

he paid for a drink there with a \$20 bill and left the change. He told Cordero, "They were all smiles then; it's not what you look like, it's what you have got."

Cordero told investigators that Sirhan appeared very aggravated by the way rich people acted toward him. Both Rabago and Cordero left the hotel at 10.15 p.m. They last saw Sirhan at about 9:30 p.m. and did not see him speaking to anyone else.

Mary Grohs

Sometime between 9:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., Mary Grohs, a Western Union Telex operator, was working in the Colonial Room. She was seated at the Telex machine when a man began looking over her shoulder. He appeared very intense and his attention was concentrated on the material that was being sent. She advised him that the Kennedy teletype machine was further down the line. He walked away without saying anything. Although the man was standing near her she did not notice an odor of alcohol or see him carrying a glass.

A few minutes after the shooting the police brought Sirhan past Grohs. When she saw him she screamed, "That's the man I talked to!" She said that Sirhan looked at her and "he knew that I knew, he was the man I had spoken to earlier." Grohs positively identified Sirhan as the man she had seen earlier by the machine.

Gonzalo Cetina

At approximately 10 p.m., Sirhan approached a waiter, Gonzalo Cetina, who was working at the service bar in the Palm Court Room. Sirhan commented, "It's sure crowded in here," and asked

behaving very differently. Something had changed. Robert Kaiser, defense-team investigator and author, came across a brief LAPD summary of an interview with Mary Grohs, a teletype operator who was stationed at a machine in the Colonial Room near the pantry.

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The report intrigued Kaiser because she described Sirhan as “staring fixedly” at the teletype at about 10:30 p.m. Kaiser tracked her down but found her very reluctant to talk.”

She described the encounter: “Well, he came over to my machine and started staring at it. Just staring. I’ll never forget his eyes. I asked him what he wanted. He didn’t answer. He just kept staring. I asked him again. No answer. I said that if he wanted to check the latest figures on Senator Kennedy, he’d have to check the other machine. He still didn’t answer. He just kept staring.”

Grohs asked for Kaiser’s name and informed him that she was going to tell the police about his visit; they had instructed her not to talk to anyone about the incident, she said. Grohs also made a point of telling Kaiser that she didn’t smell any alcohol on Sirhan. As we shall see shortly, LAPD may have been fearful that the assailant’s spacy behavior was due to alcohol consumption and that this might provide the basis for a legal defense of diminished capacity. Evidently LAPD had discussed the alcohol problem with Grohs.

LAPD’s chronology of Sirhan’s movements the night of the shooting lists his “Activity/Location” as “unknown” between 11:00 and 11:30. At 11:45 to 12:00 he was seen inside the pantry by usher Jesus Perez. During or shortly after his unaccounted for