

APPENDIX H: Senator Edward Kennedy's Letter
Asking Judge Walker to Spare Sirhan

Mr. Snelb Younger
District Attorney
County of Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Younger

Some weeks ago you inquired whether the Kennedy family wished to express any views on the possible penalties available to the court under law in the trial involving the death of my brother.

The issue then was the position to be taken by the prosecution on the offer of a plea of guilty and that involved the question whether there would be any trial at all. We felt

that any answer to your inquiry at that time would accordingly be inappropriate.

At the time of the hearing on the sentence a similar inquiry was made by defense counsel. The matter was then before the jury and again any response seemed inappropriate.

I now understand that the trial judge will be called upon to exercise his discretion concerning the penalty. Since this is now

a question of clemency and the
trial proceedings have been
concluded. I feel I can appropriately
convey to you, for whatever consideration
you believe to be proper how we
feel.

My brother was a man of love
and sentiment and compassion. He would
not have wanted his death to
be a cause for the taking of another
life. You may recall his pleas
when he learned of the death

of Martin Luther King He said
that what we need in the
United States is not division
what we need in the United
States is not hatred: what we
need in the United States is not
violence or lawlessness, but love and
wisdom and compassion towards one
another. Moreover he was a young
man totally committed to life
and living. He stood against injustice
poverty and discrimination for those
with lessened life. He grew to

despise war for war denies the
sacredness of life. And he had
a special affection for children
for they held the promise of life.

We all realize that many
other considerations fall within
your responsibility and that of the
Court. But if the kind of man
my brother was is pertinent we
believe it should be weighed in
the balance on the side of
compassion, mercy and bold gift
of life itself.

Sincerely

Edward M. Kennedy