

RFK'S DEATH SHOCK NATIVES



MURDER SUSPECT—Sirhan Sirhan, Jordanian, is the murder suspect as the man who assassinated Sen. Robert Kennedy in a hotel in Los Angeles. He has been linked as a communist.

—Courtesy of DAILY NEWS-MINER

Assassination Called Great Loss, Terrible Tragedy by Natives

The assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy shocked the people of Alaska and no less its native citizens.

Senator Kennedy died early yesterday morning after little more than 24 hours after the assassin's bullets penetrated his head.

He was shot in a Los Angeles hotel right after he made his victory speech after capturing California Democratic presidential primary election.

The assassin was Sirhan Sirhan of Jordanian extraction.

"I think it's a horrible tragedy that should never happen," said Emil Notti, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives and an Indian.

"We should never have a

public official, or any person, fear for his life when speaking to any group," he added. "If we have differences of opinion we should discuss them openly and peacefully resolve them under the law."

Apparently thinking of Senator Kennedy's brother, the late President John F. Kennedy who was assassinated four years ago, and Martin Luther King, Emil Notti added:

"The tragedies that have happened recently should never happen in our society."

State Rep. John Sackett of Huslia, an Athabaskan, said the following about the death of Senator Kennedy:

"It is extremely unfortunate. He was a person very interested in minority groups all over the United States

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Assassination . . .

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especially the native people of the United States. Because of this interest, many people looked to him for leadership.

"And because of his interest in the field of education and poverty, we lost a great man. It just makes you wonder what's going on outside."

Mrs. Dorothy Mazzola, a housewife, and an Eskimo, said:

"I think it's terrible. We feel bad about it—all of us did. Even Gale noticed it when we were listening this morning on the radio."

Gale is Mrs. Mazzola's eight-year-old daughter.

Mrs. Mary Jane Fate, an Athabaskan and a socially prominent woman in Fairbanks had this to say:

"The tragic thing to happen to the person who was devoting his services to so many unappreciative, mixed-up people. If only our Alaskans can continue deep loyalty to our country as we have practiced in the past, in our small way, we can help to make a more solid America."

"It's been proven our native Alaskans hold deep respect and loyalty with appreciation to our country."

Leonard Hamilton, a Haida Indian, said:

"I think if our boys come home from Vietnam, they would have to fight on our streets to handle our domestic problems."

"Other than shock, I don't know what else to say."

The tragic shooting of Robert Kennedy has had a farreaching effect on political circles including Alaska.

It has resulted in temporary obligatory delay on political campaigning.

President Lyndon Johnson has proclaimed Sunday as the day of mourning in the United States.

Early yesterday morning the President made the following declaration:

"This is a time of tragedy and loss. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is dead."

"Robert Kennedy affirmed this country—affirmed the essential decency of its people, their longing for peace, their decree to improve conditions of life for all."

"During his life, he knew far more than his share of personal tragedy."

"Yet he never abandoned his faith in America. He never lost his confidence in the spiritual strength of ordinary men and women."

"He believed in the capacity of the young for excellence and in the right of the old and poor to a life of dignity."

"Our public life is diminished by his loss."

"Mrs. Johnson and I extend our deepest sympathy to Mrs. Kennedy and his family."

"I have issued a proclamation calling upon our nation to observe a day of mourning for Robert Kennedy."