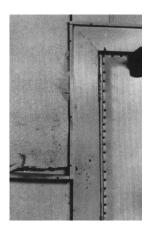
WHAT WOULD BOBBY SAY?



- 0. WHAT WOULD BOBBY SAY? Story Preface
- 1. WHO WAS RFK?
- 2. BOBBY'S ROLE in the MISSILE CRISIS
- 3. THE SECRET DEAL
- 4. THE ACTUAL DEAL
- 5. LEARNING FROM PAIN
- 6. RFK on RACIAL INJUSTICE
- 7. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE
- 8. A CALMING INFLUENCE
- 9. THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL
- 10. THE SHOOTING
- 11. THE AFTERMATH





This image, online via the FBI, shows two circled "bullet holes" in the door frame of the double swinging doors (at the crime-scene location where Senator Robert Kennedy was shot). This was the direction in which Sirhan fired. Image online, courtesy the FBI.

As various individuals tried to examine whether <u>evidence</u> led <u>to Sirhan</u>, as Kennedy's killer, or to someone else, they encountered roadblocks.

- The official records, for example, were sealed for twenty years—something which had not occurred in either the JFK or Dr. King assassinations.
- Scott Enyart's pictures of the assassination-in-progress were never returned and are now, apparently, lost.
- More than 2,000 photographs (asserted to be duplicates by the LA Police Department) were burned.
- Many of the taped witness interviews were destroyed.
- And ... while at least some type of independent <u>federal investigation</u> had looked into the deaths of President Kennedy and Dr. King, nothing along those lines occurred in the matter of Robert Kennedy.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers agreed on at least one thing during Sirhan's trial: He remembered absolutely nothing about the shooting and was not faking his total lack of recall. That fact has always caused critics to wonder whether Sirhan had been hypnotized before his actions at the Ambassador Hotel.

Then there is the matter of bullets. How many were actually fired?

- Sirhan's gun contained eight.
- Four shots were fired at the Senator; five other people were injured.
- One of the others was struck by two bullets.
- The FBI, in its compilation of evidence, <u>circled</u> two <u>bullet holes</u> in a nearby <u>door frame</u>. The LA Police Department claimed those markings had been caused by kitchen carts—then destroyed the door frames because they didn't fit into a file folder.

Did Sirhan fire the fatal bullet? Is the evidence <u>against him</u> clear and convincing? Should an independent investigation be conducted to fairly, and objectively, assess what happened? Or should the jury's verdict against Sirhan—<u>based</u> on the <u>evidence</u> which was <u>presented</u> to <u>them</u>—be the final word? Would Bobby—previously the top department of justice official who once brokered a secret deal allowing two opposing

countries to save face—think an independent investigation was needed?

And what of today's political climate? Were Bobby still alive, he would likely look to Aeschylus—poet-warrior, survivor of the <u>battle of Marathon</u>—to make sense of life inside (and outside) his own country. One can almost hear him say these words in a speech about American politics:

There is no hope nor future
For a land
Whose mind is split
Into two, and where each half
Strives only to destroy the other.
Give Athens a single mind, a whole mind,
As a marriage
Gives to two strangers
One child.

(Oresteia, Ted Hughes translation, page 191)

And ... one can almost hear him say these words in a speech about international relations:

But the time of brute force
Is past.
The day of reasoned persuasion,
With its long vision
With its mercy, its forgiveness,
Has arrived.
The word hurled in anger shall be caught
In a net of gentle words,
Words of quiet strength.
The angry mouth shall be given a full hearing.
I understand your fury.
But the vendetta cannot end,
The bloody weapon cannot be set aside
Till all understand it.

(Oresteia, Ted Hughes translation, page 185)

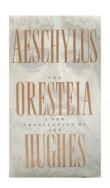
See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/WHAT-WOULD-BOBBY-SAY-Bobby-Kennedy

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/WHAT-WOULD-BOBBY-SAY-Bobby-Kennedy

Media Stream

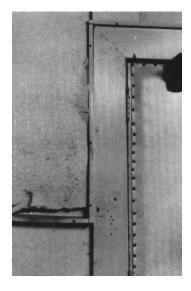


<u>Aeschylus Oresteia - A New Translation by Ted Hughes</u>

Image online, courtesy Macmillan and Google Books.

View this asset at:

http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Aeschylus-Oresteia-A-New-Translation-by-Ted-Hughes



Bullet Holes in the Door Frame

Image online, courtesy the U.S. FBI.

PD

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Exploded View of the Bullet Holes

Image online, courtesy the U.S. FBI.

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Inspecting the Door Frame at the Assassination Scene

Image online, courtesy AP photo.

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Jury Members at Sirhan Trial

Image online, courtesy LA Public Library Visual Collection.

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