

For dying is our excitement and justice our fixed idea and even as the body of the brother Kennedy was being given its lincolnesque journey home to lie near his brother as endless metaphor of the almost Greek destiny of America the archbishopric ceremonies finished the small towns of the face come through the technocratic skin to pay passing homage to the reverberation a centennial old story even then they eyes were beginning to be turned in the direction of the real meat of the land the law and its justice as Kennedy had passed into the systems of the bloods compassion had crossed the boards or the screen of our popular devilishness so now there would be the merciless other side of this cold blooded frontier psyche the trial of a man who also loved himself being snapped who also was reared with a helplessly barraged consciousness Video man with a crucial mistrust of dialogue at the same paradoxical moment he expresses himself articulately cool hip arabian paranoia containing the mass of electric uptightness dished out by the Federal Box driving one to commit the revolution of revolutions the transcendence of his family to die into stardom at the point of a gun to mount the father and mother and surmount them in that apocalyptically vivid region called the light of show business which creates that awful benignity in death that rises above ALL minorities for murder had become the only way to crash into heaven in a land gone to pot with the belief that reality was in the moving pictures

And there is this other side of the buffalo nickel which has to do with the perpetuation of The Boys you see the story of America is charted in relation to the street-comer in the dirtypictured and blasphemous-bottom of all our lives where on the other hand the true and genuine excitement of cameraderie first was generated in the provincial Bronx and Brooklyn smalltown drugstore or poolroom with its hustles and kidnifty vengeances vendettas we grew up and away from only to be hammered back to in the stud stunning Thirties [Twenties for most of the young ones now] where we either stay put fighting wars of words and lovely lunatics crossing our thresholds or take the escalator to the Powerhouse and its dull thuds and thugs anyway will get you dead because everybody's just wild about Hitler and wants it from both sides like that madman asked for The Ladies Russia and America to finish his sick christ off because he had lost his senses

Who was it McLuhan who said via mixed mass media any yokel could become the center of the universe tune into the prolemaic hardcore of death become naturally methadrinal fill the blood with erections and the erections with bullets instead of sperm which has less and less natural outlet this that and those are the ingredients of the so-called conspiracy the running blood-stream of vengeance behind the mummymasks of all assassins

Yet the second Kennedy assassination the Other Kennedy the failure of the possibility of maintaining a high level mythology with so to speak the brother resurrecting the dead brother in the flesh marks the end of a cycle of muscular and even aristocratic virulence including John F. Kennedy Martin Luther King and lesser known but even more poetic lights like Malcolm X leaving the horizon strangely empty and returned to the dull greys the crushing middle which is that provincial fascist in us all yearning for that old gang of slipping into and out the professional suit playing the sort of chessgame of death knowing one is helping an evil cause and a mind turned against itself which is on both counts America but she is the only land today which makes one mad and in that madness lies the seeds of a battle against its idolatrous moving pictured anonymity which threatens to publicize everything and so render privacy empty at which point The Machinery of the State has won

Now chillin I shall tell a little story upon returning to America in the summer of 1967 I found myself at the home of a dear friend Yehuda Tarmu in the midst of that same Israeli-Egyptian war which seems to have torn Sirhan Sirhan's natural paranoid gall to shreds and at one point in the reports and for a thousand other reasons as well but when I heard that six Indians were killed in the war I took a swing at my friend later wrote of it in a posterpoem published in London in which I wrote that "I am the guilty arab with Christian leanings born in The Bronx who struck Yehuda this morning the body politic is all screwed up whose east west and middle have erupted on my chin" which is to say many things but most of all to indicate that my friendship with this man continues and I ask you listen closely to this dig in and listen continues not because of Jew or Arab American or Russian Chinese or Cuban German or French but because of a force that stands between them uniting through all distances and rather than be occult and mysterious let me take you downtown New York City on the Cuba to Capetown express as we used to call the subway full of the dark peoples of the new world on a day shortly after the end of World War II when coming up out of the subway I must have been puberty years old I saw the headlines announcing the assassination of Ghandi which I insist was the start of my own involvement with the world an event returned to ever and over for after that death all men were definitely twained like the split skull of Berlin and must needs see the murderer and the murdered as one man through whom the transmigration of the breath of the shantih shantih shantih of ashes blown from the Ganges must spark with forgiveness all the way west here

[Part 2 of "Sirhan Sirhan" will run in "Open City" next week.]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Soviet Journalist Links

Sirhan, 'Mad' L.A. Tempo

MOSCOW (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan was only one "phenomenon" of Los Angeles which Sirhan, accused as assassin of Sen Robert Kennedy, spent 11 impressed journalist Stanislav Kondrashov, who won the Vahrosky prize of the Soviet Union of Journalists in 1967—the Soviet version of a Pulitzer Prize—for a series of the Eastern United States. Los Angeles is a very energetic city, it might be that something of its mad tempo penetrated Sirhan Sirhan's blood," a Soviet journalist has suggested.

Other cities take on the image of man, Kondrashov wrote in a three-part series on Los Angeles. "Los Angeles is taking on the image of an automobile."

The series appeared in the government newspaper Izvestia. Automobiles and armaments fascinated Kondrashov. "The city works for the freeways," he wrote. "Two victims are clean air and public transport, murdered by freeways and private cars which care for individuals at the cost of collective social needs."

Automobiles "tear down the traditional family relationship." The Negroes in Watts suffer the poverty - ignorance - unemployment cycle because "without effective public transport they are immobilized in a search for jobs."

"An American in Los Angeles has a Catholic marriage with his car—divorce is impossible."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

County's Costs in Sirhan Case Reach Total of \$285,949

Cost of investigating and prosecuting Sirhan B. Sirhan reached \$285,949 by Sept. 30, County Auditor-Controller Mark H. Bloodgood reported Thursday.

Bloodgood informed Supervisor Kenneth Hahn that the costs for six county departments were: chief medical examiner-coroner, \$6,013; district attorney, \$76,943; mechanical, \$37,317; public defender, \$2,864; sheriff, \$140,462, and courts, \$2,350.

In a different breakdown, Bloodgood listed normal departmental operating costs charged to the Sirhan case, \$104,262; general county overhead, \$36,051, and extraordinary costs, \$145,636.

The extraordinary costs include overtime pay in the Sheriff's Department and chief medical examiner-coroner's office, alterations in the Hall of Justice and Central Men's Jail, travel expenses, special equipment and expert witness services for prosecution of the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

January Trial Date Indicated in Sirhan Case

**Defendant Due in Court
Next Week; TV Hookup
to Help Press Planned**

BY RON EINSTOSS
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's trial, scheduled for Dec. 9, probably will be postponed until after the first of the year, it was indicated Monday.

Preparations are under way to bring the 24-year-old alleged slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy into court sometime next week so the defense can request a continuance.

The reason reportedly is that more time is needed to prepare the case. It is anticipated that the new trial date will be in early January, probably the day after New Year's Day.

Closed Circuit TV

During the same court appearance by Sirhan, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker is expected to reveal that arrangements have been completed for press coverage of the trial, including the use of closed circuit television.

It reportedly would mark the first time in California judicial history that court proceedings would be televised in any way, even though the only audience will be accredited members of the press.

Closed circuit television will be used so a greater number of news media representatives can be accommodated.

Judge Walker refused to discuss the planned television coverage, saying it would be premature to do so. But he did disclose that "well over 100" requests for courtroom seats had been received "from throughout the world."

Present plans, it is understood, call for setting aside 35 of the courtroom's 75 seats for the press. The remaining news media representatives will be able to view on television the proceedings in a "court room annex" on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice.

Most of the 40 courtroom seats not set aside for the press will be allotted to the public on a first-come, first-served basis. Some will be occupied by members of Sirhan's family and security officers.

Everything which transpires in Judge Walker's eighth-floor courtroom—both sight and sound—will go into the secondary court, with one exception.

The automatic camera, which is to be concealed in a false air-conditioning unit, will not show the jury.

Series of Meetings

The television circuit was arranged following a series of meetings between the court and the California Freedom of Information Committee, sponsored by Sigma Delta Chi, national professional journalism society.

That committee represents most of the news media in the state.

Such televised coverage—actually electronic monitoring—is not prohibited by rules established for California courts—only actual broadcasting (to the public) is.

A priority system for courtroom seats, based on the location of the individual news media (local, state, national or international) plus the coverage it is able to provide, has been established, according to court officials.

Requests for accreditation to cover the trial have come from newspapers, magazines, television and radio.

There will be full security, Judge Walker said, both in the area of his court and the auxiliary courtroom. All security will continue to be handled by the sheriff's office in cooperation with the court.

The only major alteration in the

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A.D. Richards
ask Howard about
view of scene

trial court will be large steel plates, already installed, over the windows. They will be painted and covered with curtains, it is understood.

Sirhan's appearance next week again will be in the special courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice. The regular courtroom will not be used until the trial begins.

The trial is expected to last about two months.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton and Dep. Dist. Attys. John E. Howard and David N. Pitts announced that they intend to call about 90 witnesses.

It also has been indicated that they will seek the death penalty for Sirhan.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, has said in the past that he will be joined by two other lawyers, but he has refused to identify them.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ANOTHER DELAY IN SIRHAN TRIAL?

Russell E. Parsons, attorney for "Sirhan" B. Sirhan, has formally notified Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker that he will seek a continuance for his client's trial until after the Yuletide holidays.

Sirhan is accused of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel in the early morning of June 5.

Parsons informed the judge yesterday of his intentions in a short, written motion.

The continuation of the trial, which is set for Dec. 9, has been expected because Parsons has contended he wants a second lawyer to aid him in the defense. The second lawyer has not been named, presumably because he is involved in another trial.

Parsons specifically asked that he be allowed to come to court and make a motion to continue the trial to "some date after Jan. 2, 1969."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

END OF FRIARS TRIAL FREES HIM**Grant Cooper to Join in Defending Sirhan**

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, prominent Los Angeles criminal lawyer, will join the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it now can be revealed.

Cooper, a veteran of some of Los Angeles' most publicized criminal trials, actually agreed to participate in Sirhan's defense last June, within two weeks after Sen. Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador.

But Cooper was then just beginning the defense of developer Maurice H. Friedman in the Friars Club card cheating conspiracy case. No one then expected that the federal court trial, which ended Monday, would last nearly six months.

Cooper feared that if his association with the Sirhan case came to the attention of jurors in the Friedman trial, it might be prejudicial to Friedman. It might even have caused a mistrial.

He told a few confidants that he was in the Sirhan case, but promised that if the news leaked out he would have to deny it. He was true to his word when, on June 27, a wire service let the cat out of the bag.

"Definitely, positively, unequivocally no," Cooper said in a statement to The Times at that time.

Cooper's entry into the case came about largely through the efforts of A. L. Wirin, chief counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Sirhan originally was represented by the public defender. However, he let it be known through Wirin that he wanted to have private attorneys.

Wirin himself felt that, although the ability of the public defender's office was unquestioned, attorneys with public stature should be obtained.

He failed in efforts to have attorneys appointed by the court or named by the County Bar Assn. Wirin then took it upon himself to seek out lawyers willing to serve without recompense, and Cooper was one of those who agreed.

Cooper said Monday that he

received a letter from Sirhan within a few days after his arrest.

"He asked me to appear as his counsel," the attorney related. "I consulted with my client (Friedman), who said he had no objection as long as it was not made known before the verdict came in."

Cooper said he hopes to see Sirhan for the first time today.

When Sirhan's choice of an attorney was announced on June 19, only the name of Russell E. Parsons, one of Southern California's best known appeals lawyers, was made public.

Parsons revealed that he would be joined later by "a prominent man who has handled many prominent cases" but who was then representing another client in court.

It was learned later that attorney Emile Zola Berman of New York, who attained a national reputation by defending a marine sergeant against manslaughter charges when six servicemen marched to their deaths in a tidal marsh, also would join the Sirhan defense.

Parsons obtained one postponement of Sirhan's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9 because the "mystery attorney" who was to join the defense was still engaged in federal court.

But Parsons was seen visiting Cooper several times during recesses of the Friars Club trial, presumably keeping him up to date on developments in the Sirhan case.

Cooper told confidants, however, that he had not even consulted with Sirhan or members of his family. And he made it clear he would not be ready to go to trial until after the first of the year.

He and Parsons are expected to appear within the next few days before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker to request another postponement so that Cooper may prepare for the trial.

It is anticipated that Judge Walker will grant the postponement, probably until Jan. 6.

Cooper, 65, has served as president of the Los Angeles County Bar Assn., president of the American College of Trial Lawyers and vice president of the State Bar of California. He has practiced law in California since 1927.

He first gained a reputation as a tough prosecutor while in the district attorney's office from 1929 to 1935. He returned to that office as the chief deputy to the late Dist. Atty. John Dockweiler from 1940 to 1942.

But Cooper gained his greatest fame as a criminal defense lawyer over the last 20 years, particularly in murder cases. Although he rarely wins acquittals, he usually manages to get

hung juries or reduced charges.

The most famous was his defense of Dr. R. Bernard Finch, tried three times with Carole Tregoff for the murder of the West Covina physician's wife.

The first two trials in 1960 ended in hung juries. An associate then took over the defense of Dr. Finch and the pair were convicted in 1961.

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ENTERS CASE—Grant B. Cooper
telling newsmen that he will join
in the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan.
Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

GRANT COOPER DEFENDS SIRHAN

Cooper To Defend Sirhan

Grant Cooper, noted West Coast criminal attorney, has been named head of the team that will defend Sirhan B. Sirhan against charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Although selected by Sirhan as the 24-year-old alien's first choice as defense attorney shortly after the Ambassador Hotel shooting, Cooper withheld announcement of his formal entry into the case until yesterday.

Cooper, a former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association, had been busy with the five-month trial of Maurice Friedman, convicted in federal court yesterday on 19 counts involved with the Friars Club and cheating scandal.

The attorney said he did not want to prejudice the federal jury trying Friedman by announcing his involvement in the Sirhan case.

The soft-spoken, 65-year-old Cooper said he decided it was his "duty" to accept the responsibility after Sirhan picked his name from a list of three men furnished by A. L. Wilkin, chief counsel in California for the American Civil Liberties Union.

Veteran appeals lawyer Russell E. Parsons, who has been Sirhan's attorney of record since the accused man fired his public defender, will continue on the case.

But it was made clear Cooper will be the chief defense attorney.

Also reported to be joining the defense is Emile Zola Berman of New York, who defended Marine drill Sgt. Matthew McKee during a 1956 "death march" court martial. McKee, who was convicted of negligent homicide and sentenced to three months in the brig, was charged with leading a march in which 16 men drowned in a tidal stream near Parris Island, S.C.

—Herald-Examiner photo

GRANT COOPER
Joins Sirhan case

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Due in Court Thursday; Trial Will Be Reset for Jan. 6

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker has ordered that Sirhan B. Sirhan be brought into court Thursday so that his trial can formally be postponed until Jan. 6, it was announced Tuesday.

The trial, now scheduled to begin next Monday, assertedly is being delayed so that one of Sirhan's new lawyers, Grant B. Cooper, can have time to adequately prepare himself to defend the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Thursday's session, on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice, also was arranged by Judge Walker so that Cooper can become associated for the record with Russell E. Parsons, who has been representing Sirhan since June.

A third lawyer, Emile Zola Berman, is expected to join the defense team later, but it is not anticipated that further postponements in the

case will be necessary for the purpose of his preparing for the trial. Berman lives in New York City.

It was disclosed Monday that Cooper will join in the defense of Sirhan, although there was speculation for some time that he would come into the case.

Cooper said he waited until after the conclusion of the Friars Club card cheating trial, at which he represented one of the defendants, to announce his agreement to help defend Sirhan.

Judge Walker said he will seek an agreement from Parsons, Cooper and Dep. Dist. Attys. Lynn D. Compton, John E. Howard and David N. Pitts to permit the televising of the trial on a closed-circuit basis to newsmen who are unable to be seated in the courtroom because of its limited capacity.

Meanwhile, full televising of the trial was advocated by the Board of Supervisors.

The board adopted a motion by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn requesting the State Judicial Council to modify its Rule 980, prohibiting photographing, recording for broadcasting or broadcasting while a court is in session.

Supervisor Warren M. Dorn said Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger has said he would be "delighted" to have television channels cover the trial provided they cover the entire proceedings and not merely use a few excerpts which might prejudice the community.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial Delay Ruling Set Thursday

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker decides tomorrow whether to delay until January the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, 24-year-old Syrian accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

While Walker is expected to grant the defense request for delay, he has withheld comment on a request by County Board of Supervisors to allow public televising of the trial.

The board voted unanimously yesterday to ask that the courtroom proceedings be opened to local and national television broadcasters because "the public, under the constitution, has a right to observe this trial."

Judge Walker already has indicated he may allow closed-circuit television to be transmitted to newsmen on another Hall of Justice floor during the trial. The Sirhan courtroom is not large enough to accommodate all representatives of the press who have asked for credentials to attend the trial.

The jurist indicated he would not oppose the closed-circuit transmission if he heard no objections from defense or state attorneys.

Defense attorneys go before Walker tomorrow to seek delay of the trial to Jan. 6 from its scheduled starting date next Monday, to allow Sirhan's chief defender time to study the case.

Grant B. Cooper, noted criminal lawyer, announced his entry into the case Monday and met his new client for the first time yesterday.

The public television proposal endorsed by the Board of Supervisors was introduced by Supervisor Kenneth Hahn.

He said the trial should be televised "under strict regulations and control."

Hahn said concealed television cameras are being installed in the eighth-floor courtroom, with cables to run to a fourth-floor newsmen's room.

"It would be practical with the same television cameras and the same cables to permit full television coverage of the trial," he said.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Cooper Says No Sirhan Trial TV

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors unanimously proposed Tuesday public television of the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, but Grant Cooper, Sirhan's new attorney, vetoed the idea.

Cooper had a one-hour first meeting with the man charged with slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Cooper, accompanied by Sirhan's other attorney, Russell E. Parsons, said public televising of the trial could not be done without the defendant's consent and "you are never going to get the consent of the defendant as long as Russ Parsons and I are the attorneys."

MEANWHILE, a judge Tuesday ordered a hearing on whether to postpone the trial of Sirhan until after the first of the year, because the defendant has acquired the new chief defense attorney.

The trial was scheduled to start next Monday, but Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker ordered a hearing Thursday on Attorney Parsons' request for a delay so that Cooper can familiarize himself with the case. The judge was expected to grant the continuance until Jan. 6.

Accompanied by Parsons, Cooper Tuesday met for the first time with Sirhan in the defendant's cell. Cooper said he "got acquainted" with his new client, whom he described as "very pleasant." He said Sirhan had "no special requests." Cooper said Sirhan matched up the mental picture he had of him, except he was "a little slighter" than his photographs.

Cooper said he felt public television of the trial would be unethical.

But supervisor Kenneth Hahn, who introduced the television motion, said:

"The public, under the Constitution, has a right to observe this trial."

IF THE Constitution's Bill of Rights "was being made now," he said, "television and radio would be included in the concept of freedom of the press to disseminate the news and the facts."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Closed TV Trial Set for Jan. 7

Sirhan B. Sirhan, a Jordanian immigrant, will go on trial Jan. 7 for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The trial will be held in a specially built steel-plated Superior Courtroom where it was ruled yesterday that the proceedings would be televised into another room for the benefit of newsmen.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, in a precedent ruling said that he would permit closed circuit television for the trial because of the influence of newsmen who will be covering it. The proceedings would be televised into an auxiliary courtroom but will not be televised publicly.

The jurist also indicated he would allow husbands and wives of jurors to spend weekends with their spouses during the length of the trial, expected to last two months.

The revelations came during a 13-minute hearing during which Judge Walker overruled a prosecution argument that the trial should go on Monday as scheduled.

Judge Walker granted the continuance beyond the holidays so that new defense counsel,

Grant B. Cooper, could prepare in response to questions by Judge Walker.

Cooper told the court he had been tied up 5½ months in a Federal Court trial, the Friar's Club card-cheating case which ended Tuesday.

He said he needed more time to prepare Sirhan's case, and Judge Walker agreed.

Cooper said he had been asked by letter from Sirhan, and by an American Civil Liberties Union attorney, to represent the assailant of the New York senator at the Apibassador Hotel.

Five bystanders were wounded in the June 5th shooting spree which occurred just after Kennedy had announced his victory in California's Democratic presidential primary election.

Cooper will head a defense trio, the other members of which will be Russell E. Parsons, who previously had alone represented Sirhan, and New York trial lawyer Emile Zoia Berman.

Berman will come to Los Angeles within a week to confer with Sirhan and his associate attorneys.

Sirhan, wearing dark trousers and a light blue shirt, spoke three times during the hearing

The slight, swarthy Sirhan offered no objection to the closed-circuit television for newsmen and waived the statutory time limit for the trial start.

When asked by the jurist if he wished Cooper to become associated with Parsons in the defense, Sirhan said, "Very much so, sir."

Cooper's request for another delay was granted over the objection of Deputy District Atty. John Howard who said the prosecution was ready to proceed and that the defense has had ample time to prepare its case.

The Jan. 7 date was selected because it is the first day Berman will be available.

Deputy District Atty. David N. Fitts said he was opposed to sequestering (locking up) the jury during the trial but Judge Walker made it plain he had already decided on this.

Defense attorneys, during a news conference after the hearing, agreed with a prosecution estimate that the trial would last at least two months.

Cooper said defense investigators have interviewed 200 witnesses and have taken written statements from 80.

Fitts said that the prosecution plans to call 200 witnesses.

Fitts also said that he had not contacted any members of the Kennedy family since the senator's death and it was not expected that the senator's widow, Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, would be asked to testify at the trial.

Mrs. Kennedy was only a few feet from her husband when he was shot.

Cooper, who described his client as a "very average chap," said there is "no probability" that Sirhan will change his present straight innocent plea to one of not guilty by reason of insanity.

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When asked if he might seek a change of venue from Los Angeles, Cooper said: "Where to?"

He did predict that it would be difficult to select a jury. He said the defense plans to investigate extensively the jury panel.

Yesterday's closely-guarded hearing, attended by Sirhan's mother, Mary, and two brothers, Adel and Munir, came six months to the day after Kennedy was shot.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Postpones Trial of Sirhan for Third Time

Delay to Jan. 7 Granted
So New Lawyer Can Get
Chance to Look Into Case

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Starting date for the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was postponed Thursday for the third time, to Jan. 7.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker granted the continuance to allow attorney Grant B. Cooper time to familiarize himself with the case and help prepare the defense.

Cooper, occupied for the past five and a half months as defense counsel in another case, made his first appearance in connection with Sirhan Thursday.

At the same time, he informed the court that a third lawyer, Emile Zola Bernan of New York, will join the defense. Until now, Russell E. Parsons has worked alone.

The defense and prosecution also agreed Thursday to closed circuit televising of the trial from the eighth floor courtroom to a fourth floor auxiliary newsroom.

Courtroom Too Small

Judge Walker noted that his Department 107 courtroom has a seating capacity for only 30 to 40 newsmen, but that more than 100 accredited news media have requested seats.

The closed circuit camera, located in a rear window grille near the ceiling, will pipe the courtroom activity solely to the overflow crowd of newsmen on the lower floor. No public television or radio broadcasts are allowed.

Judge Walker also announced that since he intends to have the jury sequestered throughout the trial, he probably will allow jurors' wives and husbands to visit them on weekends. Both the prosecution and defense have estimated that the trial might run about two months.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard reiterated the prosecution's continued objection to postponements of the Sirhan trial, stating that prosecution witnesses have been prepared for the trial's opening on the scheduled date, next Monday.

No Trouble Expected

But Dep. Dist. Atty. David Fitts, Howard's partner, told a news conference later that the postponement was not expected to cause the prosecution's case any trouble.

The prosecution has been concerned that a claim could later be raised that Sirhan's right to a speedy trial was disregarded, and thus they have objected regularly to each continuance.

Sirhan, clad in dark slacks and a pale blue dress shirt, agreed in a firm, clear voice to each of Judge Walker's rulings—on the continuance, the televising of the trial and the weekend visits of jurors' spouses.

He appeared alert and interested in the proceedings, leaning over frequently to whisper to Parsons. At one point, Judge Walker admonished him, "You should listen to this, Mr. Sirhan."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/6/68

Edition: Home

Author: Dave Smith

Editor: Nick B. William

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 DEC 9 1968
FBI - LOS ANGELES

Nods at Mother

The 24-year-old Jordanian also exchanged nods and warm glances, but no words, with his mother, Mary, and two of his four brothers, Adel, 30, and Munir 21.

Cooper told the court that he was asked "within a week or 10 days" after the June 5 Kennedy shooting to represent Sirhan and that he agreed on the condition that it not reach trial before his then-current work, the Friars Club card cheating case, was concluded.

That case ended Monday and that same day, Cooper said, he met Sirhan for the first time. They talked about an hour, he said, "getting acquainted and talking mostly in generalities."

c c to Bureau

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Stolen and Forged Check May Have Been Cashed by Sirhan

Owner of Corona Store Says '66 Draft Was Made Out to and Endorsed by Accused Assassin of Robert Kennedy

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

CORONA—A forged check stolen from a construction company was cashed in a grocery store here in November, 1966, by a man believed to have been Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the Corona police chief said Friday.

The alleged forgery, which was for \$81.57, went unnoticed by the owner of the store, Lyle Hattan, until Wednesday when he was contacted by the state Department of Justice and asked to turn the check over to the authorities.

Hattan said the check was made out in the name of Sirhan and was endorsed in his name.

When the check bounced, Hattan said, a police investigation found that nine bank checks had been stolen from the Altfillisch Construction Co. by someone who had broken in.

Sirhan's name had been typed onto one of the blank checks and the amount had been filled in by a mechanical device.

At the time of the forgery, police checking at the construction company were told that Sirhan did not work for the firm. (He did, however, work at that time as an exercise boy at a ranch owned by the company.)

Written off as a forgery, the case remained buried in the files of both the police and Hattan until the Justice Department apparently came upon the complaint while checking police files on another case.

Hattan, who says he cashes many checks from the construction company, said his wife cashed the forgery after being shown a driver's license with Sirhan's name.

Police Chief Joe Greer said it is believed Sirhan endorsed the check.

Despite the publicity surrounding Sirhan, Hattan said he didn't recall the bounced check with Sirhan's name until he was contacted by the Justice Department.

"It just stayed in my debt file for tax records. At the time that it bounced I didn't bother (to pursue the case). I didn't think my chance of collecting was any good," Hattan said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/7/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick F. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

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1 DEC 9 1968	
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Ccto Bureau

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Stolen and Forged Check May Have Been Cashed by Sirhan

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/7/68
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
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DEC 9 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
H. R. Richards	

Don't forget - see Director's memo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

L.A. Weekend

Sirhan Check Bounced

One of nine blank checks stolen from the Altfillisch Construction Co. is believed to have been cashed in November, 1968, by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, according to Corona Police Chief Joe Greer.

Greer said the worthless check for \$31.75 was endorsed by the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan then worked as an exercise boy on a ranch owned by the firm from which the checks were stolen.

The check bounced because payment had been stopped after the theft.

Corona store owners Lyle Hatan turned the check over this week to investigators from the state attorney general's office.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/8/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Donald Goodenow

Title: KENSALT

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Classification: LA 56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 DEC 11 1968	
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cc to BO
12/11/68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Television and the Sirhan Trial

ISSUE: Would the interests of justice be served by allowing live TV coverage of the proceedings against the accused assassin?

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors last week endorsed a motion to ask the State Judicial Council to modify present California Rules of Court so as to permit live television coverage of the pending trial of Sirhan Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, author of the motion, argued that it was the public's "constitutional right" to view the trial. He cited Article VI of the Bill of Rights, which says in part: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury of the state and district wherein the crime shall have been committed."

Hahn maintained that television and radio should have the same rights as the written press to cover trials. Representatives of those media do, of course, have the same rights. What they are denied, and quite properly, is the use of their electronic equipment in the courtroom. Still cameras are similarly banned from the courts while a trial is actually in progress.

Article VI of the Bill of Rights is part of

the public's constitutional protections insofar as it applies to individuals. The purpose of a public trial is primarily to protect the accused by ensuring that the processes of justice are fairly carried out. All courtrooms have limited seating capacities. The presence of the press guarantees, among other things, that a courtroom cannot be "packed" by spectators favoring one side.

To introduce TV cameras or recording equipment into a courtroom is to run the risk of transforming a public trial into a trial by publicity. Former California Atty. Gen. (now a state Supreme Court justice) Stanley Mosk noted five years ago that "a witness who knows he is 'on camera' is likely to be acting instead of relating facts."

No one denies there is great interest in the Sirhan case. It is precisely because of that interest and attendant emotions that special care must be taken to avoid turning the trial into an entertainment spectacle. In this case as in all others considerations of justice must take precedence.

The rights of all parties in the case, and the public's right to know, can be fully served without live TV coverage. The Board of Supervisors should rescind the motion.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-6 Los Angeles Time
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/12/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

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Classification: 55-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
1 DEC 12 1968
FBI - LOS ANGELES

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Supervisor Hahn Offers Argument in Favor of Televising Sirhan Trial

I feel the citizens have a right to be informed and to observe our courts.

I agree with those portions of your editorial (Dec. 12) regarding the risk of "transforming a public trial into a trial by publicity." I do not advocate this nor would I support televising (the Sirhan) trial if there had to be cameras, crews and cables strewn across the floor.

There is already a hidden television camera in this courtroom.

It is in one of the air conditioning units over the window and its lens will cover most of the courtroom, including the judge and witnesses but not the jury. There is already a television cable from the eighth floor courtroom to a former jury room on the fourth floor which is being converted for an additional 100 reporters to cover the trial.

I would object to extra cameras in the courtroom. However, since we have Channel 28 (which is an educational, non-profit television channel in Los Angeles), it would seem to me simple and practical that this station could connect to the receiver on the fourth floor and broadcast the entire proceedings. No one in the court room would see the camera. There would be no disturbance. Yet, the public would have the opportunity to witness this historic trial.

★

Whether or not the Judicial Council of California modifies Rule 980 (which prohibits "photographing, recording for broadcasting or broadcasting while court is in session"), I believe a video tape recording of the trial should be made not only for the benefit of appeals but the benefit of the public and in the best interest of justice.

I share your concern that we do not want to make this trial into an "entertainment spectacle" in which the witnesses, judges and lawyers would be constantly aware of the camera. I believe both the prosecution and the defense, as well as the judge, the jury and the witnesses—whether or not there is a camera or reporters—will do everything within their power to present the facts to the jury in the highest tradition of American jurisprudence.

Whether Rule 980 is amended this year or next, I predict that in the not too distant future certain other courtroom proceedings will be opened to television if it serves the best interests of the public, the accused and the court.

KENNETH HAHN
Supervisor, Second District
Los Angeles

I wish to commend The Times for the editorial (Dec. 12) "Television and the Sirhan Trial," opposing the television coverage of criminal trials as an unconstitutional "trial by publicity."

The California Rules of Court wisely prohibit the televising of any criminal trial for the sound reasons set forth in your

editorial. The object of a criminal trial must remain a calm search for the truth and not a source of public diversion.

ARTHUR L. ALARCON
Judge, Superior Court
Los Angeles

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-6 Los Angeles
Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/17/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 DEC 17 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

cc to Bureau
12-17-68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO UPSET SIRHAN NEWS BAN

The U.S. Supreme Court Monday refused to upset a Los Angeles Superior Court order restricting the release of information in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger had appealed the order, charging it failed to balance the need for a fair trial with the right of free speech.

But attorneys for the Superior Court pointed out that without some restriction, prejudicial publicity was likely to occur. They contended there was no restraint of free speech because the order was not directed to news media.

Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon issued the order June 7. The order was directed against attorneys, police, grand jurors, subpoenaed witnesses and others officially connected with the case.

It directs them not to release or give opinions about evidence, documents, exhibits or similar aspects of the case, on penalty of "swift action to punish for contempt."

Younger's challenge of the order previously was denied by the State Court of Appeal. The State Supreme Court refused to review it. The trial is scheduled to start Jan. 6.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles
Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/17/68

Edition: Home

Author:

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

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12-17-68

56-156-N-587

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>10</i>
SERIALIZED <i>1</i>	FILED <i>1</i>
1 DEC 17 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

3rd Attorney Named For Sirhan Defense

New York Attorney Emil Zola (locked in) during the trial. Berman has been approved as the third member of the defense team of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan gave approval to Berman yesterday during a brief hearing in a small 14th floor courtroom of the Hall of Justice.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker asked Sirhan if he approved of Berman and the Jordanian immigrant replied, "Yes sir, I do."

Berman joins West Coast attorneys Russell E. Parsons and Grant Cooper in preparing the defense in the murder trial which starts Jan. 7.

Also during the hearing yesterday, Judge Walker formally ordered the jury be sequestered

Arguments against isolating the jury were made by prosecutor John Howard, who contended the court's restrictive rulings to the press eliminated harm to the jury.

Defense attorney Cooper argued that sequestering was necessary and then formally motioned for the isolation of the jury, with the understanding jury members could visit with their families on weekends.

Judge Walker, in issuing his order, said, "I'm not concerned with the press' handling of this case; I'm more worried jury members might be harrassed."

The judge then revealed that he himself had received mailed threats, including a letter which advised him to "make sure my insurance is paid up."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-3 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/19/68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Donald Goodenow

Title: Kensalt

Character:

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 DEC 19 1968

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Defense Tells of Hopes to Save Sirhan's Life

N.Y. Attorney Joins 2 L.A. Lawyers in Assassination Trial

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

New York attorney Emile Zola Berman formally joined two Los Angeles lawyers Wednesday in defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Asked how the defense team would direct its efforts, the 65-year-old Berman told newsmen that they hoped, "to some extent, for exoneration. We are hoping to save his life."

Berman, in a brief hearing before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, was admitted to practice in California for the duration of Sirhan's trial, scheduled to begin Jan. 7. He joins prominent defense attorneys Grant Cooper and Russell Parsons in defending the 24-year-old Jordanian.

Judge Walker, who will preside over the trial, also announced he will lock up the jurors at night and over weekends throughout the trial, which is expected to consume at least three months.

Called Intolerable Hardship

Asst. Dist. Atty. John Howard argued that sequestering the jury would work an intolerable hardship on many prospective jurors, and would thus make it harder to impanel a jury and limit the broad sociological base from which jurors should be drawn.

Judge Walker replied that he was concerned that jurors not be subjected to threats or harassment after the trial opens, adding that he himself has already received mailed threats.

The jurist said that persons involved in trials "become case-hardened" to harassment and "don't experience the same apprehension, as jurors, with phone calls and cars driving by the house at night."

Judge Walker repeated his earlier intention to allow spouses to visit jurors on weekends—a plan to which neither the defense or prosecution objected.

Sirhan, clean shaven and dressed in the usual pale blue dress shirt, spoke only four words during the short hearing. "Yes sir, I do," he told Judge Walker when asked if he accepted Berman on the defense team.

Quiet and Reserved

Berman, like Parsons, appeared a quiet, reserved figure, in contrast to the jovial, affable Cooper.

Cooper introduced Berman to various court officials as "Zook."

When asked how he came by the nickname, Berman said: "On the sidewalks of New York, you can't get along with the name Emile Zola."

Berman, a Jew, was asked if his ethnic background were significant in his selection. Sirhan's alleged anti-Zionist feelings have been widely regarded as a factor in the slaying of Kennedy, who had advocated U.S. military aid to Israel. Berman replied that the subject had never been discussed.

Berman is best known for his 1956 defense of Marine Drill Sgt. Matthew McKeon, leader of the "recruit death march" in which six marines drowned in a stream near Parris Island, S.C. McKeon was convicted of negligent homicide and spent three months in the brig.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-4 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/19/68

Edition: Home

Author: Dave Smith

Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

Character:

or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

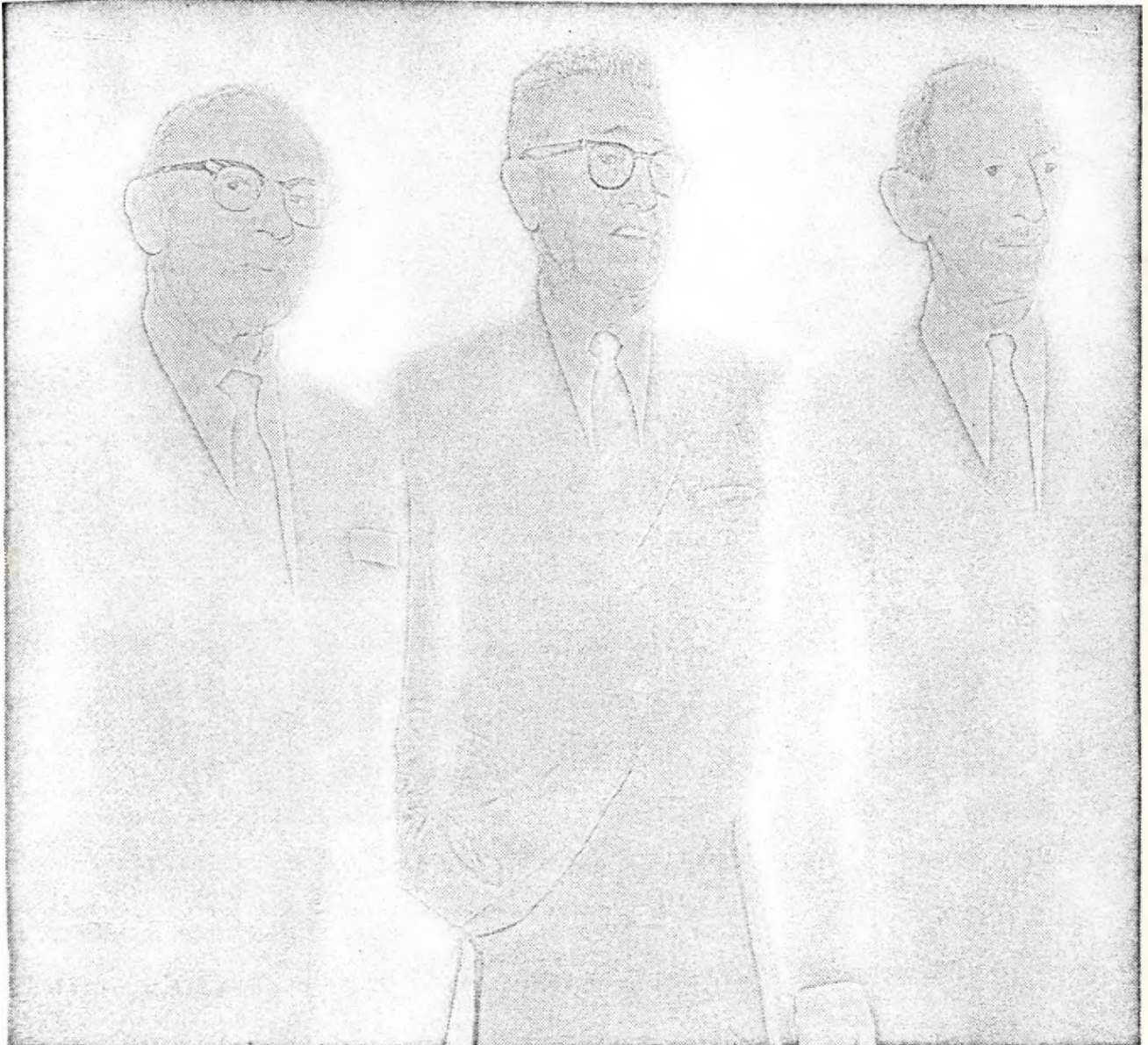
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56-156-24-589
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DEC 19 1968

FBI — LOS ANGELES



THEY'LL DEFEND SIRHAN—Emile Zola Berman, right, after formally joining Russell Parsons, left,

and Grant Cooper in the defense of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

D.A. Told to Give Defense All Evidence Beneficial to Sirhan

Deputy Agrees to Motion at Hearing, Notes That His Office Already Has Provided Most of What Is Requested

BY JOHN DREYFUSS

Times Staff Writer

The District Attorney's office was ordered Monday to share with Sirhan B. Sirhan's defense attorneys all evidence which might specifically aid the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker issued the order on a routine motion by Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three lawyers.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard readily agreed to the motion, noting

that his office has already provided most of what it requested.

Sirhan was present for the 15-minute hearing in the special Hall of Justice courtroom, but said nothing except "yes, sir" in answer to several questions.

At Cooper's request, the judge ordered Howard to investigate a report that Sirhan may have forged an \$81.57 check in 1966.

Cooper, who maintained Sirhan did not commit the alleged forgery, said a recent news story indicated he might have and was misleading and harmful to his client.

The attorney also said he had invited a noted psychiatrist and expert on criminology to examine Sirhan.

Dr. Bernard Diamond, a psychiatrist and professor of criminology and law at UC Berkeley, had seen Sirhan, Cooper said.

Cooper said he had asked Diamond to visit Sirhan because it is his duty as a lawyer to "examine any and all possible defenses."

Sirhan agreed to be inoculated against the Hong Kong flu, and Walker ordered the shot administered to help insure that the trial begin as scheduled on Jan. 7.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

II-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/24/68

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Editor: Nick B. Williams

Title: Kensalt

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1 DEC 24 1968	
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12-24-68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lost in the Crowd—Is It Sirhan?

JUST ANOTHER FACE in the crowd . . . or? Herald-Examiner photographer Bob Shultz in reviewing the pictures he took on the night the late Sen. Robert Kennedy was assassinated was suddenly struck by a face in the crowd, the crowd that had gathered at the Ambassador Hotel in victory celebration following the election victory in California of Senator Kennedy. To Schultz and others who studied the picture and the enlargement, the face had the characteristics of accused assassin Sirhan B. Sirhan. But two other factors intrigued those who studied the pictures. One was that the "face in the crowd" was stationed to the right of the speaker's stand near the exits that Senator Kennedy later took toward the kitchen and his death. The other was the "polka-dot"-like coat of the woman who was standing near the "face" in question. Investigators from the Los Angeles Police Department were presented with the pictures. They have refused to make any positive identification, ruling out any other connection between the "face" and the assassination. They do point out that the hand raised near the "face" apparently belonged to someone else in the crowd. An official Los Angeles Police Department photo as displayed after the assassination by Police Chief Tom Reddin is shown for comparison with the new pictures of 'the face in the crowd' the night Senator Kennedy was shot. The trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan is scheduled to begin on January 7.

Arrow, at left, in top photo points to man bearing resemblance to accused assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy. Picture was made at Kennedy victory celebration moments before the Senator was slain. Details of man's appearance are enlarged in blowup at left. Comparison of the unidentified person and Sirhan can be made by the photo of Kennedy suspect displayed by Police Chief Thomas Reddin, right.

cc to Bureau

1-2-69

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-4 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/31/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodeno
Title: Kensalt

Character:

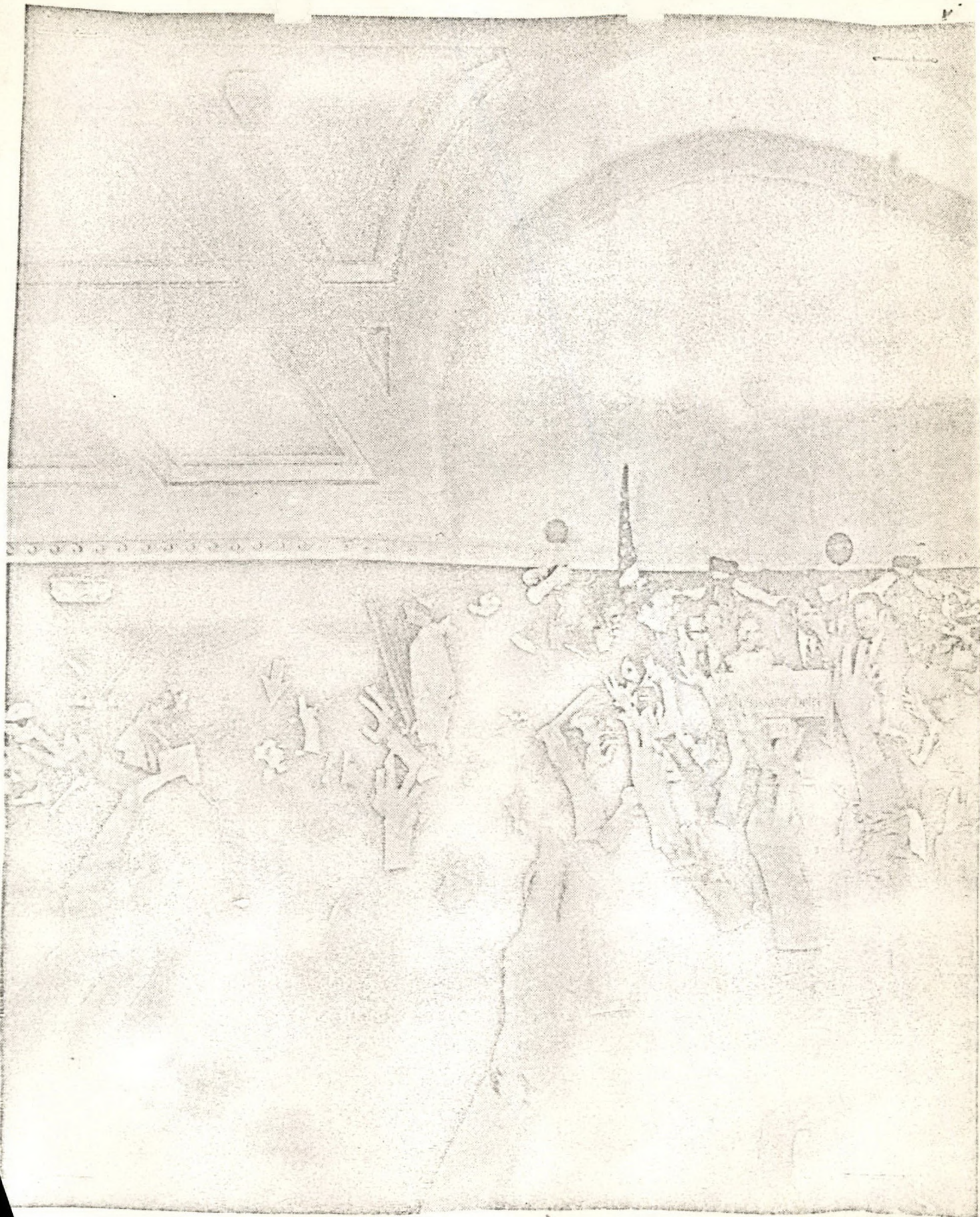
or

Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

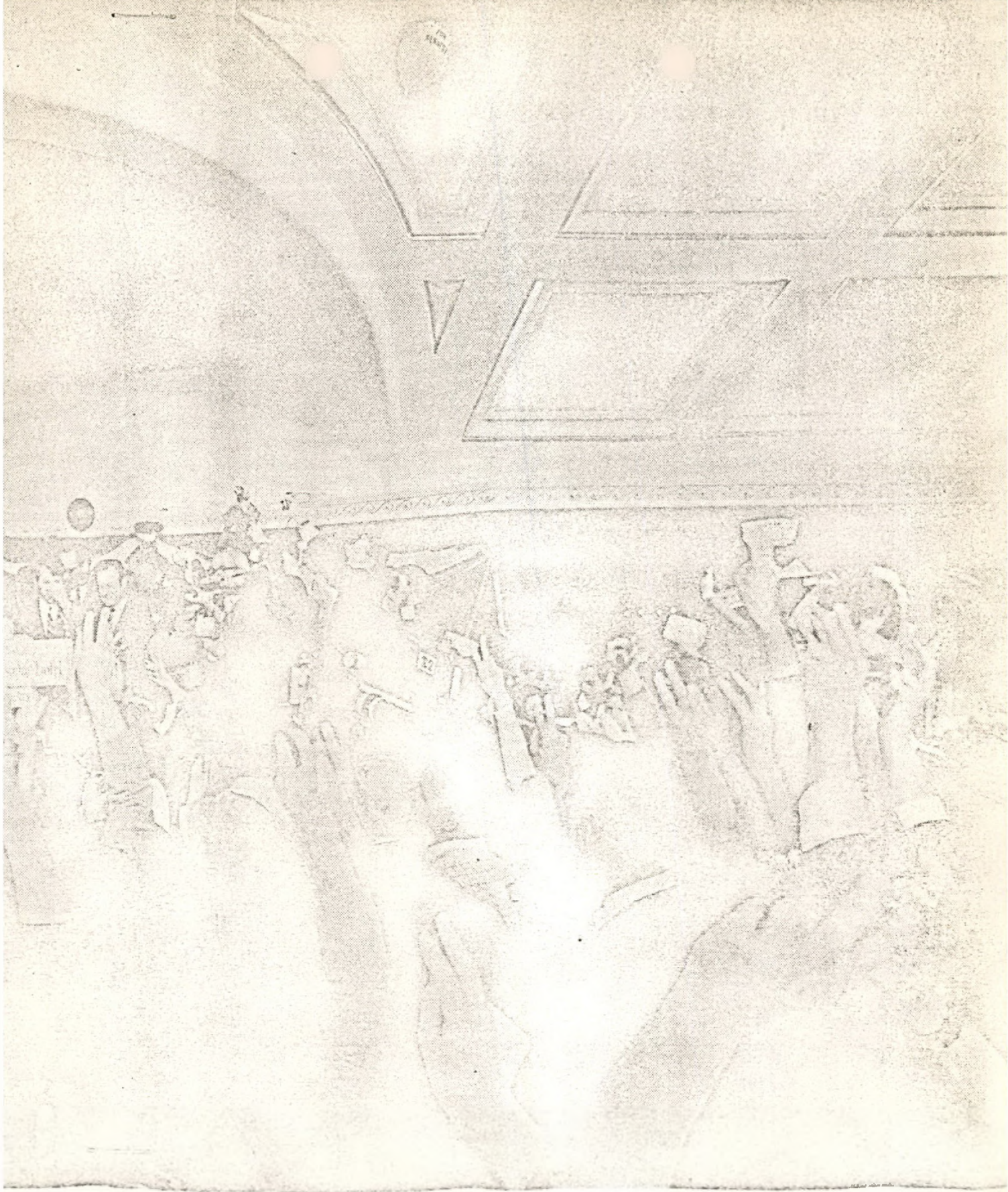
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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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1 JAN 2 1969	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

56-156-311 59



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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Cleared of Any Connection in Check Forgery Case

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, facing trial next week in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was cleared Monday of any connection with the theft and forgery of a payroll check made out in his name in 1966.

One of Sirhan's attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, had asked a police investigation to clear Sirhan's name after existence of the forged check was disclosed last Dec. 7.

Dep. Police Chief Robert A. Houghton carried out the investigation at the order of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Among Several Stolen

Houghton said the check was made out to Sirhan Sirhan against Altifillach Construction Co. on Nov. 14, 1966, for \$81.57, representing Sirhan's pay as a racehorse exercise boy. The check was signed by the bookkeeper of the Granja Gista del Rio Ranch, which is owned by the construction company.

Houghton said the check was among several stolen from the company's offices. It was never in Sirhan's hands. Sirhan's name was forged to the stolen check and it was cashed at a Corona grocery store.

The unsolved forgery case came to light when the Justice Department was checking police files in another case.

Houghton said there is now a suspect in the forgery and the case is under investigation by Corona police.

Sirhan is scheduled to go to trial Jan. 7 before Judge Walker.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

I-3 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/31/68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title: Kensalt

Character:

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Classification: 56-156
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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1 DEC 31 1968
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12.30.68

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

A Review of the News During 1968

It was in April when the violence once again spilled over into international headlines, there to remain for many months. Negro civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King was slain April 4, but there was an aftermath of riots that left death, destruction and bitterness across the nation.

Dr. King, Nobel Peace Prize winner and apostle of nonviolence, met violent death by gunfire as he stood on the balcony of a Negro-owned motel in Memphis, where he had come to aid striking Negro sanitation workers.

As word spread through the nation, so did disorder, fires, looting and major riots. In Washington, hardest hit of some 100 cities, Negro mobs burned down and looted business establishments within two miles of the White House. As in other cities, a curfew was imposed, sales of firearms and liquor were banned and federal troops—4,000 in the nation's capital—were called up.

Other Americans reacted by closing stores, cancelling sports, social and theatrical events, and halting political activity. President Johnson delayed a projected trip to Hawaii for consultations on Vietnam and the Paris peace talks.

It was late in the month before conditions stabilized to the point where the nation could tote up its losses in the civil disorders: 46 dead, all but five of them Negroes, an astronomical cost in money and property and a truly incalculable loss in interracial good will.

King's alleged assassin was identified after the murder as one James Earl Ray, an ex-convict who left a wide trail extending through the South and Midwest as well as Los Angeles. Despite an all-out search by more than 3,000 FBI agents, it was not until more than two months later that he was tracked down in London. Extradited, he promptly sold his life story for a down payment of \$25,000 to finance his defense that will begin next March in a Memphis courtroom.

It seemed like only a turn of the hourglass before the nation was plunged into mourning once again—this time for the man who had become almost a deity to the nation's youth and a hoped-for saviour to the country's minorities.

One major bill passed by Congress only days after Dr. King's death was the federal civil right bill to ban discrimination in the sale or rental of 80% of U.S. housing units by 1970. This was followed two months later by an even stronger Supreme Court ruling—based on an 1866 ordinance—which bans discrimination in renting or selling any dwelling unit.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

G-6 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/29/68
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Nick B. Williams
Title:

Character: General
or Information
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
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56-156-2-593

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1 DEC 31 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Richard

Robert Kennedy, exactly two months and one day after Dr. King's murder, was gunned down in the main ballroom of Los Angeles Ambassador Hotel a few minutes past midnight and only moments after he had claimed victory in California's important primary presidential election.

Millions of television viewers across the nation, closely following the senator's relentless drive to the White House, were shocked into a numbness that would remain for days. They saw the sudden chaos, they heard the screams, the shouts, the curses and witnessed the unabashed weeping that went on for frantic moments while Kennedy supporters captured and disarmed the suspected assassin, an immigrant Jordanian student who assertedly tracked down Kennedy because of what he believed were the senator's pro-Israeli sentiments.

The overflow crowd in the smoke-filled ballroom was still chanting, "We want Bobby!" as the shots rang out, Kennedy fell mortally wounded and five other persons slumped over with minor injuries. His alleged killer, Sirhan B. Sirhan, was captured and pummeled by Kennedy aides and will go to trial early next year on a plea of not guilty.

At 1:44 a.m. on June 7, slightly more than two days after he was gunned down, Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy died at the age of 42.

As messages of condolence poured in from across the nation and throughout the globe, the Kennedy clan once again buried a fallen member. Only hours after he died, the senator's body was flown in a presidential jetliner to New York, where it lay in state in St. Patrick's Cathedral pending a Requiem Mass the following Saturday. Following a televised funeral, it was then taken by special train to Washington and buried by torchlight next to that of Kennedy's assassinated brother.

"... the Shots Rang Out, Kennedy Fell Mortally Wounded"

Reactions to the tragedy were many and varied: Politically, it was a new ball game. While a heavy percentage of the nation's youth and its minority groups wandered in a leaderless daze, McCarthy, Vice President, Humphrey and Nixon faced the facts of life and reoriented their presidential campaigns.

But by far the most noteworthy result of Kennedy's murder was a public outcry for an end to violence. At city, state and national levels this took the form of demands for stringent control on the sale and use of firearms—a movement that was launched with President Kennedy's death in Dallas only to be torpedoed by special-interest lobbyists at all levels.

Despite the clamor, despite the fact that frightened citizens were buying guns faster than ever as violence continued unabated, Congress enacted legislation that merely banned interstate sales of firearms and over-the-counter sales to juveniles and nonresidents of the state of purchase.



FATAL WOUND—Sen. Robert F. Kennedy lies near death in Los Angeles only a few moments after an assassin's bullet entered his brain.
Times photo by Boris Yaro

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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Sirhan Trial...Judge Herbert V.

By Phil Hanna

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, chosen to preside over the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, is called a "careful, legal technician" by his contemporaries.

The accused slayer of New York Sen. Robert F. Kennedy can expect fair, honest and humane treatment from Walker, who has served on the Los Angeles criminal court bench for 13 of his 15 years as a judge.

The 69-year-old Walker whose best-remembered decision came in the Confidential Magazine criminal libel case 10 years ago, will be a familiar name in most households as every courtroom move will be examined closely around the world.

Appointed to the Superior Court in 1953 by then Gov. Earl Warren, the jurist is senior in term of years on the criminal bench in Los Angeles County.

Other noteworthy decisions rendered by Walker include his upholding of the death penalty in the case of convicted sex offender Robert Emmett Thornton.

The judge said the death penalty "was not cruel and unusual punishment" in Thornton's case.

"The death penalty does not violate the dignity of man nor does it violate the standards of decency that mark the progress of a maturing society," Judge Walker held.



Superior Court
Judge

Herbert V. Walker.

Called a

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Confidential Magazine
libel trial

and other

notable cases

including the

Robert Emmett Thornton

and

Caryl Chessman

cases.

He is 69,

has served on

the criminal

court bench

for 13 years.

Walker, Man in Charge

An aircraft worker, Thornton was convicted of a series of sex attacks and kidnaping of three women. None were killed but one was injured so he was convicted under California's Little Lindbergh Law.

Judge Walker became involved in the Caryl Chessman case when he disqualified himself in the sentencing of the "Red Light Bandit."

It was Chessman's ninth appeal, and Walker said he took himself out of the case when it appeared that defense attorneys had a chance for two more years of appeals because it was alleged that the judge had discussed the case with District Attorney William B. McKesson.

At the time he denied he held any prejudice in Chessman's case.

Asked if he had been compared with famed criminal judge Charles Fricke, Walker laughed.

"You are talking about the man who was my ideal on the bench," he said. "He was an author, a lecturer, and I'm none of those things."

Walker aspired to the bench following his graduation from the University of Southern California Law School in 1928.

He was deputy corporation commissioner for 15 years following graduation from

school; spent three years as chief deputy district attorney; and was in private practice for seven years before his appointment to the bench.

"I've sat on all three corners of the triangle and I think I know pretty well what the attorneys down front are thinking," Walker said.

He is given credit for running a tight courtroom during the Confidential Magazine trial. With all the "racy" material that was placed in exhibit, he wouldn't let the trial become a "three-ring circus."

Although he has been reversed many times on appeal with the "liberality of U.S. Supreme Court decisions," Walker has seldom questioned a jury verdict.

"When that has happened, I discussed the case with the jury, and I had to agree with them each time that their conclusion was logical," Walker said.

The courtroom for the Sirhan trial is small, with just 75 seats, 37 of which have been reserved for the news media.

Walker said he would not object if attorneys on both sides agree to a closed-circuit television transmission to a

second room on the floor below the main courtroom. This will be used to accommodate additional news media who have asked to cover the proceedings.

Walker's courtroom on the 8th floor of the Hall of Justice was selected because it offers maximum security for the defendant.

Before entering USC in 1922, Walker held a number of jobs to finance his education. He worked in an oil field in Casimolia, Calif., and at the La Brea Oil Fields in Los Angeles. He also served as chain man for a Los Angeles city surveying crew.

Before college he served two years in the Navy during World War I on the battleship USS Kentucky.

He might have had a career in motion pictures.

"They used to shoot movies near where I lived in Hollywood as a boy, and I got to be an extra in a series called 'Bill the Office Boy.'"

Born in San Francisco in 1891, Walker moved around the country with his family. They lived in Connecticut, New York and Arizona before returning to California.

He attended Los Angeles High and Lemoore Union High in his teen years.

Judge Walker, an active Episcopalian, met his wife, the former Alice Sophia Phelps, at church. They were married in 1925 and have three children and 12 grand-children.

A daughter, Mrs. Kathleen Brockelhurst, lives in Sunset Beach; a son, Herbert Weston Walker, lives in Newport Beach and practices law in Santa Ana; and a second daughter Mrs. Elizabeth Suzanne Zentner lives in Los Banos.

A resident of Glendale near the La Crescenta line, Judge Walker is a member of the Los Angeles, Glendale and American Bar Associations, Lawyer's Club, American Judicature Society, and Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity.

He is a member of the American Legion, Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Acacia fraternity, Native Sons of the Golden West, Los Angeles Athletic Club, Chancery Club, Legion Lex and is past president of the USC Law Alumni Association.

He is a past president of the California State Employee's Association.

Recalling the Scene That Night

It was approximately 12:20 a.m. the morning of June 5, 1968.

More than 1000 wildly enthusiastic Democrats jostled each other and cheered in the hot, jammed Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, a California victory theirs.

At the Cinderella hour, Sen.

Robert F. Kennedy had stepped before the microphone to acknowledge his triumph in the California Democratic primary election and to thank them for their support.

Clustered at his elbow were some of his super supporters—his wife, Ethel, other mem-

bers of the family of tragedy and triumph, Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh, athlete and singer Roosevelt Grier.

The senator's speech was low key—one of thanks, of encouragement for the campaign ahead—and it was largely drowned out by the cheering.

The Kennedys and their party, bound for private celebration at The Factory, changed their planned exit course through the packed crowd in the stifling ballroom.

Avoiding the room's main entrance, they moved toward a kitchen pantry.

In the pantry was a man now accused as the assassin of Sen. Kennedy—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Shots rang out.

A man identified by police as Sirhan was crushed to the floor and a pistol wrenched from his hand.

Nearby Senator Kennedy sprawled on his back on the floor, his eyes glazing, immobile.

Twenty-five and one half hours later Senator Kennedy was dead.

The Other Victims

On that fateful early morning exactly seven months ago today, violence unparalleled in Los Angeles political history shattered the hopes of the California Democratic Party and of much of the nation.

At that hour Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was mortally wounded by gunshots that rang out in a pantry kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel.

Five other persons, all recovered, were wounded in the barrage of bullets. They were:

Paul Schrade, western director of the United Auto Workers, 4150 S. Hillcrest Drive, shot in the head.

William Weisel, 30, network newsman for ABC-TV, of Washington, D.C., wounded in the abdomen.

Irwin Stoll, 17, of 6089 Horner St., shot in the leg.

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans, 43, Saugues, a scalp wound.

Ira Goldstein, 19, of 4077 Hayvenhurst Ave., Encino, newsman for Continental News Service, shot in the left hip.

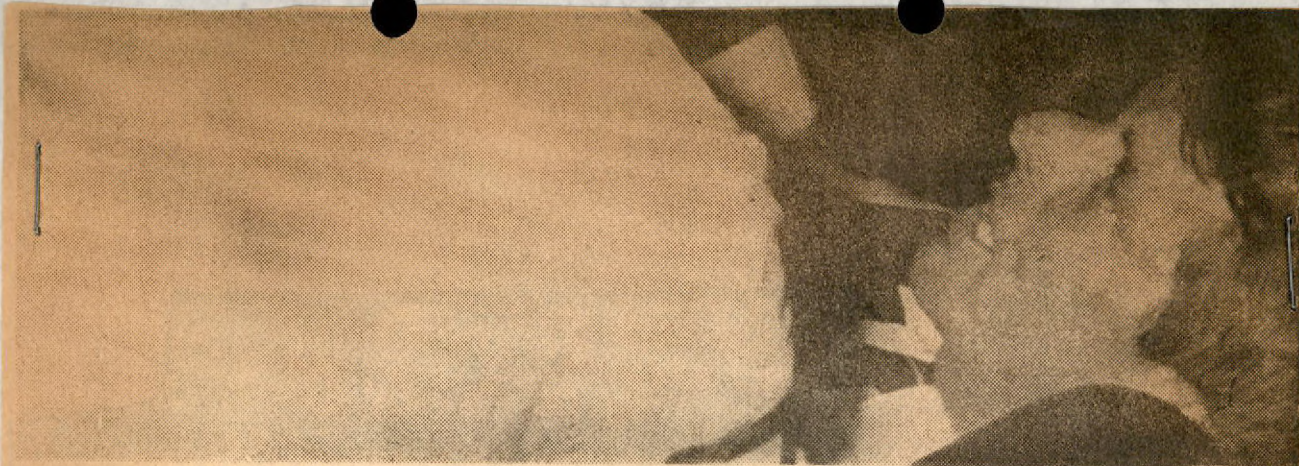
All are expected to testify in the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan.



**Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
lies clutching
a rosary
shortly after
he was shot
early on June 5
of last year.
He succumbed
early the
next day.**

**Aides gathered
to comfort
the wounded
and dying
senator after
he crumpled
to the floor.**

—UPI Telephoto



—UPI Telephoto



Sweatshirt-clad
young man,
later identified
as
Sirhan B. Sirhan,
was grabbed
at the scene
of the
shooting and
disarmed.
He was then
hustled away
by Los Angeles
police and
other
security forces.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

THE BULLET AS A POLITICAL TOOL

Victim of Violence

Martin Luther King, black America's foremost leader in the non-violent struggle for civil rights, was the victim of violence when he was assassinated April 4. Here his casket is drawn by mules through the streets of Atlanta in a funeral cortege that was witnessed by thousands.

The Second Kennedy

Sen. Robert Kennedy was shot and killed in the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles moments after a speech celebrating his victory over Sen. Eugene McCarthy in the California primary June 4. Four days later he was eulogized by his brother Edward (right) at funeral services in New York.

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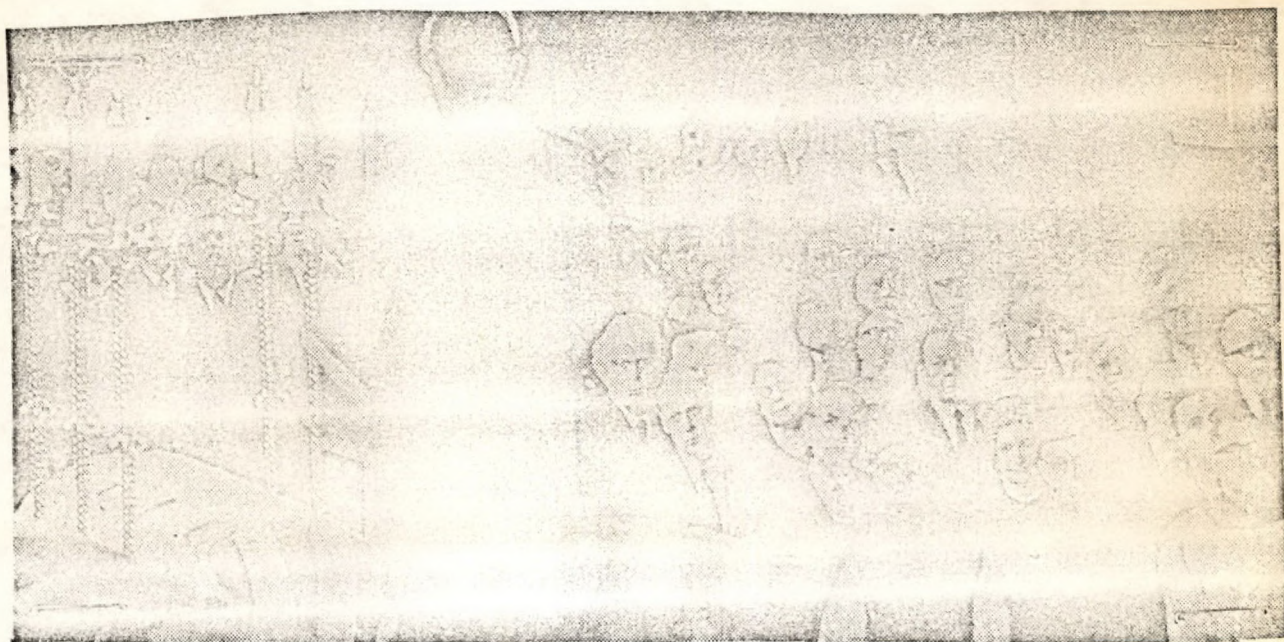
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Sirhan---the Wanderer--- Never Found His Way

Life Background Told by Those Closest to Him

BY ROBERT C. TOTH
and DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writers

In Arabic the name Sirhan means "wanderer."

In the little villages near Jerusalem—in what once was Palestine and is now Jordan and Israel—many distantly related families bear the name. Yet few people exemplify it as does Bishara Salameh Sirhan, now patriarch of a famous family.

Bishara, 55, has visited at least three times in the United States, where in 1957 he left his wife, Mary; daughter, Ayda, and three younger sons, Adel, Sirhan and Munir, and returned alone to Jordan, taking the family's money with him. In June of 1968, he and Mary were divorced, after 11 years of court action in which he accused her of infidelity. A priest called him a liar, and his own eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, testified that he tortured them by burning them with hot irons.

Today Bishara lives in his boyhood village of Taiyba, near Jerusalem, where he shuns his neighbors and they, in turn, repeat old stories of Sirhan family violence. Some of the stories are unquestionably false, but the villagers, significantly, believe them.

Sirhan's Early Traumas

Though Bishara has not worked since 1957, he lives in one of the town's most substantial stone houses, and, at his death, he will go to the most imposing mausoleum in Taiyba's cemetery. Its portal stone proclaims in Arabic: "This is the tomb of Bishara Sirhan." There is no mention of his family.

Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in Jerusalem's Russian Hospital.

Bishara is the sole informant about Sirhan's earliest years, and though he did not say so immediately, in later interviews Bishara said Sirhan saw violence in the 1948

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings..."

Arab-Israeli war that was "traumatic" to him.

"In 1948 he saw many things," says Bishara, "woundings and sufferings... Sirhan was injured in the war" —not physically, but "in his head and heart."

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The first such wound was inflicted, he says, when he and Sirhan went one day from their home in Jerusalem's Musrara sector to the post office in the Old Walled City via the Damascus Gate, and an explosive-filled barrel was dropped near the gate and blew up. "The ground shook, the walls shook. Sirhan cried from his heart. He fell down. I thought he was dead, finished. I waited and after 20 minutes he opened his eyes. 'Daddy,' he said . . ." (Here Bishara hits the table, muttering in Arabic, and his eyes moisten; when he resumes talking, there is no audible emotion in his voice, however.)

"Can you walk?" I asked him. He could not walk but he didn't want me to carry him, lest I get tired. Imagine! We saw the yard full of blood—about 40 or 50 killed. The yard was full of pieces of meat. 'Daddy, I don't want to see it,' he said, and I covered his eyes until we passed the sight. He was so frightened he spent two days in bed."

Describing the same incident another time, it is interesting to note, Bishara revealed that the explosion occurred before he had completed his errand. After Sirhan had recovered, Bishara went on with his business, and it was when he was taking Sirhan home, back through the bloody scene at the Damascus Gate, that Sirhan protested at the sight.

Another time, Bishara says, on another errand to the post office, a mortar shell exploded with such force nearby that Sirhan fell off a stairway, suffering a bruised cheek and bloody nose.

It was amid the explosions of shells that the family fled its tiny 7-by-10-foot room in Musrara in 1948, when Sirhan was 4. They hid in the room for two days and nights, Bishara recalls, while fighting raged in the city. Finally, he says, "a British officer told us to go, so we ran away without anything, no furniture, no clothing, no shoes."

They fled to the Old Walled City in Arab Jerusalem, moving into a house formerly occupied by Jews, while refugee Jews took sanctuary in their abandoned room in Musrara.

Bishara lost his job after this war and "it was very hard for two years," he says. "Then I went to Amman where I met a British major. I had worked for here and he gave me a job on water supply in a Jordan army camp." This appears to have been Bishara's only steady job from 1948 until the family's move to America in 1957.

When first told of Kennedy's assassination, Bishara said, "I'm stupefied. I'm shocked. This is the blackest day of my life . . . I am

very sorry. I brought my children up as best I could and to fear God."

Sirhan, he said, "was a talented boy, more than his four brothers. How he came to this is beyond me." Sirhan was a "very gentle, polite, quiet and humble boy, interested mainly in books. It's beyond comprehension how he could have committed such a terrible act on his own initiative without having been put up to do it by some other people. . . . My son was a good Christian all his life. He could not have done such a thing on his own. Someone must have pushed him into it."

"In Jerusalem," Bishara recalled, "the children were good, were satisfied." Had they ever required discipline, physical punishment per-

Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed."

haps? Bishara looked intent for a moment, then said, "Sometimes you had to beat them." But had he ever burned them with a hot iron? Bishara shook his head: no. And had he ever beaten Sirhan? "Sirhan was good. I never hit him," Bishara said.

The question is repeated later, and again he denies it, eyes darting from place to place: "No, never. Never . . . never . . ."

Then what of Sharif and Saidallah? Why had they left home in their early teens? "This is not important," said Bishara. "No one is perfect. . . . I've seen many things in my life. People change the truth. . . . Inside the family I don't want to speak about."

But one more question: why did he leave his family in America in 1957?

"I came back because of my mother. She is 90," said Bishara, waving toward the village. But she does not live in the village, nor with Bishara; she lives next door, with a brother Bishara has not spoken to since 1953, and Bishara and his mother do not speak either.

As a child, Bishara said, Sirhan was "religious, clever. Every Sunday he went to Sunday school. He prayed before going to bed." Bishara added, as praise of his pious son, that "he never went out to play, never . . . I like Sirhan very much. The neighbors, teachers, they all said he was the best."

Sirhan was so well behaved and pious, Bishara said proudly, that he frequently disapproved of other children's language. Sometimes he would bring a friend home and be a perfect host, but after the boy left, Sirhan would say, "that boy uses bad language. Don't ever let him in the house again."

After fleeing Musrara, the Sirhans moved into a building at the corner of El Malak Road and Suq el-Hussur Street, a poor but clean neighborhood in the Old Walled City. The building housed a store on the ground floor, a stone stairway to a common toilet on the landing, and three rooms on the second floor. Each of the rooms was occupied by an entire family.

The Sirhans' room was a split level, 15-by-30-foot room, vast by contrast to their Musrara home. A rain reservoir on the roof was the water supply, the walls were unpainted, and a single kerosene lamp was the sole light. It had a domed ceiling and a grilled window overlooking the street.

Also moving into the house after the 1948 war were two Arab Muslim families—refugees from parts of Jerusalem that later became Israel—those of Amid Yousef Hashima and Esu Jubran.

'A Very Secretive Family'

Mrs. Hashima remembers the Sirhans as "a very secretive family. They seldom spoke to others and they didn't allow their children to play in the street with others. The mother always talked about Jesus and religion." But, she adds, they didn't act superior to their neighbors, just aloof.

They never discussed family troubles with Mrs. Hashima, "but there were differences between him and his wife about the children. He kicked out the eldest sons and the mother didn't like it."

The Sirhans seemed poor at the beginning, Mrs. Hashima recalls, "but then the mother became a missionary. She spoke English very well. She was intelligent. She got gifts from the church for the family—clothes and games for the children."

In the early 1950s, she recalls, Mary Sirhan was no longer a pretty woman, after a disease caused her lower lip to pull to one side. Mrs. Hashima says she thought Bishara wanted to divorce Mary after her disfigurement, although there was never any talk of another woman.

Sirhan, she says, was definitely Bishara's favorite, and "you respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head." But he was weak and thin—she recalls once when he was hospitalized with dysentery—and didn't play in street games.

"Sometimes I saw the boy go out dressed in a scout uniform," she

recalls. "I once asked Mary to let my sons play with him to listen to his good English and learn, but she said no time."

The Sirhan children went to the church-operated Lutheran school, better than the public school where neighbor children went, and Sirhan "was very good in writing and reading, clever. He stayed in the house, didn't play with other boys. The children didn't speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."

"They were a confused family," says Mrs. Jubran. "No one knew what was between Mary and Bishara." She often heard Bishara shouting at his wife.

"I don't know where they got money," she says. "Mary gave gifts to small children, but only to Christian children. She just worked for her own religion . . . When any neighbors needed help, Mary would help them, but she only gave gifts and money to Christian children . . . Ayda was the best one of the family," she says, but adds, "I liked Mary."

And Sirhan? "The father did not allow Sirhan to go out of the house. All of them were afraid of the father. He turned the house into a jail for them . . . The father always made Sirhan afraid. The boy was not well in his mind. He was a complicated boy."

Did he ever talk about the 1948 war experiences Bishara described? No, says Mrs. Jubran, "none of them ever mentioned them." And did Bishara appear to favor Sirhan over the other children? "He hit them all the same. He had a heart of stone."

A Sickly, Nervous Boy

Mrs. Jubran's husband, Esu, recalls Sirhan as a dark-skinned, sickly and nervous boy who, "when he wasn't yelling at his sister and brothers would sit with his mind away."

Mary was very protective, Jubran remembers, and Sirhan seemed older than his years. "When he talked," says Jubran, "it felt like he was not 11 years old."

Jubran also remembers a bomb explosion in 1954, when the shopkeeper on the floor below was killed. "I don't know if Sirhan saw it actually happen," he says, "but I saw him in the crowd right afterward." And from then on, says Jubran, Sirhan seemed changed. "He quarreled with my children and fought . . . He played rough when his father was away. I complained sometimes to Bishara and the father hit him hard."

Another neighbor, Mrs. Laila Said, recalls that Bishara used to lock Ayda in their room and her friends would have to bring food to her. Once, she says, Bishara chained her to the grilled window.

She says Bishara used to discipline the boys with cruel beatings, once beating one of the sons until he lost consciousness and chasing away the neighbors when they tried to rescue the boy.

It was in late 1948 that the Rev. Daoud Haddad, pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Savior, was asked to look in on the Sirhan family. "It was a wretched house," he says, "no chairs, nothing. They were very poor, so we accepted an elder brother (Saidallah) and the sister in the school without tuition. Later we accepted more of the children, and through them got better acquainted with the family."

Father Seen as 'Odd'

"I realized the father was an odd father, nervous, with fits of temper, often getting angry at his wife. The family's life was not happy because of the moody, rude father . . . Every now and then he hit the mother. She was running about, asking people for work. He did not work. This may throw light, or perhaps a shadow, on the character of the children who had such a family life."

Mr. Haddad says the church provided the Sirhans with perhaps 25 percent of their food and clothing until 1956, when Mary became more interested in missionary work.

But during those years, Mr. Haddad formed a strong impression of young Sirhan: "Sirhan was a quiet boy, intelligent, although his grades were not the best. You could read in his eyes that he was alert. But he was unquiet, a bit nervous. He was a clever boy—very quick—but unstable and very unhappy. I remember thinking that he would have a very difficult time later in life because the family he grew up in lacked the basic things a boy needs to understand life."

Made Acceptable Grades

Mr. Haddad says he never heard of unusual tortures inflicted on the children but said, "Bishara had frequent violent fits and was given to breaking what little furniture they had, and beating the children. He thrashed them with sticks and his fists whenever they disobeyed him. Young Sirhan seemed to have some of this violence in him. He was thin and nervous and inclined to sudden bursts of temper. At other times he was oddly quiet for long periods."

"Mary was the dominant parent," he says, "but she was harsh herself. She was terribly narrow-minded and rigid in religious matters, but she loved the children in her way and she managed to hold the family together."

Sirhan attended the Lutheran school from kindergarten through the fifth grade, leaving in the summer of 1956, when he had turned 12. His grades were not the

best in the class, but nonetheless good. In the first grade he stood fifth among 26 students, and in the fifth grade he was seventh in a class of 16. His grades that year were: religion, 80, Arabic, 74; geometry, 73; singing, 73; science, 72; English, 70; geography, 68; history, 67; hygiene, 63; drawing, 61, and arithmetic, 60. As to citizenship, he was rated 75 in conduct, 75 in intelligence and 70 in cleanliness.

His teacher, Salim Awad, notes that the record says of Sirhan: "Good in subjects and character, satisfactory in cleanliness . . . Should be passed."

One of Sirhan's school friends from 1951 to 1956 was Wahib Hashwiah, who says today:

"Sirhan had a good sense of humor. The teacher might say something foolish and Sirhan would say something clever to us." These remarks were usually at the teacher's expense, he said "and sometimes the teacher would say, 'Look at this small boy, how clever he is.'"

But it was in a spirit of fun,

"You respected Sirhan when he talked. He was not a boy in his head."

Hashwiah said, and Sirhan was generally held up as a good example to the class. Although among the smallest, Sirhan was also among the oldest—Hashwiah was 3 years younger—and evidently applied himself well.

Hashwiah says Sirhan never talked about any experiences in the then-recent 1948 war, nor did he ever complain about his father.

But another acquaintance does recall one incident involving Bishara.

Seiim Ratas, 4 years older than Sirhan, was a neighbor. Says Ratas: "I remember once that Sirhan had to go to school without shoes. I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him, like he did the other children, and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove, and put it on the boy's heel. He couldn't wear shoes then."

Sirhan, Ratas recalls, "was not well, not strong. Sometimes he wouldn't go to school for a week because he was sick. Wherever his mother went, he went—to the market, to church, visiting. He was a mother's boy."

In the summer of 1956, Bishara and Mary began to think of going to America. Sirhan did not return to the Lutheran school in the fall, and on Dec. 14 the family left Jerusalem, thanks to the American missionary couple Bishara had asked to "save a family from the darkness." Their expenses were also partially paid by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency. The eldest sons, Sharif and Saidallah, by then were living in Amman and would not follow for three years.

Mary's sisters, Julia and Elaine, recall that when the family left the ancient city for a new life in the new world, "Mary didn't say goodbye when she left. Her husband refused to let her see us." And after Mary arrived in America, she never wrote.

Father Stayed in East

Four days after their arrival in New York the Sirhans went on to Pasadena, home city of the missionary couple who had befriended them in Jerusalem.

Differences between Bishara and Mary came rapidly to a head, and since he had found himself a good job in an east coast defense plant, it was left to Mary to find a home for herself, her daughter and three sons.

Mary found a small, cream-colored, three-bedroom frame house on Howard St., one of Pasadena's older, lower-middle-income residential streets. Like most of the houses nearby, it is about 50 years old, set well back on its lot under tall shade trees. It is an inviting setting for children to play in and the street, now racially mixed, rings daily with the shouts of children of all sizes and colors.

But it was always very quiet around the Sirhan home, says a neighbor. She, of European background, says other neighbors were

very cold, even belligerent, to her sometimes, and to the Sirhans as well, so the Sirhans kept mostly to themselves. There were no parties, few visitors, and she recalls seeing Sirhan playing occasionally with another neighbor's collie dog or putting in the yard, washing the car or doing some gardening—an activity which pleased both him and his mother.

The Sirhans were no more warmly received elsewhere.

The Arab community is among the smaller of Southern California's many ethnic populations, numbering between 20,000 and 30,000, and is overwhelmingly Lebanese and Syrian. Most of these immigrated to America before World War I, found Southern California to be much like their homeland, and now, well into a second and third generation, are comfortably integrated into an affluent American culture which they are coming more and more to regard as native. There are no predominantly Arab neighborhoods, as one might find in New York; they are widely scattered throughout Southern California.

Family Without Father

In this formless Arab "community," the Sirhans were different, set apart. They were newly arrived and unfamiliar with their new surroundings. They were noticeably dark-skinned. When they spoke English, it was heavily accented and halting, and among themselves, at home, they clung to Arabic. They were poor. And among a people in whom the patriarchal tradition is strong, they were a family without a father.

For their part, the Sirhans found little to entice them out of their constricted new world. There were only about 50 Jordanian families throughout the entire Los Angeles area, most of them already embarked on American lives of their own.

There were a very few Arab nightclubs where one might watch dancers and hear one's native music and speech, but Mrs. Sirhan sharply disapproved of these. Her family neither drank nor smoked, nor did they frequent places where other people did.

There was no Greek Orthodox church nearby. Most of that faith went to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral, St. Nicholas, in Los Angeles. The Sirhans made the inconvenient trip a few times at the beginning, but these trips soon tapered off. Father Paul Romley recalls them as "always humble and aloof."

Others have noted this aloofness in the Sirhans, and it is not difficult to understand. In their homeland they had been an upright, Christian family, among the best educated of their class, once accustomed to financial security but uncomplaining and industrious in hard times.

All Appear Introverted

Moreover, a quarter-century of marriage to a man like Bishara had failed to break Mary's spirit. She was not a whiner, but a tight-lipped, proud, strong woman. And where her family had been noted for its privacy and silence among old acquaintances in Jerusalem, it is hardly surprising that among strangers in Pasadena they turned in on themselves even more, mending their griefs privately, trusting and confiding in few.

It is this aloofness which, while being one of the family's strengths, perhaps contributed most toward introverting the Sirhans in their new environment, in effect creating a social and cultural vacuum in which the children would have to develop as best they could, and would have to build their futures upon an emotionally impoverished past.

Mary, concerned as ever for the children's religious faith, had difficulty finding a church that suited her taste. First she tried the church of their family's benefactors, the First Nazarene Church of Pasadena, but after about a month they stopped going.