

RECORDS
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INTERVIEWS

FILE # I-257

TAPE # 29206

PERSON INTERVIEWED: CAESAR, Thane

DATE/TIME 6-5-68

SEX _____ RACE _____ HAIR _____ EYES _____ HT _____ WT _____ DOB _____

RESIDENCE ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

BUSINESS ADDRESS Lockheed Aircraft PHONE _____

INFORMATION: (WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHY & HOW)

TAPED INTERVIEW #28929 TRANS. #3

Subject stated that on 6-4-68, he was employed as a security officer for Ambassador Hotel. During Kennedy's speech subject was assigned to hallway outside pantry doors. After Kennedy's speech the senator came through hallway and entered pantry through subject's post. Subject followed Kennedy into pantry attempting to stay close to his right side. Subject stated that as Kennedy reached the steam tables in pantry that subject had a hold of Kennedy's right arm to assist him through the crowd. Kennedy turned to his left pulling his right arm from subject. Subject grabbed Kennedy's right arm and was pushing people to keep them from pressing too close. Subject looked up and saw an arm and a gun. Subject reached for his gun but shots were being fired by suspect. Subject ducked and fell backwards hitting the ice boxes. Kennedy fell in front of subject. Blood was coming down the right side of Kennedy's face. Subject observed that several people had grabbed the suspect and were attempting to remove the gun from his hand. Subject did not see the face of suspect but recalls that suspect must have been short as he could not see his head over the crowd.

Suspect appeared to be reaching or arching his arm over a group of men who were in front of Kennedy.

Subject observed the gun to be a revolver which looked and sounded like a .22 cal. Subject observed the gun being fired but did not have a chance to react. Subject did not see suspects face.

7/5 bju/10-23-68

INTERVIEWING INTERVIEW:
Mc Gann/Calkins

APPROVED BY: *St Rina*

RD
(Signature)

TAPE 129 20

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J

FIELD INTERVIEWS

FILE I 257

Person interviewed

THANE CESAR

Date 6-24-68

ACE GUARD IN UNIFORM
MTC 2-25-42 6-0 20 AN VAD

Time 9⁴⁵P - 10²P

Business Address & Phone LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT, BURBANK

Residence Address & Phone 1857 MARLEY ST. SIMI 9816920
805-526 0574 19131 Victory Blvd #12 Res

Information (To be complete -the report should include: Who,What,When,Where,Why, & How)

ON THE EVE OF 6-4-68 I WAS EMPLOYED BY ACE GUARD TO DO SECURITY AND CROWD CONTROL AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL. I ARRIVED AT 6⁵ P AND WAS STATIONED AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE EMBASSY BALLROOM. I WAS AT THIS LOCATION UNTIL 9⁰ P WHEN I WAS ASSIGNED TO THE AMBASSADOR BALLROOM AS A RUNNING SECURITY GUARD INSIDE THE BALLROOM. AT APPROX 9³⁰-9⁴⁵ I RETURNED TO EMBASSY ROOM AND WAS ASSIGNED TO KITCHEN AREA EAST END SERVING AREA NEAR ENTRANCE FROM COLONIAL RM AND MAIN DOOR LEADING INTO HALLWAY JUST OUTSIDE MAIN DOOR TO EMBASSY. MY ASSIGNMENT INSIDE KITCHEN WAS TO KEEP UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS OUT OF THE AREA WHICH LEADS TO REAR OF STAGE IN EMBASSY RM. AT APPROX 11¹⁵ P I WAS TOLD TO GO TO DOOR AT WEST END OF KITCHEN AREA FOR THE SAME DUTY AND WE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD RETURN BY THIS ROUTE TO GO TO THE COLONIAL ROOM. I WAS STANDING IN FOYER JUST EAST OF STAGE WHEN SEN KENNEDY LEFT STAGE AND ENTERED THE AREA WHERE I WAS

Investigators making interview

O'Hara

Approved by

A.T. Higley

CF

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FILE # I-257Person(s) Interviewed: THANE CESAR

Date _____

Time _____

Business Address & Phone _____

Residence Address & Phone _____

Information (To be complete the report should include: Who, What, When, Where, Why, & How)

STATIONED. A LARGE CROWD WAS FOLLOWING THE SENATOR AND PRESS AND TV NEWS PHOTOGS WERE IN FRONT OF HIM TAKING PICTURES.

I TOOK THE SENATOR'S RT ARM WITH MY LEFT HAND TO ASSIST HIM THROUGH THE CROWD.

WE WALKED EAST THROUGH AREA WHERE TV INTERVIEWS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED, AND I STILL HAD HIM BY THE ARM. JUST AFTER ENTERING THE MAIN SERVING KITCHEN AREA, SEN KENNEDY PULLED AWAY FROM ME TO SHAKE HANDS WITH A COUPLE KITCHEN EMPLOYEES. JUST AS HE WAS SHAKING HANDS I NOTICED A HAND COME OUT OF THE CROWD, AHEAD OF THE SENATOR, HOLDING A GUN. JUST AS I SAW IT, I HEARD IT GO OFF. I WAS KNOCKED TO THE FLOOR AND WHEN I GOT UP SOME PEOPLE WERE STRUGGLING WITH A MAN NEAR THE STEAM TABLE. I COULDN'T GET NEAR THE MAN DUE TO THE CROWD SO I WENT TO THE EAST END OF THE ROOM AND WAS TOLD TO HELP GUARD THE MAIN DOORS LEADING INTO THE HALL. I SAW NO ONE IN THE KITCHEN AREA WEARING A POLKA DOT DRESS. I DID NOT SEE THE SUSP IN THE AREA BEFORE THE SHOOTING.

Investigators making interview

O'Neil

Approved by:

Tape 29206
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INTERVIEWS

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Business Address & Phone _____

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I DON'T THINK SENATOR KENNEDY
KNEW WHO HAD HIM BY THE ARM AS HE
NEVER LOOKED AT ME, BUT KEPT HIS EYES
AHEAD IN THE CAMERAS. I AM SURE HE
WAS NOT AWARE I WAS A GUARD. WHEN
HE PULLED AWAY FROM ME, IT WAS SO HE
COULD SHAKE HANDS. I WAS STANDING ABOUT
2' FROM HIM IN FRONT OF THE USE MACHINE
WHEN HE WAS SHOT.

- WIT IDENTIFIED PHOTO OF CESAR FROM
GROUP OF PICTURES, AS PERSON BEING SUBBED
IN KITCHEN IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOOTING -

- SUBJECT WAS ASSIGNED TO DUTY LOCATIONS BY
W^M GARDNER CHIEF OF SECURITY AGENS AND
WHO ALSO MOVED HIM FROM ONE LOCATION TO ANOTHER.

- SUBJECT WAS INFORMED BY GARDNER OF KENNEDY'S
ROUTE - THE TERM WE WERE INFORMED IS AN
ASSUMPTION THAT OTHER GUARDS HAD THE SAME INFORMATION

- WIT IS NOT SURE WHAT TV CAMERA KENNEDY WAS
WATCHING. IT WAS MAINLY CAMERAS HAND HELD BY SEVERAL
NEWS + TV AGENCIES.

Investigators making interview

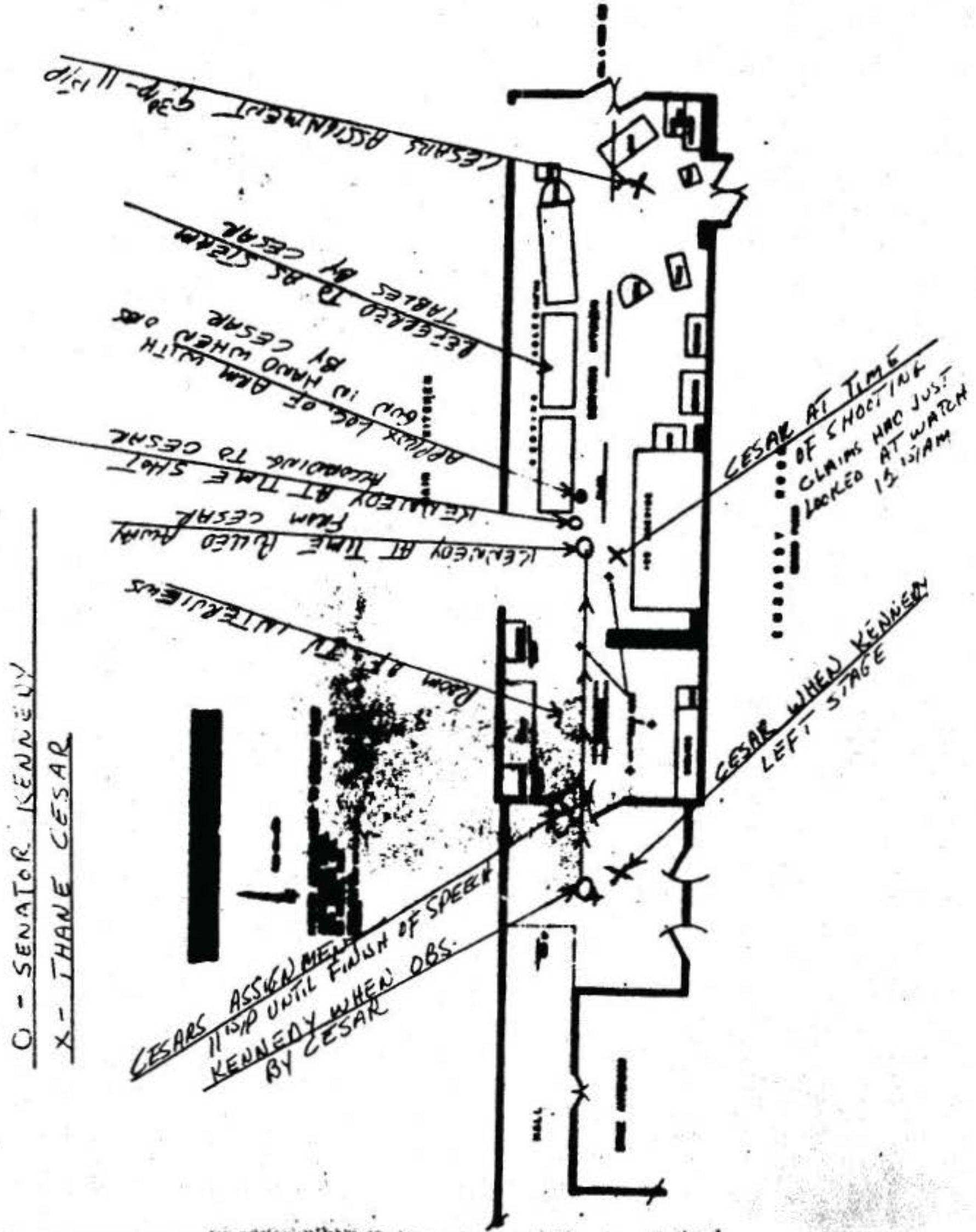
O'Steen

approved by: _____

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INTERVIEW - THANE CESAR I-257

6-24-68 9:45 P 1512 MULKEY ST. SIMI, CALIF.
BY SGT. P.E. O'SHEA



O - SENATOR KENNEDY
X - THANE CESAR

CESARS ASSEMBLY 11:15 P UNTIL FINISH OF SPEECH KENNEDY WHEN OBS. BY CESAR

APPROX LOC. OF ARM WITH GUN IN HAND WHEN OBS. HEADING TO CESAR

KENNEDY AT TIME SHOT FROM CESAR

KENNEDY AT TIME RILED ARM

ROOM BEING TV INTERVIEWS

CESARS ASSEMBLY 11:15 P UNTIL FINISH OF SPEECH KENNEDY WHEN OBS. BY CESAR

TABLES TO BE SET BY CESAR

CESARS ASSIGNMENT 9:30-11:15 P

CESAR AT TIME OF SHOOTING CLAIMS HAD JUST LOCKED AT WATCH 12:15 AM

CESAR WHEN KENNEDY LEFT STAGE

MALL