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# RFK CRITICAL

## Suspect Held in L.A. Shooting

PACIFIC  
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Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lies sprawled on the floor of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after he was shot by a Jordanian immigrant. A busboy with whom the senator was shaking

hands when the bullets struck tries to assist him pending arrival of a doctor. The gunman had mingled with a crowd celebrating Kennedy's California primary victory. (AP Radiophoto)

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Robert F. Kennedy held on precariously to life Wednesday after a bullet fired at pointblank range plunged near his brain from a gun wielded by a Jordanian immigrant. The assailant had mixed in with a hotel crowd celebrating the senator's California primary victory.

A medical bulletin issued 14 hours after the 42-year-old brother of the late President was wounded said tests showed no improvement in Kennedy's "extremely critical" condition.

One of the team of doctors who operated for more than three hours to remove bullet and bone fragments said Kennedy "might not make it" and that if he lives he may suffer extensive brain damage.

The gunman was identified as Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, who was born in Jerusalem when it was an Arab City and who came to the United States 11 years ago. Sirhan recently moved to nearby Pasadena.

Kennedy was unconscious in the intensive care unit of Good Samaritan Hospital. The second bulletin since the shooting said, "the results of a series of tests undertaken by the medical team are inconclusive and do not show measureable improvement in Senator Kennedy's condition."

It said his "life forces—pulse, blood pressure, heart—remain good." Kennedy continued to show the ability to breathe on his own although his breathing was being assisted by a resuscitator.

Dr. Henry Cuneo told Dr. Lawrence Pool, director and professor of neurosurgery at Columbia-Presbyterian

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## LBJ Gives Order: Guard Candidates

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Johnson, acting quickly after the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, ordered the Secret Service to protect all major presidential candidates and their families.

The White House, in announcing the action, did not list the names of these candidates.

But Secret Service agents immediately joined Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey already has such protection.

The President issued this statement Wednesday on the shooting.

"There are no words equal to the horror of this tragedy.

"Our thoughts and our prayers are with Sen. Kennedy, his family, and the other victims.

"All America prays for his recovery.

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