am I getting you confused?

A All right. Where you are the guard -- the Senator is directly east from you --

A He's in front of me.

Q That would be east, okay?

A Right. Okay.

Q Now, where would the guard be?

A He would be behind the Senator.

Q And you're indicating --

A To the east of me.

Q Right. And then a little bit north? North being up that way [INDICATING ON DIAGRAM].

A Yes, okay.

Q Is that correct, then?

A Yes, as I recall.

BY MR. TRAPP:

Q All right. Could we -- Could we put an "X" where -- where you've indicated where the guard would be there.

BY MR. PATCHETT:

Q Would this be correct, Bud [REFERRING TO WITNESS SCHULMAN], right in here [INDICATING ON DIAGRAM]?

A Yeah.

questioner mistakenly calls Don "Bud" referring to Bud Schulberg