

KENNEDY ADDED TO MARTYR LIST: JFK, MLK, EVERS

Los Angeles Sentinel

LARGEST NEGRO WEEKLY CIRCULATION IN THE WEST

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BELLS TOLL AGAIN AS AMERICA 'DIES'

By A. S. 'DOC' YOUNG

On Tuesday, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., the people went to the polls and voted.

Then, as darkness enveloped the land, they sat back in their homes to await election returns.

A great deal was at stake: The political fortunes of incumbent officials. The hopes of aspirants. Ideologies. Perhaps as much as the future of the entire nation.

Shortly after the polls closed, news media, stretched out from one end of the state to the other, began reporting election returns.

And, it was something like listening to baseball scores, only these scores were vastly more important.

At 12:15, the game changed. No longer was the contest one pitting politician vs. politician. Now it was Life vs. Death.

Life and Death were tussling over Robert Francis Kennedy, U.S. senator from New York and Democratic Presidential candidate.

SHOT, CRITICALLY WOUNDED Moments after he had delivered an election-victory speech to a cheering audience in the Ambassador Hotel — he had beaten back the challenge of Sen. Eugene McCarthy — he was shot and critically wounded.

The man who allegedly shot him was Sir-

han Sirhan, a diminutive, 24-year-old resident of Pasadena.

The people were shocked. Some cried. Some cursed. Some prayed. Everyone died a little.

AMERICA DYING For, in truth, at the moment that Senator Kennedy was shot, America died a little more.

Two months earlier, another great man, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., and Sen. Kennedy attended his funeral in Atlanta.

Four and a half years ago, a deranged man named Lee Harvey Oswald assassinated Senator Kennedy's brother, the late President John F. Kennedy, in Dallas, Texas.

In the between years, assassins murdered Malcolm X and violence — evidenced in numerous riots, killings, and other brutalities — became the American style.

Violence became, as it remains, a huge pimple on the face of America, symptomizing the cancer within.

JUNGLE BARBARITY

America's pretense of civilization was no longer valid; for, obviously, the nation had returned to the barbarity of the jungle.

People no longer relied on debate to settle issues; now, it was the bullet. America was, as it is today, the victim of the cheapening of life, the unbridled bigotry, the cannibalistic tendencies of the "uncivilized" people.

WHITE CANNIBALS

No longer could white America conjure up the vision of black Africans when they thought of cannibals. The fact had been proven here: The most sophisticated cannibals are white.

In the midst of sorrow over the shooting of Senator Kennedy, a man recalled a statement made by a Central Avenue barber after Dr. King was killed.

"The paddy is something else," the barber said. "He will kill ANYBODY."

Yes. Ministers and militants and Presidents and . . .

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Charles Evers Tells RFK Bond

By JOE BINGHAM

Charles Evers, Mississippi civil rights leader, told last week of the close bond that exists between him and all Negroes and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Appearing in Los Angeles on the Maria Cole television show, "Tempo,"

Evers explained to a telephone caller why he and other Negroes were so strongly supporting the young New York senator.

"I personally have strong feelings for this man," Evers said. "He and I both lost brothers to senseless killers."

Evers' brother, Medgar Evers, was slain by a sniper's bullet in the early 1960s while directing NAACP activities in Mississippi.

On Nov. 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was similarly slain by a sniper's bullet as he rode in an open car through the streets of Dallas.

History of Violence

The history of violence that seems to have become a way of life — even a new way of politics — in America didn't stop. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and Nobel Peace Prize winner, was the third outstanding American shot down by a sniper. Dr. King was slain last April 4 as he stood on a balcony of a motel in Memphis.

"No matter what anyone says about Kennedy, we are for him," Charles Evers told the television audience. "When we were trying to integrate University of Mis-

issippi (Ole Miss)," Evers said, "Senator Kennedy, as attorney general, came to Mississippi to supervise the operation personally. We got James Meredith enrolled with a minimum of effort."

Evers also pointed out that Kennedy led a Washington delegation which went to Mississippi a few years ago to investigate poverty conditions in that blighted, underprivileged state.

"Kennedy is a man Negroes know that they can trust," Evers said. "His actions have spoken much louder than mere words."

Kennedy, as a New York senator, also has devoted a great deal of his time to efforts to improve conditions in the two major Negro communities in New York City — Harlem and the Bedford-Stuyvesant District of Brooklyn.

Pushed for Rights During his years as attorney general under the presidency of his late brother, JFK, Robert Kennedy pushed harder than anyone for enforcement of school integration and other civil rights laws in the deep South.

In the last three years, as the junior senator from New York, Kennedy has been in the vanguard of those fighting for civil rights.

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Another Friend of Negro Felled



ROBERT F. KENNEDY walked through many streets, with many people during his successful campaign through California. Two bullets fired by a would-be assassin, identified as Sirhan Sirhan, of a Pasadena address, cut down the New York senator after his victory speech

at the Ambassador Hotel Tuesday night. The shooting shocked the entire world, following so closely as it did attacks on Medgar Evers, John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy and Mrs. Martin Luther King came here Wednesday afternoon in mourning.

RFK Asks Peace, Critically Shot



ROSEY TACKLES SUSPECT — Suspected would-be assassin (under raised arm) is pummeled by the crowd after he was subdued and disarmed by Los Angeles Rams tackle Rosey Grier (foreground)

and former Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson. Ardent supporters of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, both famous athletes were constantly at his side during his California campaign.

—UPI Photo by Ron Bennett

Writer Tells of Tragedy

By JERRI MOORE

Moments after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy called for "an end to violence" in America" in his victory speech at the Ambassador Hotel, he was shot twice; once in the head, once in the shoulder. Four others were wounded.

Kennedy was immediately taken to Central Receiving Hospital, and later to Good Samaritan Hospital where a team of six neurosurgeons performed major surgery to remove the bullet from the Senator's brain.

Kennedy was shot after he left the podium in the Embassy Room where he had just addressed his campaign workers. As he made his exit through the kitchen area, he stopped to shake hands with a few well wishers and it was then that a young man stepped forward and fired eight shots, two of which hit Kennedy.

The would-be assassin reported to have worn a blue Kennedy badge, was then wrestled to the ground by Rafer Johnson and Rams' tackle Rosey Grier. Johnson took the gun away from the assailant.

Critical Condition

At 2:25 Wednesday morning, about an hour and 20 minutes after the shooting, Frank Mankiewicz, press secretary for Kennedy, made an official report on the senator's condition.

In summary, Mankiewicz stated that Kennedy was unconscious, and in very critical condition. The one bullet causing most of the damage entered the right mastoid bone, behind the right ear, went to the midline of the skull, and into his brain.

The team of specialists who performed the surgery was headed by Maxwell Amler of the UCLA Medical Center, Dr. Nat Reid, and Dr. Henry Cuneo of the USC-LA County Medical Center.

The surgery which was to have taken from 45 minutes to an hour began at 3:12 a.m. but did not end until 6:25 a.m., some three hours later.

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Rafer Johnson, 'Rosey' Grier Subdue Gunman

By BRAD PYE JR.

It still seems inappropriate to write about games and things when Senator Bobby Kennedy's life lies in the balance in the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, because of the action of a mental and tormented invalid Tuesday night at the Ambassador Hotel.

After undergoing surgery for more than three hours to have the bullet removed from his brain, Senator Kennedy's condition is still listed as critical.

The immediate action on the part of Los Angeles Rams star Rosey Grier and former Olympic Games decathlon champion Rafer Johnson in disarming this mental nut may prove to have been one of the most heroic deeds in history.

Athletes Act Fast It could have been an even bigger tragedy if Rosey and Rafer hadn't acted as quickly and effectively as they did.

Rafer and Rosey were a part of Senator Kennedy's official party at his victory celebration at the Ambassador, any they had traveled extensively on behalf of their

Sentinel Staff At Tragedy

The Sentinel staff was on the scene early Wednesday, when Robert Kennedy was shot and critically wounded.

A. S. "Doc" Young, editor, and Gaynelle DesJournette of the advertising department were at Good Samaritan Hospital.

In the Ambassador were writers Bill Lane, Jerri Moore, and Booker Griffin. Also at the hotel were photographers Chuck Jackson and Cliff Hall.

You'll find their reports on this page and throughout A-Section of this edition.



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