

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan attended a preelection party for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador two days before the senator was shot to death there, the prosecution told the jury in its opening statement.

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Sirhan Protests as His Attorney Describes Him as Mentally Ill

Defendant Rises From Chair During Berman's Statement
in Which He Is Pictured as Victim of Spells and Trances

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan rose from his chair to protest the opening statement of his own defense counsel Friday, as attorney Emilio Zola Berman described him as an "immature, emotionally disturbed and mentally ill youth."

Sirhan's brief outburst was triggered by the second paragraph of Berman's brief statement to the jury during the youth's trial for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, 24, showed signs of obvious agitation, murmured "No, no," as Berman said he was mentally ill, and began to rise from his chair.

Superior Court Inspector William Conroy leaned over the chair of defense investigator Michael McCowan and warned him quickly:

"Talk to him, Mike."
McCowan leaned over, pushed Sirhan back into his chair with both hands and lectured him in whispers for several minutes as Berman continued to paint a picture of Sirhan as a victim of spells, trances and mystic delusions.

Defense attorney Russell E. Par-

sons told reporters later that Sirhan, "like most mentally ill people, doesn't like to be told he's mentally ill. He doesn't like it when I tell him."

The defendant's mother, Mary, 53, sat through the description of her second-youngest of five sons with head bowed, in silent depression.

A prosecution witness later testified that the slaying of Sen. Kennedy occurred because of a last-minute decision to walk down a different corridor.

It was during the testimony of Karl Uecker, assistant maitre d'hotel at the Ambassador, that the accidental element in the Kennedy assassination was outlined.

Uecker, 36, told the jury that he was leading Sen. Kennedy by the right hand from a victory celebration in the Embassy Ballroom to another party on the floor below, when an unidentified Kennedy aide told him:

"No, we're not going to go there. We're going to the press room."

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"It was a last-minute decision," Uecker said, but he obeyed and led Sen. Kennedy into a kitchen corridor that was a short cut to the nearby Colonial Room, where newspaper reporters awaited Sen. Kennedy's victory statement in the June 4 presidential primary.

In that corridor, surprised kitchen employees surrounded the jubilant Sen. Kennedy. "The senator was very happy," said Uecker, and stopped to shake hands with two busboys. Uecker took Sen. Kennedy's hand again and said, "Senator, let's go now."

Then, Uecker testified, someone brushed past him quickly as he looked another way, and Uecker heard "something like a firecracker," followed by another and another.

Fired Inch Away

The first "firecracker," the prosecution told the jury Thursday in its opening statement, was a bullet fired from one inch from Sen. Kennedy's head, and is believed to have been the shot that resulted in his death 25 hours later.

Uecker's testimony found little question from the defense table. In his opening statement Berman reiterated what the defense has admitted all along: Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy.

"There is no doubt," Berman said, "and we have told you this from the beginning, that he did in fact fire the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy."

Tells of Admiration

But Sirhan "himself will tell you he admired and loved" Sen. Kennedy, Berman said, and killed the senator when "he was out of contact with reality, in a trance in which he had no voluntary control over his will, his judgment, his feelings or his actions."

"The killing," Berman said, "was unplanned and undeliberate; impulsive and without premeditation or malice, totally a product of a sick, obsessed mind and personality."

Berman outlined a story of wartime atrocity and childhood emotional disturbance in Sirhan's first

12 years in his native Palestine, saying that it was at the sight of violence in the Israeli-Arab conflicts, and exposure to danger and flight from bombs that Sirhan began to experience spells or trances.

He said psychiatrists and sociologists would support defense evidence that these experiences left Sirhan with obsessions and fantasies that deepened seriously after the family immigrated here in 1957, finally leaving him so mentally deteriorated that he was incapable of premeditated murder.

Sirhan's life after he was 12, Berman said, was a series of defeats, from grade school through high school and into Pasadena City College, where he studied to become a diplomat but was dismissed for failing grades.

After getting a job as an exercise boy at a thoroughbred ranch in hopes of becoming a jockey, Sirhan was thrown from a horse and knocked unconscious. He soon was complaining "of headaches, became more and more irritable, brooding, quick to anger and preoccupied with fanatical obsessions of hatred, suspicion and distrust," Berman said.

Discusses War

This culminated at one point, Berman said, in June, 1967, three days before the outbreak of the six-day Arab-Israeli war, when Sirhan wrote: "Declaration of war against American humanity," followed by: "The victims of the party in favor of this declaration will be or are not the President, Vice President, etc., down the ladder."

He also wrote, "The author of this memoranda expresses his wishes very bluntly that he wants to be recorded by history as the man who triggered off the last war."

Berman added: "From which I gather he meant the last war to ever be."

Berman said the progress of the Arab-Israeli war "triggered his spells. In his fantasies he was often a hero and savior of his people. In the realities of life, however, he was

small, helpless, isolated, confused and bewildered by emotions over which he had no control. He was unable to plan or think clearly, unable to maintain any meaningful direction to his life.

"He became concerned with mystical thoughts and searched for supernatural powers of the mind over matter. He started mystical experiments in his room. For example, he would concentrate on a hanging lead fishing sinker and make it swing back and forth by the power of his mind. He would concentrate on a candle flame and make it dance, first to the right and then to the left . . ."

Berman said Sen. Kennedy's campaign statements in May and June of 1968 advocating U.S. military aid to Israel were a "heavy shock" to Sirhan, who "admired and loved" Sen. Kennedy.

To Support Contention

"That did it!" Berman said. "Back to mysticism. According to methods he read in a book he acquired, he concentrated in front of a mirror in his own room and thought and thought about Sen. Kennedy until at last, he saw his own face no longer, but that of Sen. Kennedy himself in the mirror."

Berman said psychiatrists and psychologists and tests including hypnosis would support the defense contention, and "Sirhan will tell you himself from the witness stand that he never thought he would ever kill Kennedy."

Berman told the jury that Sirhan's mental deterioration was the end product of a process that started at the age of 3, "when war broke out between Palestinian Arabs and Zionists in Palestine in 1947. It was then that shooting took place on the very street where he lived in Jerusalem . . . One night the building he lived in became a machine gun nest. On another night, his very home was bombed."

"On the Saturday before Easter of 1947, Sirhan and his mother, father, brothers and sister (now dead) crawled out of their home in the early dawn with gunshots all about them to a temporary safety in an Orthodox church convent in another part of the city."

"They never went back."

They lived with other uprooted Arabs in a hungry, war-torn violent existence . . ."

Sirhan, Berman said, "saw a little girl's leg blown off by a bomb and the blood spurting off from below her knee, as though from a faucet. He went into a spell, he stiffened, his face contorted, he was out of contact with reality, and lost all sense of where he was or what was happening around him."

Touches on Separation

Similar spells, including a trancelike spell lasting four days, came on Sirhan frequently as he witnessed war violence, Berman said, including once when a bomb exploded when Sirhan was near the Damascus Gate and another time when a bomb explosion outside the Sirhan flat tore a man's body apart.

Berman also touched on the separation between Sirhan's father, Bishara, and mother in 1937, seven months after the family left Palestine. "The father left their home alone, and abandoned his family and returned to Jordan," Berman said, "doing nothing for them financially or otherwise, up to and including the present—and in fact divorced his mother."

'Consult Conscience'

Berman concluded by asking the jury to "listen to the evidence, to adopt what science has to offer and to consult your conscience. In short, let true justice be done."

Besides Uecker, the prosecution called two former employees of the Ambassador to describe what they saw in the narrow hallway where Sen. Kennedy was shot.

Edward Miranias, formerly an assistant maitre d'hotel who was also helping lead Sen. Kennedy to the Colonial Room, said he believed Sen. Kennedy saw the gun that took his life.

"I believe he raised his

hand to try to protect himself," Minasian testified, "because I'm sure he saw the revolver, the same as I did."

Former busboy Juan Romero caused a hush to fall over the courtroom as he described kneeling beside the stricken senator and placing a rosary in the dying hand.

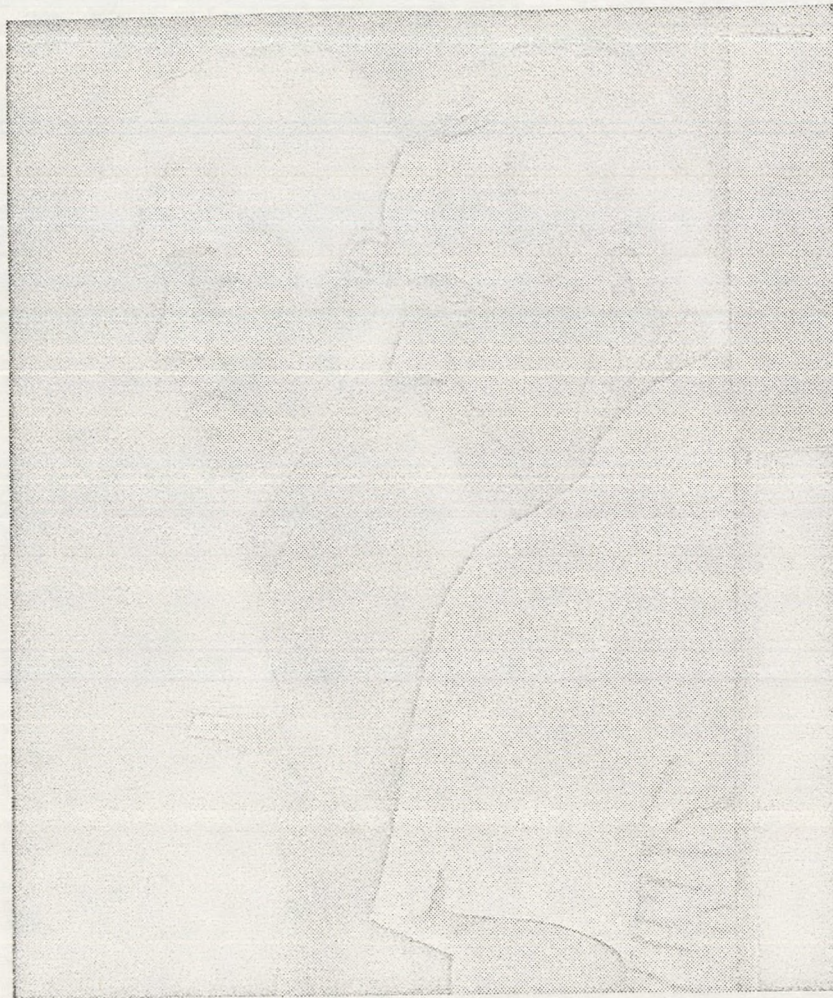
"That was just before Mrs. (Ethel) Kennedy pushed me away," Romero said. "I was touching his ear . . . and I felt blood dripping on my fingers . . . There was a rosary. It was from a priest or some person, and I put it in his hand."

Questioned Closely

Defense counsel questioned all three Ambassador employes closely on the placement of large wall mirrors outside the Embassy Ballroom, where Sirhan is said to have loitered for much of the evening.

The purpose of these questions was not specified, but they seemed to indicate the defense might attempt to show that Sirhan was in a state of self-induced hypnosis at the time of the slaying.

The questions recalled Berman's earlier statements about Sirhan's dabbling with mystic experiments with fishing sinkers, candles and mirrors, his "spells" and "trances" and hypnosis performed on him since the assassination by defense psychiatrists.



SLAYING WITNESS—Juan Romero, left is directed by an official to courtroom where Sirhan B. Sirhan is on trial. Romero told the court about kneeling beside Sen. Robert F. Kennedy after the shooting.
Times photo by Steve Fontanini

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan: Prison Problem if He Is Convicted?

Security Measures in State Institutions Held OK in Accused Slayer's Case

BY DAVID LARSEN

Times Staff Writer

In a prison, the most common method of murder is with a home-made shiv—quite often a steel bed-slat which has been sharpened on a cell floor.

The victim is usually an anonymous convict and the crime usually receives little outside attention. It happened 14 times in the prisons of the state last year.

Suppose an internationally known convict showed up who had murdered a presidential candidate. Wouldn't he be an exceptional target?

To be specific about it, if the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan prevails and the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is sentenced to a life of incarceration, how can he possibly be kept from harm?

Disclose Previous Steps

State prison officials were reluctant Sunday to speculate on Sirhan's future as such, but they did disclose the steps which have been taken regarding other convicts whose backgrounds or personalities indicate the advisability of providing them with protection.

"Protection cases aren't uncommon," said Philip Guthrie, information officer for the Department of Corrections. "They include informers, inmates who we think might be targets of the aggressive homosexuals, and former law enforcement officers."

At a minimum security penitentiary, there are no armed guards and the housing is in dormitories. Murderers are very seldom assigned to one from the reception center.

Although Vacaville is the state's mental hospital-prison, it is by no means automatic that Sirhan would go there.

"We figure we've got about 3,400 people who should be on some kind of psychiatric program," said Guthrie. "But Vacaville accommodates only 1,400 — and it is filled."

For instance, Jack Kirschke, the former Los Angeles County deputy district attorney who was convicted of murdering his wife and her boyfriend, is considered a special case.

Kirschke couldn't be thrown in with other men whose plight is due to his work as a prosecutor. For this reason, he has been assigned permanently to clerical duties at the reception center of the California Institution for Men at Chino. He lives with other inmates, felt to be of stable natures.

Would Be First Stop

That reception center, incidentally, would be Sirhan's first stop, if he is sentenced to life imprisonment.

Any criminal sentenced in one of the 11 southern counties of the state is sent first to Chino (the rest go to a reception center at Vacaville).

The typical stay is six weeks. During that time the convict is given aptitude tests, psychiatric tests (if they are indicated) and a history of his life is compiled.

With this and other information in hand—such as how much of a security risk the inmate is likely to be—the reception center staff forwards to the director of corrections a recommendation of which facility he should be assigned to. The director usually goes along with the recommendations.

There are 11 prisons for men in California. They are at Folsom and San Quentin (both maximum security), at Chino (separate from the reception center and considered minimum security), at Susanville, Jamestown and Chino (conservation centers considered minimum security) and at Tehachapi, Vacaville, San Luis Obispo, Soledad and Tracy (ranging in security from medium to minimum).

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Theoretically, Sirhan could be sent to any of the 11. Because of the nature of his crime, however, the minimum security facilities are regarded by Department of Corrections officials as unlikely.

Guthrie said no special preparations have been made anywhere for Sirhan, although he said there have been discussions about how he might be handled at the reception center.

In addition to Folsom and San Quentin, the medium security prisons have maximum security arrangements within them.

"For example, we have limited access units where a man's movements are closely controlled," said Guthrie.

The most stringent kind of protection for a prisoner would be to put him in that type of unit and, in effect, keep him under almost round-the-clock lockup, even feeding him in his cell.

Of the 28,600 persons now doing time in state prisons, not many get this kind of treatment. Those who do are usually criminals considered too dangerous to be allowed to circulate with others.

No Choice

"We don't like to do that to a guy," said Guthrie. "But sometimes there's no choice."

Although no prison officials would say as much, this is the type of treatment regarded as likely for Sirhan—at least in the beginning.

Not so much because he might present a danger to others, but because officials will probably want to evaluate his attitude as an inmate and also to get a line through the grapevine on how the other prisoners feel about him.

"Time solves a lot of problems," said one prison official. "Mind you, I'm not referring specifically to Sirhan, but interest in a well-publicized individual can subside in a prison, just as it does on the outside."

"It isn't uncommon for a protection case to be eventually allowed into a regular institution routine."

Select Group

A transition for Sirhan might be from constant lockup to a special assignment which would put him in contact with only a select group of inmates and under supervision of staff members only.

For example, he might be made a janitor in a prison hospital—but in an area which would keep him from contact with the general population of the institution.

Sirhan might even be sent to the facility at Tracy, where there is a special unit consisting entirely of protection cases. Those men—about 20 of them—live together and go to their jobs together, always under an escort.

Los Angeles County has gone to considerable expense to insure the safety of Sirhan, but Guthrie said protection cases in state penitentiaries don't mean extra costs. "The staff and the surroundings are there anyway," he said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Unruh and Grier Tell Dramatic Details of Kennedy's Slaying

Former Ram Football Star Describes How He Held Senator's Accused Slayer

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

The killing of Robert F. Kennedy and the capture of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were retold in dramatic detail Monday by former Assembly Speaker Jess Unruh and former football star Roosevelt Grier.

It was the massive Grier who gave spectators in the court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker a thoughtful moment when he described the way he subdued the diminutive Sirhan.

Said Grier: "I folded his leg around my arm and put him on top of a table."

Grier, who retired from the Los Angeles Rams last year and now hosts a weekly television show, stands 6 feet, 5 inches and weighs about 290 pounds. Sirhan, 24, is a shade over 5 feet 2 inches and weighed 112 pounds at the time of his arrest.

Crowd Violence Feared

Both Grier and Unruh told of their concern that a frenzied mob in the narrow kitchen corridor of the Ambassador June 5 might kill Sirhan after Sen. Kennedy was fatally wounded.

Unruh, now Democratic leader in the California Assembly, said he was "terribly aware that we could have a repeat of the Oswald situation," and shouted repeatedly, "Don't kill him, don't kill him, we've got to keep him alive."

Unruh testified that he also shouted, "If the system works at all, we are going to try this one"—presumably Sirhan.

Lee Harvey Oswald, accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy in November, 1963, was murdered before being brought to trial.

Tells of Defending Sirhan

Grier amplified on Unruh's account of Kennedy aides' concern to save Sirhan. Soon after he grabbed Sirhan, Grier testified, he saw "one guy hurting his leg and some people coming at him from the front, so I swung on them and kicked the guy back and they seemed to realize we were trying to save the guy, so they stopped."

Defense questioning of both Grier and Unruh brought out that Sen. Kennedy's detour through the kitchen corridor where he met death was a last minute change of plan.

Defense attorney Emile Zola Ber- man asked Unruh if, as chairman of both the Kennedy campaigns in California and the Kennedy delegation to the Democratic National Convention, he wouldn't have been privy to such sudden changes in plan.

Unruh replied: "Yes, but politics changes very rapidly, my friend—as we discovered on June 4."

Defense questioning of an earlier witness focused renewed attention on the much-discussed "girl in the polka dot dress" who was first reported running out of the hotel shouting "We shot him".

Vincent DiPierro, a part-time waiter at the Ambassador, acknowledged that he had told of seeing such a girl and further acknowledged that on July 1 he admitted his story was false.

Monday DiPierro testified that he had seen a girl in a polka dot dress earlier that night, and that after talking to another witness, Sandra Serrano, he had "injected" the girl into the events immediately surrounding the shooting.

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At that time both Miss Serrano and Di Pierro described the girl as wearing a black and white polka dot dress and standing near Sirhan, perhaps even talking to him or smiling at him.

Dept. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts produced seven photographs of Valerie Schulte of Goleta, whom Di Pierro said he believed was the same girl. In the photographs, however, Miss Schulte's dress was of yellow polka dots on a green background. No further connection was made between Miss Schulte and the shooting scene.

Miss Schulte was scheduled to be called this morning as the first witness for the prosecution.

Other prosecution witnesses Monday were John W. Gallivan Jr., an advance man for the Kennedy campaign; Jesus Perez, an Ambassador Hotel kitchen worker; Martin Patrusky, a hotel bartender, and Frank J. Burns Jr., a Kennedy campaign worker.

All gave eyewitness accounts of the slaying, Perez and Patrusky testifying that Sirhan had loitered in the corridor for about half an hour before Sen. Kennedy came through, repeatedly asking if they knew whether he planned to come that way.

Gallivan, like previous witnesses, said the first

gunfire sounded like firecrackers to him. "The sound didn't seem important enough to be shots, if you know what I mean," he said.

Asked if he could still recreate the scene in his mind, Gallivan said, "I've been trying to forget this scene, as much as possible. But I haven't been very successful."

Other witnesses for the prosecution scheduled today include William Barry, Sen. Kennedy's bodyguard, and Rafer Johnson, former Olympic star and a member of the Kennedy entourage.



Roosevelt Grier

Times photo

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Rosey Grier Is Sirhan Witness

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

All-pro football star Rosey Grier, who wrestled Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's gun from him after the young Jordanian's admitted fatal shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, testifies today at Sirhan's trial.

Grier, now retired from football and a professional entertainer, will be the eighth witness produced by the prosecution as it details the events of early the morning of June 5, 1968—the time Kennedy was shot in a pantry off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom.

Four other witnesses who have testified so far in the trial have told of Grier's pushing through the crowd after the shooting and tackling the wiry, 24-year-old Arab.

Karl Uecker, 190-pound former Ambassador maitre d' hotel, said that it was all he and the huge ex-football player could do to subdue Sirhan.

Grier, according to Uecker, disarmed Sirhan, giving the .23 calibre "Cadet" Iver Johnson revolver to former Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson for safekeeping.

Grier will be the first of the so-called star witnesses the prosecution will produce. Others are expected to be Johnson, George Plimpton and members of Kennedy's staff.

Other witnesses expected today, as the trial moves into its 23rd session, are Angelo DiPierro, present Ambassador maitre d' hotel and his son, Vince, the conclusion of whose testimony will be first order of business today.

Young DiPierro, in dramatic testimony Friday, told of standing near Sen. Kennedy when the first shot hit. Another of Sirhan's victims, United Auto Workers official Paul Schrade, fell wounded into DiPierro's arms. A third victim, Ira Goldstein, fell against him when hit and knocked him to the ground, the young man said.

He said his glasses were so splattered with Kennedy's blood he could not see.

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'THOSE FACES SHOWED EVERYTHING BUT GRIEF'

By Al Stump

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Roosevelt Grier put away his guitar and blindly walked the streets alone, at night—often not knowing where he was, nor caring—his huge body wracked with convulsive sobs.

His personal dirge for Robert F. Kennedy was the beating of his fists against a brick wall in an alley, a moan escaping under a lamppost.

"When the senator and I hadn't seen each other for a while, and met, we hugged each other," Rosey Grier said yesterday. "The senator and I always hugged.

"He'd squeeze me hard and I would squeeze him not so hard . . . and, oh, hell, why talk about it? A black man knows he's receiving true love from a white man when he feels it like that."

The 292-pound former defensive tackle of the Los Angeles Rams and all-pro star came to testify at the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and what he said only verified known facts—that Kennedy's bodyguard narrowly missed being at the senator's side (he stayed behind in the Ambassador Hotel

ballroom to help Ethel Kennedy leave the platform) when Kennedy moved into the pantry containing the killer. Normally, his 6-foot-5 frame would have been in front of the candidate or at his shoulder.

And it was Grier who "plucked" the gun from Sirhan's hand when others had failed the task, meanwhile pinning him to a metal table and kicking and punching away at least three persons who sought to harm the assassin.

But the Grier who merely verified from the stand wasn't the Grier who spoke, grimly, in a street outside the courtroom 20 minutes later.

This was a man who found the trial scene disgusting and disheartening, a shock to his sensibilities.

"All that joking, giggling and lighthearted stuff that goes on in the halls outside the courtroom. These people are taking it like it's some kind of amusement. You' think a terrible thing never happened.

"Inside the courtroom it's all a business—cut and dried, with everything laid out and with nobody showing any emotion."

Rosey Grier, himself, was so overcome with emotion after testifying that tears welled behind his glasses. The man mountain looked down at a reporter and said:

"I'm disheartened by what I saw. Can't we learn from the senator's death, can't we learn when killings and riots keep happening that we must all do something about it and not just stand around shaking our heads at the social condition?

"Doesn't matter about the little guy on trial. What matters is that this happening isn't focusing attention as it should on the need to have some brotherhood in the United States.

"Nobody up there in that Hall of Justice acted like it was the world we live in on review. Except the judge and maybe a few others. On the witness stand I feel nobody really cared about America and what's going on. There was no soul in that place, no sir."

A friend of Grier's pointed out that murder trials uniformly are clinical affairs, closely bound round by cold legal strictures.

"I know, —but that still doesn't explain why those faces I

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looked at showed everything but concern and grief," he said gloomily. "Sen. Kennedy cared for people so much and if his spirit doesn't spread, God help us."

The ex-grizzer and star of a TV variety show admitted his continuing personal nightmare is the chance he missed to move off the Ambassador stage promptly and maintain strategic protection, for Kennedy. How many times I've wished I'd been up there to block for him," said the giant. "But Ethel Kennedy needed help."

"Leaving the stage, she was almost pushed down and walked on by the crowd."

Would Grier's presence have changed anything?

Maybe. Kennedy advance man Jack Gallivan, who also testified yesterday and who was first of the party to enter the kitchen, speculated:

"Close to 300 pounds of Rosey might have blocked Sirhan's view." Also Grier might have stopped the first, fatal bullet.

"I first met Sen. Kennedy more than a year before I started campaigning for him," continued Grier, whose Rams career ended in 1967 when he

ruptured his Achilles tendon. "It was in Washington—a meeting called to help delinquent children. He didn't say what people always say—how big I am—but gave me a hard handshake and told me he was glad I was 'getting right into one of the hard-core problems of the country.' He told me I'd work hard, and I did."

Steadily, defense lawyers have sought to emphasize that their client was in a trancelike, wholly hysterical condition by emphasizing the size and strength of the fan who leaped upon him—Karl Uecker, George Plimpton, Jesse Unruh, Rafer Johnson. The tactic failed when Rosey Grier was asked, "Did you have any trouble getting the gun away from him?"

(Jack Gallivan, 5-feet-11, 185 pounds, earlier admitted handling tiny Sirhan was "surprising—a tough job.")

Replied Grier, amused:
"No, sir."

★ ★ ★

Counselors' recent tendency toward flippancy brings the dour Judge Herbert Walker into instant action.

Yesterday, attempting to es-

tablish the role of author George Plimpton on the RFK staff, Dep. Dist. Atty. David Fitts was told by a witness that Plimpton wasn't a regular staff member, "but with the senator's party."

Fitts: "Should I use the word party? Or should I say 'retinue.' Retinue's word I like."

Voice from the defense table, "Why not coterie? That's not bad."

Judge Walker, coming down hard: "Let's get on with the business!"

★ ★ ★

A first-time spectator, Art "Golden Boy" Aragon, ex-contender for world boxing titles, was asked by a curious guard, "What brings you here?"

"Well," cracked Aragon, who is in the business of financing people out of jail, "I didn't come to bail him out."

Seriously, A r a g o n, said although he was a Gene McCarthy Backer, he came "as sort of a way to show my respect for the senator."

★ ★ ★

Prediction printed earlier by the Herald-Examiner, now becoming reality: defense will

make every effort to show Sirhan Sirhan was half-drunk, or maybe more than that, at the Ambassador.

Part-time Ambassador waiter Vince DiPiero was quizzed closely by defense on the number of bars in Sirhan's vicinity the night of the election. The total: five.

Sirhan came to the party with plenty of money. His tippie, if he was tipping, was three or more Tom Collinses.



—Associated Press Photo

ROOSEVELT GRIER ARRIVES TO TESTIFY
"These people are taking it like . . . amusement"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Polka-Dot Girl' On Sirhan Stand

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Valerie Schutte, identified in testimony as the mysterious "polka-dot girl" in the Sen. Robert F. Kennedy murder case, testifies today in the trial of Kennedy's admitted assassin -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

Photographs, taken of Miss Schulte in her Santa Barbara home, were put in evidence by prosecuting attorneys yesterday and showed her clad in a short-skirted, green dress with pink polka-dots.

Vince DiPierro, Santa Monica City College student and part-time waiter at the Ambassador Hotel where Sen. Kennedy was shot, identified Miss Schulte as the polka-dot girl.

Immediately after the shooting, Miss Sandra Seraan, a Kennedy campaign worker, told police she had seen a polka-dot-dressed girl running through the hotel yelling: "We shot Kennedy! We shot Kennedy!"

DiPierro said he saw a similarly-clad girl talking with Sirhan in a pantry off the hotel's Embassy room shortly before the shooting. He said under

cross examination by defense counsel Grant B. Cooper that she was there and that it appeared Sirhan had smiled at her.

DiPierro said she was wearing a white dress with black polka-dots and that she was a brunette.

Dept. Dist. Atty. David Fitts displayed the color picture of a girl in a polka-dot dress and DiPierro said she seemed to be the girl he had seen.

Cooper noted that the girl in the picture was wearing a different colored dress and that she was a blonde—not a brunette.

However, DiPierro said he felt she was the same girl.

There was no evidence that the polka-dot girl figured in any way in the shooting, except that she was present with dozens of other people trying to meet Kennedy.

Also on today's witness list are Kennedy's bodyguard, William Barry, and former Olympic

the polka-dot girl figured in any way in the shooting, except that she was present with dozens of other people trying to meet Kennedy.

Also on today's witness list are Kennedy's bodyguard, William Barry, and former Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson.

Witnesses said Sirhan tried to explain his shooting of Kennedy to Johnson minutes after the senator was gunned down.

Officers William Placencia and Travis White, who took Sirhan into custody from Roosevelt Grier, former California Assembly Speaker Jesse Unruh and others also will testify.

Grier, 295-pound former Los Angeles Rams defensive tackle, testified yesterday he helped subdue Sirhan after the shooting and then beat off angry bystanders, who sought to kill or harm the young Arab.

Unruh, now Assembly Minority Leader, told of crying, "Don't kill him! Don't kill him," to a lynch-minded, hysterical throng in the hotel pantry. He then accompanied Sirhan to jail following his arrest to help assure no harm came to the admitted slayer he said.

Another witness, Jack Gallivan of Salt Lake City, who was an advance man in Kennedy's Democratic Presidential primary campaign, told of Grier's subduing Sirhan.

"Rosey sort of leaned over and plucked the gun from the suspect's hand," he said.

Gallivan said that he had earlier tried to disarm the wiry Jordanian, but failed.

Frank J. Burns Jr., friend of both Kennedy and Unruh, who was active in the primary campaign, also testified.

Burns echoed Unruh's con-

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cern that Kennedy's assailant be brought to trial and not harmed.

"The man had to be kept alive," the Inglewood Assemblyman testified.

He also said he told bystanders, "If our system means anything this one has to be brought to trial."

Two hotel kitchen helpers the night of the slaying told of seeing Sirhan skulking in the Embassy Ballroom pantry before the shooting.

Jesus Perez, speaking through a Spanish interpreter, said Sirhan spoke to him and asked him if Kennedy was coming through the kitchen and pantry following his victory speech in the ballroom.

Perez said he told Sirhan he didn't know.

Perez testified he watched Sirhan fire the shots that killed Kennedy, and prosecutors sought to elicit from him what, if anything, he heard the young Arab say when he fired the .22 calibre "Cadet" Iver-Johnson, eight-shot revolver. But Judge

Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the trial, ruled this testimony inadmissible:

Q.—Do you recall if the defendant said something?

A—I heard him murmur, I heard something, but I can't say what it was because there was a lot of noise.

Q.—Can you recall any words?

A—I suppose it was something like "son a." I don't know.

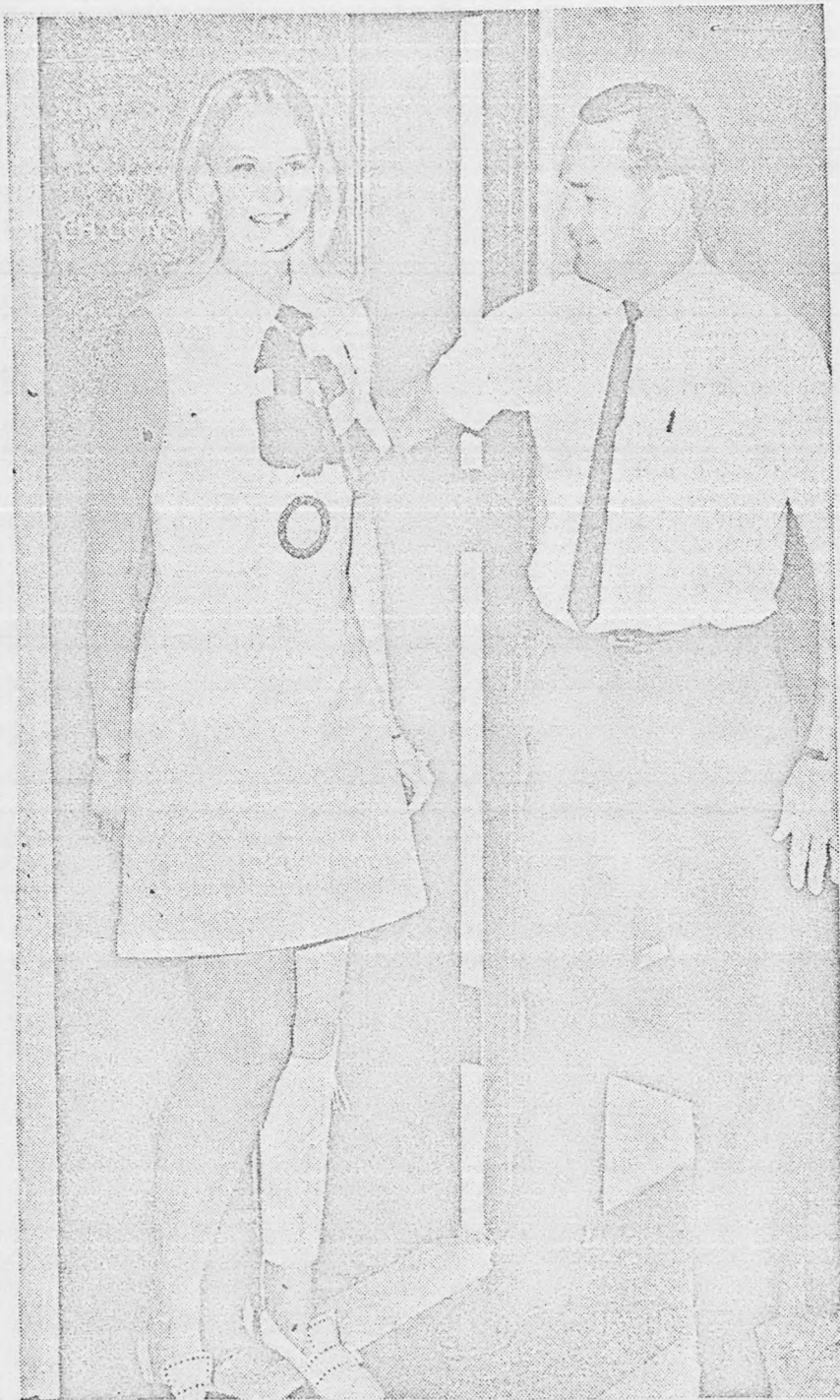
Perez, too, told of attempts on Sirhan following the shooting.

Q.—What happened after the gun was fired?

A—I saw many lunge at him (Sirhan). But I don't know who they were. There were so many people there.

Defense attorneys had no cross examination for Perez, nor Burns, nor Martin Patrusky, another Ambassador Kitchen staffer who saw Sirhan before the shooting.

Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel, is concerned about the impression on the jury the oft-repeated story of Kennedy's slaying by many eyewitnesses is making on the jury.



SIRHAN TRIAL WITNESS — Valerie Schulte arrives to testify she couldn't have been mystery girl who ran from shooting—she was on crutches then, still wears brace. Right, investigator Carmon Valentine. Times photo by Frank Q. Brown

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jurors Hear Of Sirhan's Target Drill

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired his pistol "like it was a machine gun" as he practiced shooting hours before his admitted killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, jurors in the young Arab's trial have been told.

That testimony came late yesterday from Henry Adrian Carreon, who talked with Sirhan at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club at Duarte around noon of June 4, 1968—some 12 hours before Kennedy was shot.

Carreon was scheduled to take the witness box again when the trial convened this morning.

Carreon's testimony, and that of Everett C. Buckner Sr., rangemaster at the club, marked a switch in emphasis in the prosecution's case from the events in Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom pantry, scene of the June 5, 1968 assassination, to Sirhan's preparations for the slaying.

The trial will return briefly to the hotel scene today when George Plimpton, editor of the Paris Review and a member of the Kennedy entourage during the California presidential primary, takes the stand.

Buckner was in charge of the gun range the morning of June 4, 1968, when Sirhan showed up for what was to become several hours of target practice before Kennedy was slain.

However, the rangemaster was only a few minutes into cross examination by Chief Defense Counsel Grant B. Cooper before his testimony was subjected to sharp attack.

Cooper charged that Buckner had a "vivid imagination" and had given a false story to police about conversation between

Sirhan and a woman at the range.

Cooper asked:

"Did you at any time ever hear any lady say to Mr. Sirhan, 'Get out of here, God damn you, somebody will recognize us?'"

A—No.

Q—Didn't you tell police that some lady had said that to Mr. Sirhan?

A—I told police I don't know what was said . . .

Cooper said Buckner "took a lie detector test and flunked it" over his testimony.

The woman in question, Claudia Williams, will be a witness today. She will testify as to her conversation with Sirhan.

Carreon told the jury and Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the Sirhan trial, that he and a friend, David Montellano, visited the San Gabriel Valley range about 10 a.m. June 4, 1968. Montellano will testify at today's session.

He said they, "heard rapid firing that was . . . like a machine gun," and went to the pistol range to investigate.

"He (Sirhan) was there trying to shoot as fast as he could," Carreon said.

Surrounding the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant at the range, according to Carreon, were 300 to 400 empty shell cases and five or six empty boxes of "regular" .22 calibre ammunition.

"There also was a box of mini-magnums," he said.

Sen. Kennedy was killed with mini-magnum ammunition. Buckner testified to selling a box to Sirhan when the latter asked for a type of ammunition that would not misfire or jam a gun.

Carreon also testified Montellano told him that he did not believe Sirhan was a particularly good shot.

Carreon said that Sirhan, asked what kind of a pistol he had, was at first reluctant to discuss it, but later identified the gun as an Iver-Johnson. Sirhan was disarmed of a .22 caliber "Cadet" Iver-Johnson, an eight-shot revolver, after he shot Kennedy.

Today, Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard will trace the weapon from its original purchase in 1965 until it came into Sirhan's family in 1968. Witnesses will include Mrs. Albert Herin, wife of the original buyer of the weapon, and George Erhard, who sold it to Sirhan and his brother, Munir, in February, 1968.

Larry Arnot, Pasadena gunsmith who sold ammunition to Sirhan, also will testify.

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Much of yesterday's testimony was taken up by Officer Arthur Placencia, one of the policemen who arrested Sirhan. Miss Schulte said that when the shooting took place she was either pushed or shoved to the floor.

In cross examination, Cooper brought out that Placencia examined Sirhan's eyes after the shooting to determine if he were under the influence of alcohol or narcotics, and that—exposed to bright light—the pupils failed to contract. He said this was a possible symptom of alcohol influence.

Placencia, however, denied he had formed any opinion as to Sirhan's sobriety.

The defense has said it intends to prove Sirhan was "in a trance" and "intoxicated" when he shot Kennedy. Defense lawyers say privately the young Arab, unused to alcohol, had consumed several drinks before the shooting.

The prosecution is expected to dispute any claim Sirhan was drunk.

Earlier yesterday, the "polka-dot girl" took the stand.

Valerie Schulte, 22, of Santa Barbara, testified she was present the night of the shooting and after hearing shots saw a hand with a gun extended.

She said she was on crutches at the time because of the fracture of her left leg in a skiing accident. She still wore a cast on the leg when she testified.

"I was on the floor and could not see," she said.

Miss Schulte said that she could identify Sirhan only from pictures and that she had told a policeman she could not make a positive identification.

She brought with her the polka-dot dress she wore the night Kennedy was shot and held it up for observation. It was green with yellow polka-dots — not black and white as testified by an earlier witness.

Rafer Johnson, former Olympic decathlon champion who had been helping guard the senator, also took the stand and testified he had been left behind when Kennedy disappeared through the curtain at the back of the Embassy Room's stage.

Johnson said he had worked his way through the crowd to the serving pantry and, "When I got there I heard what I thought at that point was balloons—one or two popping. Then I heard more and I saw smoke. I started for the smoke."

Johnson testified he, Rosey Grier and others had overcome Sirhan and wrestled for the gun. "Roosevelt Grier had his hand on the gun, I had my hand on the gun. Then he let go and I took it."



—Herald-Examiner Photo

VALERIE SCHULTE
Brought her
polka-dot dress



—Herald-Examiner Photo

RAFER JOHNSON
"Thought I heard balloons"



—Herald-Examiner Photo

ARTHUR PLACENCIA
Checked Sirhan's eyes



—Herald-Examiner photo

HENRY A. CARREON
"Like a machine gun"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Trial Highlighted by Courtroom Drama, Bomb Scare

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Although the defense admits Sirhan Bishara Sirhan killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, the prosecution continued its methodical proving of the point Tuesday, with unexpectedly lively courtroom exchanges and a brief bomb scare.

The clearing up of an old mystery, and a hostile tug-of-wills between two other witnesses and defense counsel were the highlights in the court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

One brief flurry of excitement interrupted the trial when Judge Walker ordered the courtroom cleared after Bailiff Willard Polhemus reported a ticking noise in his desk.

After a short search it was discovered that telephone repairs in the building were causing a solenoid in Polhemus' desk phone to click at regular intervals.

The cross-examination of witnesses helped dismiss for a while the underlying fact that the outcome of this phase of Sirhan's trial—now seven weeks old—is a foregone conclusion: Sirhan did kill Sen. Kennedy and will not be acquitted; the only point at issue is determining the penalty.

En route to that point, the prosecution is laying out its entire case in an effort to show that Sirhan's act was sufficiently premeditated to warrant a conviction of first-degree murder.

The defense is bearing with the testimony on the uncontested point in order to undermine whatever evidence of premeditation they can and, if necessary, discredit witnesses who could strengthen the prosecution claim of malice aforethought.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper employed this tactic on Everett C. Buckner, rangemaster of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club where Sirhan went target-practicing June 4, the eve of the assassination.

In attacking Buckner's credibility as a witness, Cooper also wrote the finish to a statement that months ago provided slight fuel to speculation that Sirhan might have been part of a conspiracy.

After repeated and pointed questioning of Buckner about when and how long Sirhan was at the Duarte rifle and pistol range—and evident disbelief at Buckner's answers—Cooper asked suddenly:

"You have a kind of vivid imagination, don't you, sir?"

"No," said Buckner.

Citing Buckner's statements to investigators last summer, Cooper shot back: "Didn't you say that a lady was with him?"

"No," Buckner replied. "I said a lady came up and he showed her how to shoot."

"Did you or did you not say at that time that the lady told Sirhan, 'Get out of here, God damn you. Somebody will recognize us?'"

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Buckner denied making the statement, then said he had told police "it sounded that way," and that "I couldn't hear them that well."

Cooper asked Buckner if he had not taken a lie detector test and flunked it, and Buckner answered he had "just flunked on that question."

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Pitts objected that reference to lie detector tests was inadmissible and the exchange was stricken from the record.

But in further questioning about the alleged exchange between Sirhan and the woman, Buckner himself referred repeatedly to "the day I took the lie detector test."

Asked if he had admitted to police that he never overheard such a remark, Buckner said, "I didn't admit it wasn't made. I admitted that I could have misunderstood."

Still another, and more celebrated, mystery presumably was laid to rest Tuesday, with the testimony of Valerie Schulte, former manager of Sen. Kennedy's campaign office in Goleta, where she was a UC Santa Barbara coed.

Identified Earlier

Miss Schulte, 22, was earlier identified from photographs as the girl Vincent DiPierro, a witness Monday, thought he saw near the scene of the shooting at the Ambassador.

DiPierro and Sandra Serano, a witness yet to be called, told investigators last summer they had seen a girl in a black and white polka dot dress, talking to Sirhan and that she later ran from the scene shouting, "We shot him."

That story was later

admitted to be a fabrication, and Tuesday Miss Schulte testified that:

—She couldn't have run at all last June 4. She was on crutches as a result of a skiing accident, and still wears a brace on her right leg.

—She never even noticed Sirhan until the first shot was fired.

—She was wearing a polka dot dress, but not black and white. She exhibited the garment she wore that night. It was a lime green mini-dress with canary yellow polka dots.

The mood of the courtroom was somber as William Barry, chief of security for the slain senator, described in a subdued and haking voice how he got separated from Kennedy in the exuberance of the election victory celebration.

Barry said that after Kennedy finished a victory statement, the senator jumped from the back of the stage instead of returning in Barry's direction and then headed toward the kitchen corridor where he was shot.

Barry said he was back in the crowd, assisting Mrs. Kennedy and trying to catch up when the first shot was fired.

Johnson Story

Former Olympics decathlon champion Rafer Johnson also took the stand to tell of his part in the struggle to subdue Sirhan after the first shot was fired.

Johnson told Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard that it was he who took possession of Sirhan's gun, after former Los Angeles Rams tackle Roosevelt Grier disarmed the suspect.

Author George Plimpton is scheduled as a prosecution witness today.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Possibility of Guilty Plea by Sirhan Now Appears Remote

Judge Walker's Insistence That Jury Must Determine Penalty in Case Seen as Barring Contemplated Change

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's insistence that the jury determine any penalty in the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has all but eliminated the possibility of a guilty plea by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, The Times has learned.

Sirhan and his attorneys were willing to plead guilty to first-degree murder last week—on condition that the defendant be guaranteed a life term rather than the death penalty.

But Sirhan balked at the last minute, when Judge Walker refused to give his required consent to the arrangement. The 69-year-old jurist indicated he would accept a guilty plea only on condition that the penalty be set by the jury.

Later he is said to have confided that his reason for this was a resolve to guarantee a full airing of the facts surrounding the senator's assassination.

Sirhan then reportedly took the position, after consulting with his lawyers, that the jury might vote the death penalty even if it were not sought by the prosecution.

Seems to Know System

There is reason to believe Sirhan knows the vagaries of the jury system.

He could have been influenced by the outcome last year of the trial of former Dep. Dist. Atty. Jack Kirschke.

Kirschke, after being convicted of killing his wife and her paramour, received the death penalty—since reduced by the court to life imprisonment.

Within a few hours of his arrest, Sirhan reportedly told investigators that he felt the jury was wrong in returning a death penalty verdict against Kirschke.

He insisted that the evidence was

too weak to justify such punishment.

Speculation that Sirhan did not want to change his plea because he desired to tell his story of the assassination is not altogether valid.

He had agreed to plead guilty if he could be assured of life in prison.

If he had accepted the alternative presented by Judge Walker—pleading guilty and taking his chances in a penalty trial—he could have taken the witness stand to relate at least some of the details of why he shot Kennedy.

Judge Walker, it was learned, also felt that disclosure of the evidence

Change of Plea

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would have laid to rest any doubt that Sirhan was acting alone when he fired the fatal shots.

Why did the two sides—the prosecution and defense—decide to take the proposal of a change in plea to Judge Walker?

Concede Shooting

The defense attorneys concede that Sirhan did the shooting. They have publicly stated that their main goal in the case is to save his life.

By agreeing to a change in plea, with a guaranteed life prison term, they would have accomplished such a mission.

The prosecution, on the other hand, fully intended from the beginning to seek the death penalty—and felt there was a good chance of success.

However, psychiatric reports furnished to both prosecution and defense reduced these chances.

The prosecution is said to have felt that if it had only a marginal chance of

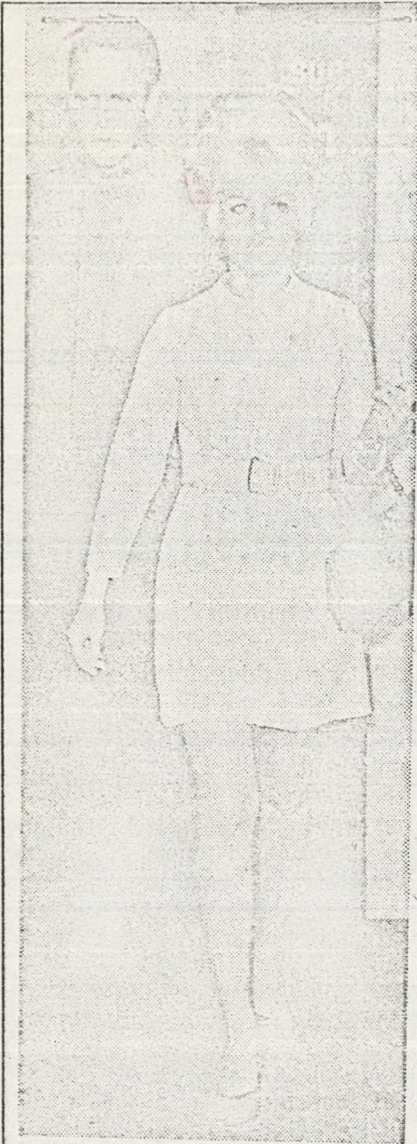
securing the death penalty for Sirhan, the interest of the public might best be served by accepting a guilty plea, with life in prison, thus saving a great deal of time and expense and personal anguish for the families and individuals involved.

And the prosecution has indicated that it would make public the full record of its investigations in the event of a guilty plea.

Presumably there still could be a change of plea. But that is unlikely unless either Judge Walker or Sirhan reverses his present thinking.

Meanwhile, the prosecution is pushing ahead with its case against Sirhan.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



SHE SAW SIRHAN—Mrs. Claudia Williams, a cocktail waitress, on way to trial with husband, Ronald. She told court of talking with Sirhan Sirhan at a pistol range 7 hours before Robert F. Kennedy was shot.
Times photo

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

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Sirhan Composure After Shooting of Kennedy Described

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

After he had shot Robert F. Kennedy, and was grabbed by thunderstruck aides of the senator, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was, "compared to the circle of people around him . . . enormously composed . . ."

"Amid this hurricane of sound and feeling, he seemed like the eye of the hurricane . . . He seemed purged."

This was part of the testimony Wednesday by George Plimpton, author, editor and Kennedy supporter.

Plimpton, called by the prosecution, gave testimony which pleased the defense. The latter has claimed that Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy last June 5 while in an obsessive frame of mind and a trance-like state.

The witness told Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard of preceding Sen. Kennedy through the kitchen corridor at the Ambassador.

Series of Popping Sounds

Plimpton said he heard "a series of sharp popping sounds, which I didn't know what to make of . . . I had a sense that they were revolver shots."

He immediately grabbed for the gun, along with several others, and didn't see Sen. Kennedy fall to the floor, Plimpton testified. "I didn't have enough courage to look back in that direction," he added.

Paul Schrade, regional vice president for the United Auto Workers, and also a member of Sen. Kennedy's entourage, testified about being seriously wounded in the hail of gunfire.

He said he was walking with Sen. Kennedy when "all hell broke loose. I heard some crackling noises, like electricity, and I saw some flashes. I was badly shaken and I thought we were being electrocuted."

"I began shaking and I was falling. That was the last I knew, until I regained consciousness on the floor. I felt great pain and a burning sensation in my head, and people were walking all over me."

Schrade was shot in the head, just above the hairline. He has since recovered.

Larry Kenneth Arnot, a former clerk at the Loik, Stock and Barrel Gun Shop in Pasadena, acknowledged under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts that he sold two boxes of .22-caliber ammunition to Sirhan.

Then, he began to tell of three men—one of them presumably Sirhan—who entered the shop on the date of the sale.

Arnot was quickly interrupted by Fitts, who asked him if a lie detector test later administered to him had not cast doubt on that story.

Arnot admitted that this was true.

Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper then asked Arnot: "The truth of the matter is, you don't remember to whom you sold that ammunition, do you?"

"No," said Arnot.

Four other afternoon witnesses traced the ownership of the death weapon from its first sale in August, 1965, to its private sale to the defendant's brother, Munir Sirhan, 21, last February.

Earlier testimony Wednesday placed Sirhan seven hours before the Kennedy assassination at a suburban pistol range.

Custody of 2 boxes

*Photograph Examination
Larry Arnot*

*cc to Bureau
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Schrade Ammunition*

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PUBLICATION OF SECRET SESSION HIT

New Sirhan Mistrial Move Follows Story

BY DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense made a second motion for a mistrial Thursday on grounds their client's defense was prejudiced by a page 1 story in The Times.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker denied the motion in an in-chambers session highlighted by a prosecution request that such closed proceedings, both past and future, be made public.

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said, "We think one of the vices of the whole situation . . . and what creates a problem, is the idea of sealing (transcripts) and secret sessions.

"We just feel that everything has got to be on the record and public and that there should be no secret negotiations, conferences or matters which are in that category . . .

"I would oppose any further . . . proceedings which are sealed, secret, or otherwise handled in that fashion."

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper answered: "In connection with plea bargaining, it is always a secret matter."

Cooper protested release of the transcript of Thursday's chamber session, saying, "If this entire thing is released, now that we have it only with the Los Angeles Times, but, if this is released, this is going to make front page news, this is real hard, good news."

Plea bargaining was the subject of the story in The Times Thursday in an explanation of why Sirhan did not plead guilty to first-degree

murder, as was expected the week before.

On Feb. 12, The Times said a guilty plea appeared probable after negotiations between the defense and the prosecution had resulted in an agreement that Sirhan would be assured of life imprisonment for the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June.

Judge Walker was reported willing to accept a guilty plea, but not an agreed-upon life sentence. The penalty, he held, must be submitted to a jury, which could decree life imprisonment or death.

At that, Sirhan refused to change his plea.

The transcript of Thursday's closed session corroborated The Times' account last week.

Cooper, in moving for the mistrial,

said Thursday's story "reflects quite accurately everything that . . . was said in chambers with respect to the possibility of the entry of a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree."

At another point, Cooper stressed that Sirhan "did want to enter a plea."

Judge Walker answered, "He did want to enter a plea to first-degree murder with life, but he didn't want to enter a plea with the suggestion I made as the record indicates" — that is, a guilty plea with the jury setting the penalty. After Sirhan's exit from the negotiations last week, one source quoted him as saying, "I'd rather die than spend my life in prison."

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

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Judge Walker pointed out that it was he who told some details of the closed meetings which later appeared in print, and Cooper said, "I assign your honor doing that as misconduct."

Compton said some points similar to those covered in The Times' stories had been raised by reporters for some Eastern newspapers. He then pointed to what he felt were the "vices" of closed sessions.

Dilation Tested

Meanwhile, the prosecution continued laying out its case against Sirhan in open court, with police officer Travis R. White testifying that he examined Sirhan's eyes to test pupil dilation minutes after Sirhan was arrested.

White said he concluded from this single test that Sirhan was not under the influence of any drugs or liquor.

Other witnesses Thursday were fingerprint experts James E. Laborne and Riley W. Maxwell of the Los Angeles Police Department, and Judy Royce, a secretary for former Gov. Edmund G. Brown, who worked for the Kennedy campaign and witnessed the slaying.

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans and Ira Goldstein, two of five persons injured in the hail of bullets that killed Kennedy, also testified.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Victims Testify

By JOHN DOUGLAS

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Two more of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's victims have given his jury of eight men and four women their accounts of the shooting in the pantry off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom which claimed the life of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and wounded five.

The testimony of Ira Goldstein and Mrs. Elizabeth Evans unfolded yesterday against the background of another defense plea for a mistrial in the case of Kennedy's admitted slayer. The mistrial plea again was based on allegedly prejudicial material printed in the Los Angeles Times.

Presiding Judge Herbert V. Walker denied the mistrial. He confessed in an in-chambers hearing that he personally was the source of part of the information contained in the morning newspaper's story.

Former newsman Ira Goldstein, who was shot in the left thigh, recounted his memory of the events of the morning of June 5, 1968, at the close of yesterday's session.

He said he had been covering Kennedy's victory speech, but midway through it to go to Embassy room kitchen in of something to eat.

King of the shooting, Goldstein said, "I heard loud popping noises."

"How many of them?" Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts asked.

"Two of them at first. I quickly moved to my left. I stepped

over someone who had fallen to the ground." and Washington newsman William Weisel.

"Did you recognize anyone?"

"No sir. I moved to the left. I continued walking. I felt something on my pant leg—a gust of wind. I felt a bullet enter my left leg."

"Did you fall down?"

"No. At this point I crashed into the wall."

Goldstein testified immediately after the other of Sirhan's victims, Mrs. Evans, 43, of Saugus.

Mrs. Evans testified she came to the Ambassador Hotel to meet Pierre Salinger, former news secretary to President John F. Kennedy, and to participate in Kennedy's victory celebration.

She told this story under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard:

"I entered the pantry," she said. "It was crowded."

"I heard a sound like firecrackers. I lost my shoe. Everything happened very fast."

"Could you feel blood on your head?"

"Yes . . . I was afraid I would be trampled."

She said someone took her to a table where she lay until she was taken away in an ambulance. She later underwent surgery for a gunshot wound.

In addition to being on trial for Sen. Kennedy's murder, Sirhan is charged with five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder against Mrs. Evans, Goldstein,

Irwin Stroll, 18, United Auto Workers' official Paul Sarade

Stroll and Weisel are on today's witness list.

After his denial of the mistrial motion yesterday, Judge Walker ordered made public a transcript of the in-chambers arguments.

The transcript confirmed reports that Sirhan had sought a guilty plea to first-degree murder that would insure that he did not suffer the death penalty. Judge Walker, the record showed, refused to be a party to such a deal, holding that the jury must decide the penalty.

The transcript revealed that Walker himself was a source of part of the information regarding the squelched deal.

Chief Defense Counsel Grant B. Cooper termed Judge Walker's leak "improper." It may figure in a later appeal in the Sirhan case, he said.

Police officer Travis White, first witness of yesterday's session, scored an important point for the prosecution.

In his opening remarks, Attorney Emilie Zola Berman told the jury the defense intended to prove that Sirhan was "in a trance and intoxicated" when he admittedly shot Kennedy.

But Officer White testified that a pupil-reaction test of Sirhan's eyes, taken minutes after his arrest, indicated he was not drunk.

White held to his testimony despite vigorous attempts to discredit it by Cooper.

Fitts asked him:

"In your opinion was he (Sir-

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han) under the influence of alcoholic liquor of any kind?"

"In my opinion he was not," the policeman answered.

Explaining the test, White said he shined a light in Sirhan's eyes in a darkened room and that the pupils contracted normally. An indication of intoxication, he said, would have been a slow contraction.

Fitts asked him what were other "indications of intoxication."

"Eyes watering, staggering, weaving, blurred speech and alcoholic breath," White replied.

"Did you observe any of these other indications in the defendant?" White was asked.

"There were none that I observed," he said.

Another witness, Miss Judy Royer, secretary to former California Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown, testified to seeing Sirhan hanging around press headquarters for the Kennedy campaign before the shooting. She told him to go away and he did, she said.

Two Los Angeles Police fingerprint experts, Sgt. Riley Maxwell and Officer James E. Clapora, testified to discovering Sirhan's fingerprints on his car found parked on New Hampshire St., three blocks from the Ambassador Hotel.

In that car was a sales slip for ammunition purchased at the Lock, Stock N' Barrel Gun Shop in Pasadena for Sirhan's .22-caliber, Iver-Johnson "Cadet" revolver, used to shoot Kennedy.

Sgt. Maxwell said he found Sirhan's fingerprints on the sales slip, too.



DR. STANLEY ABO AT TRIAL

Herald-Examiner photo

He attended Kennedy after shooting

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Witness Claims Sirhan Vowed to Shoot Kennedy

Former Friend Tells of
Talk About King Murder;
Says He Hated Defendant

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Soon after the assassination of Martin Luther King last April 4, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was described as arguing with a Negro trash collector he had befriended about Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and demanding:

"What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him."

Sirhan did, less than two months after that conversation, and prosecution witness Alvin Clark testified to defense attorney Emile Zola Berman Friday that he told the FBI the following September he was unwilling to testify against his accused friend—but the reason was not friendship now.

"Didn't you tell the FBI you did not want to take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you'd do anything to see him convicted?" asked Berman.

"Yes, I did," said Clark.

Dramatic Moment

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts quickly interjected: "Have you told the truth here, sir?"

"Yes," Clark replied firmly. "I have."

The testimony of the bearded Clark was the most dramatic thus far in the seven-week-old trial of Kennedy's admitted slayer. Clark told Fitts of a casual friendship reaching back nearly three years with the 24-year-old Palestinian immigrant.

"I thought very much of him," said Clark, adding that Sirhan fell into the habit of bringing out coffee, soft drinks and sometimes sandwiches when Clark made the usual Wednesday trash pickup at the Sirhan home at 696 E. Howard St. in Pasadena.

Clark testified to jurors in Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's court that shortly after the King assassination in Memphis, Sirhan was "upset somewhat about the death of Luther King. He asked me how the Negro people felt about it."

"I said we felt there wasn't just one person responsible.

"He asked me what the Negroes were going to do about it and I said, 'What can they do about it? You're just one person.'

"Then he asked me how I felt about the election and I said I was going to vote for Kennedy.

"He said, 'What do you want to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him.'

'One of the Best Men'

"I said, 'If you do, you'll be killing one of the best men in the country.

"I told him of Kennedy going down to Tennessee to bring back Luther King's body and paying all the expenses.

"Sirhan—but I never knew him by the name of Sirhan, I knew him by the name of Saul—said he (Kennedy) did it just for publicity."

Two other witnesses, Irwin Stroll and William Weiser, told of having been among the five wounded in the fusillade that killed Kennedy in a kitchen hallway of the Ambassador last June 5.

Stroll, 17, testified that he was a Kennedy volunteer worker guarding doorway that night, and that he was about to follow the victory party to another party at The Factory nightclub in West Hollywood when he was cut down by a bullet in his left calf.

"I felt someone kick me," said Stroll, adding that he didn't know at first that he had been shot. "Then I noticed—because I had on blue pants—that one of my legs was red."

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper cross-questioned Stroll briefly, and asked finally, "Incidentally, didn't you bring an action of a million and

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a half dollars against the defendant for the injury to your leg?"

Stroll flushed slightly and said "Yes." (The suit, filed earlier this month, actually seeks \$1,050,000.)

Two other witnesses told of seeing Sirhan at a Kennedy prelection party on June 2 at the Ambassador, not far from where Sen. Kennedy later was killed.

Dr. Stanley Abo, a physician who attended the Kennedy victory party, told of going to the stricken senator's aid moments after the shooting.

Abo said Sen. Kennedy's right eye was open, "staring aimlessly," and the left eye was closed. As he bent

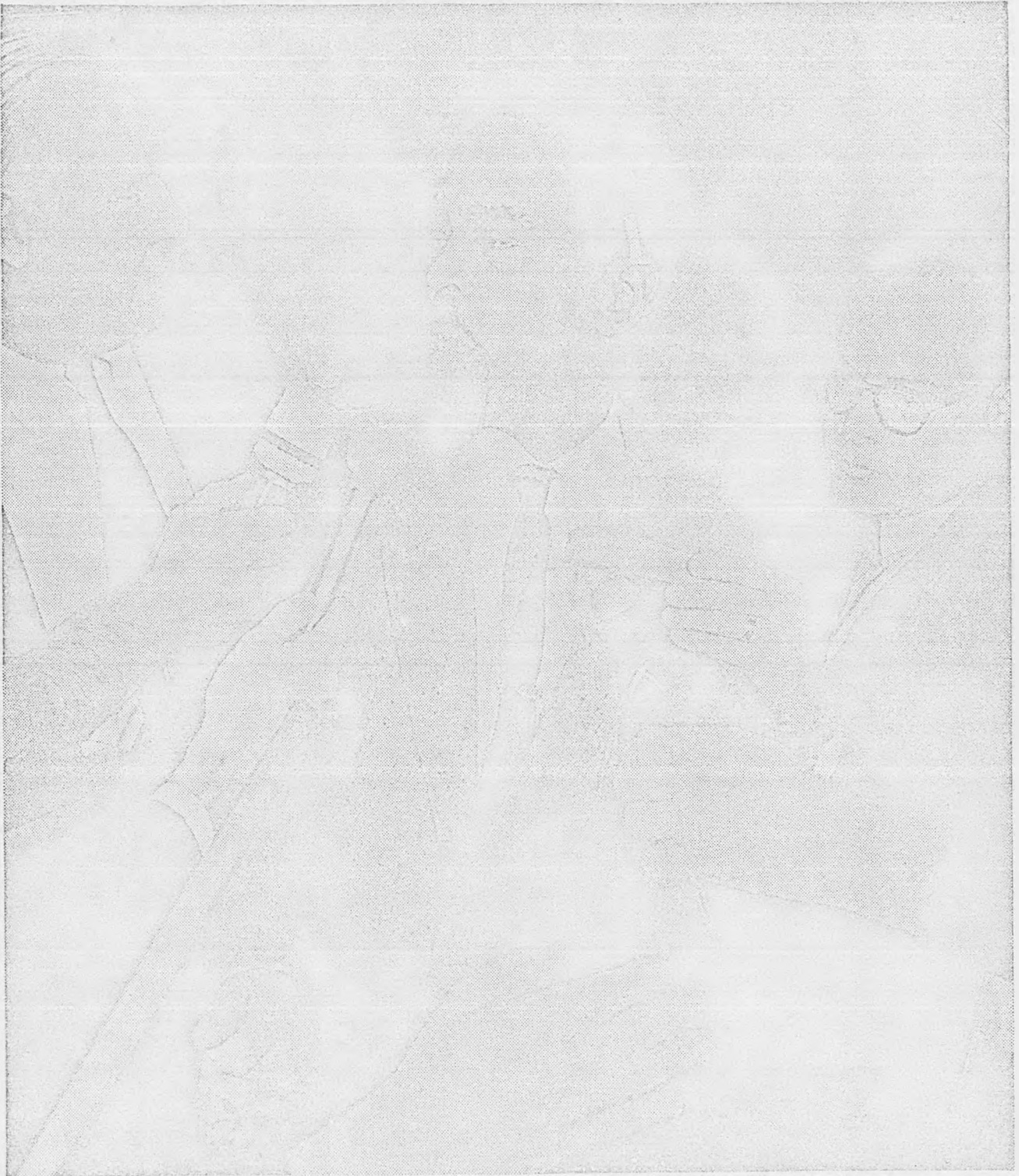
to see if Sen. Kennedy needed artificial respiration, Abo said, Kennedy's left eye opened "very quickly, with a puzzled look."

Abo said he had earlier mistaken another wounded man, Paul Schrader, for Sen. Kennedy's brother-in-law, Stephen Smith, and thus told Sen. Kennedy that his brother-in-law (actually Schrader) had a superficial scalp wound.

"Good," he quoted the dying Sen. Kennedy as saying.

Abo said Mrs. Ethel Kennedy arrived then at her husband's side, and Sen. Kennedy "reached out and took her hand and spoke to her."

The defense objected that the conversation was immaterial and the objection was sustained.



TELLS OF THREAT—Alvin Clark, who collected trash at the Sirhan home, testified at the trial of Sir-

han B. Sirhan that the defendant told him last April he was planning to shoot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.
Times photo by John Malinin

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

ETHEL... AM I GOING TO DIE?

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

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Attention*

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Doctor Recalls RFK Plea in Sirhan Trial

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

"Ethel... Ethel...
"Am I going to die?"

Robert F. Kennedy lay mortally wounded on the floor of a pantry off the Ambassador Hotel's Embassy Ballroom. The time was 12:20 a.m., June 4, 1968.

His wife had not been at his side when Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired the shot that pierced the New York senator's spine and skull. But she was nearby, and almost immediately beside him.

They whispered together as Dr. Stanley Abo, on the scene, worked over Kennedy, giving him what help he could before a Central Receiving Hospital ambulance arrived.

Dr. Abo testified yesterday at Sirhan's murder trial. He was not permitted to recount the conversation between the slain senator and his pregnant wife while in the witness box. But he recalled it vividly for The Herald-Examiner outside the courtroom.

Dr. Abo was the first physician to reach Kennedy's side after the shooting. He had been at the hotel as a partisan of the senator—celebrating victory in the California Presidential Primary.

His recollection:

"Mrs. Kennedy reached her husband's side and knelt beside him.

"His eyes had opened by then and he looked sorrowfully at her and asked: 'Am I going to die?'"

"She was holding his hand and looked up at me, as if for an answer.

"I had no answer." Kennedy kept repeating. "Ethel... Ethel... Ethel," as pandemonium broke about the couple at the shooting scene.

A few feet away Roosevelt Griener, George Plimpton, Rafer Johnson and a host of others fought to subdue Sirhan. The Kennedys did not see them.

Kennedy fell silent.

"He just moaned a few times," Dr. Abo recalled.

The ambulance attendants arrived and Kennedy objected vigorously, telling them: "Don't move me... Please don't move me."

Then he was on his way to Central Receiving Hospital, then Good Samaritan Hospital, and finally, 25 hours later, dead.

On the stand, Dr. Abo testified:

"I was standing near the door of the pantry," he told Dep.

Dist. Atty. John Howard, "... I heard several popping noises... Somebody screamed... a small commotion started.

"I saw a television cameraman, he may have been a light man, standing on a stool mouth 'Kennedy,' and put his finger to his head...

"From that, I knew the senator had been shot.

"Someone rushed out to ask for a doctor and I shoved ahead until I reached the victims."

Dr. Abo said he first reached Paul Schrade, United Auto Workers Union official injured by another of Sirhan's bullets. He determined that Schrade was not seriously injured and moved to Kennedy's side.

"Sen. Kennedy's head was on a folded coat, which I presumed to be his."

Q—What did you find?

A—He was lying very still, very quiet. I did not know initially whether he was breathing, or if he had a pulse. I thought if he was not breathing, I would do artificial respiration.

"His left eye was open and staring aimlessly. His right eye was closed. I could feel a very strong, but slow pulse, could observe that he was breathing very shallow, but at a good rate... He looked up at me... He was holding a crucifix in both hands, moving both

legs, contorting his body every so often and moaning.

Q—Did you notice anything about his head?

A—Yes. There was considerable blood on the jacket under his head. There was a small but penetrating injury just back of his right ear. . .

Dr. Abo testified that, having no instruments, he probed the wound with his fingers.

Q—Was there a medical reason for this probing?

A—At first just to locate it, then because I wanted to keep the wound open and oozing slightly to keep from having a build-up of blood in the skull.

Q—What else did you do?

A—I tried to keep other doctors who began to arrive from too vigorously jumping on the senator to give him artificial respiration or heart massage. I was convinced his heart was beating, and he was breathing all right.

Dr. Abo's testimony provided the second series of dramatic events at yesterday's session.

The first came from Pasadena garbage collector Alvin Clark.

Clark swore that in April, 1968—some two months before he slew Kennedy—Sirhan told him: "I'm planning on shooting him."

Clark said the threat came as the two talked politics in front of Sirhan's home, 626 E. Howard St., Pasadena, shortly after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sirhan was upset about the King shooting, Clark said, and kept asking him what the Negroes intended to do about it. Clark is a Negro.

The talk turned to the California presidential primary, Clark said, and Sirhan asked him for whom he intended to vote.

"I told him I was going to vote for Kennedy," Clark testified.

Sirhan said, "What do you

want to vote for that son of a B or, because I'm planning on shooting him."

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman sought vigorously to impeach Clark's testimony in cross-examination. He demanded:

"Didn't you say (to an FBI agent in September, 1968) you wouldn't want to take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you would do anything to see him convicted?"

"Yes," Clark admitted.

But Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts countered quickly:

"Have you told the truth here, sir?"

"Yes, I have," Clark said.

Clark was one of three witnesses put on the stand yesterday as the prosecution sought to show premeditation in Sirhan's admitted slaying of Kennedy.

Another, Mrs. Miriam Davis, a Kennedy campaign volunteer, told of seeing Sirhan in a kitchen in the Ambassador Hotel June 2, 1968—some 47 hours before he shot Kennedy. The prosecution contends he was "casing" the place.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Noguchi Rift Is Tied To RFK Autopsy

County Coroner Thomas Noguchi, who performed the autopsy on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has said that County Administrative Officer L. S. Hollinger asked him to resign from his \$31,104-a-year job.

Dissatisfaction over an asserted delay in handling the Kennedy autopsy was reported, but Dr. Noguchi said that if there was any delay it was "indeed justifiable."

"We did everything that should be done," he said.

"A number of complaints and charges about the way in which Dr. Noguchi runs his office have been reported to me," Hollinger said. "When all the facts are in, I will recommend to the Board of Supervisors and the Civil Service Commission that appropriate action be taken."

"I received an ultimatum," Dr. Noguchi replied. "If I don't resign, Mr. Hollinger said he would personally file some type of charge against me."

Herman Selvin, Beverly Hills lawyer retained by Dr. Noguchi along with Frank Chumley of Los Angeles, said:

"We don't know what they're talking about. Nobody has brought any specific charges yet. We want to see what it is they're after."

Selvin said as far as he could determine, no charges had been made and the accusers had been vague on details.

Noguchi was appointed to his post Dec. 19, 1967, by a 3-2 vote of County Supervisors after a six-week hassle in which civil service groups backed the appointment but the UCLA and University of Southern California Medical Schools and L.A. County Medical Assn. opposed it.

In June, 1968, when the position was made permanent, Supervisor Burton W. Chace praised Noguchi for his handling of a helicopter disaster and the Kennedy autopsy.

Noguchi, a native of Japan but now a U.S. citizen, was graduated from Nippon Medical School in 1951 and served his internship in Tokyo Imperial Hospital and at Orange County General Hospital.

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Pathologists Defend Noguchi's Handling of Kennedy Autopsy

BY RAY ZEMAN
Times County Bureau Chief

Pathologists familiar with Dr. Thomas T. Noguchi's handling of the autopsy in the Sen. Robert F. Kennedy assassination came to his defense Saturday when they learned the county coroner may face ouster proceedings Tuesday.

Dr. William G. Eckert, former chairman of the pathology section of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences, said in Wichita that he and Dr. Cyril Wecht of Pittsburgh, present chairman, were shocked to learn the Board of Supervisors may be asked to initiate dismissal action.

Noguchi said Friday that L. S. Hollinger, county chief administrative officer, had demanded his resignation from the \$31,104-a-year post as the county's chief medical examiner-coroner.

Hollinger has received complaints about Noguchi's asserted delay in handling the Kennedy autopsy and on other phases of his work, officials said.

County supervisors are expected to hear Hollinger's report in executive session Tuesday.

If they then favor dismissal of Noguchi, the Civil Service Commission may be requested to call a public hearing on the question.

Eckert, deputy coroner and forensic pathologist at Francis Hospital in Wichita, said: "It grinds us the wrong way to have Noguchi subjected to criticism."

Eckert assisted in the Kennedy autopsy last year after being deputized by Dr. Noguchi as a consultant.

In a telephone interview, Eckert said:

"It was probably the best, most thorough and most minutely handled forensic case I've ever seen."

"I've talked to Dr. Wecht and he also feels very strongly about this character assassination of Dr. Noguchi."

"Dr. Wecht reviewed the entire report in the Kennedy case as a coroner's pathologist. He is chairman and director of the Pittsburgh Legal Medicine Institute."

"Dr. Wecht is in New York today. He told me by telephone that he is writing to the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors to protest any action against Dr. Noguchi. We both consider him a brilliant man."

Eckert offered to come to Los Angeles to testify if the Civil Service Commission considers any action against the coroner.

Suggesting there may be some malcontents in the coroner's department, the Wichita pathologist said, "Maybe he should have cleaned house when he went in."

Then, referring to the opposition of the USC and UCLA medical schools to Noguchi's appointment as coroner in 1967, Eckert said, "The problem probably revolves around the medical schools' wanting political control of the coroner's office."

At the time of the appointment, medical school spokesmen had complained that Noguchi, then 40, was too young and inexperienced for the post. Because the coroner traditionally served on the medical faculties of the two schools, the schools claimed they had a special interest in his appointment.

Noguchi had previously served as assistant professor and associate clinical professor of pathology at USC.

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B-2 Los Angeles Times
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Behind Scenes

Motion Refused

Should transcripts of closed sessions in a murder trial be made public or should they remain forever secret? For the second time since they began barely more than a week ago, the state's proceedings against the alleged assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were interrupted by that question.

And this time, it resulted in chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper's not only demanding a mistrial, but accusing Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker of misconduct. Judge Walker disclosed in a closed session with opposing attorneys that he had talked with a reporter of The Times about Sirhan B. Sirhan's bargaining for a guilty plea, and Cooper told the judge he "should not have done it."

"In connection with plea bargaining," he said, "it is always a secret matter."

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton disagreed. Said he:

"We feel that everything has got to be on the record and public and that there should be no secret negotiations, conferences or matters which are in that category."

Judge Walker refused Cooper's motion, Cooper said he had made the misconduct charge merely to have it on the record "in case we make an appeal," and the trial moved on.

Alvin Clark, a Negro trash collector who said he had struck up a friendship with the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant defendant while at his home last April, quoted him as saying, "What do you want to vote for that son of a B for, because I'm planning to shoot him."

"I told him," said Clark, "Well, you'll be killing one of the best men in the country."

Other witnesses testified that Sirhan spent at least five hours practicing at a firing range the day before Kennedy was fatally wounded.

One of them, David Montelano, was shown a handgun and promptly identified it as the one Sirhan was using on the rifle range.

The gun, a .22 caliber revolver, is the one that pumped the bullets into Kennedy.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan Trial... Judge Herbert V. Walker Man in Charge

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 1933 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.

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 1923.

He was deputy corporation commissioner for 15 years following graduation from

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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 Casimalia, 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 Juridicature 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 celebrating 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, 33, 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 4977 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.

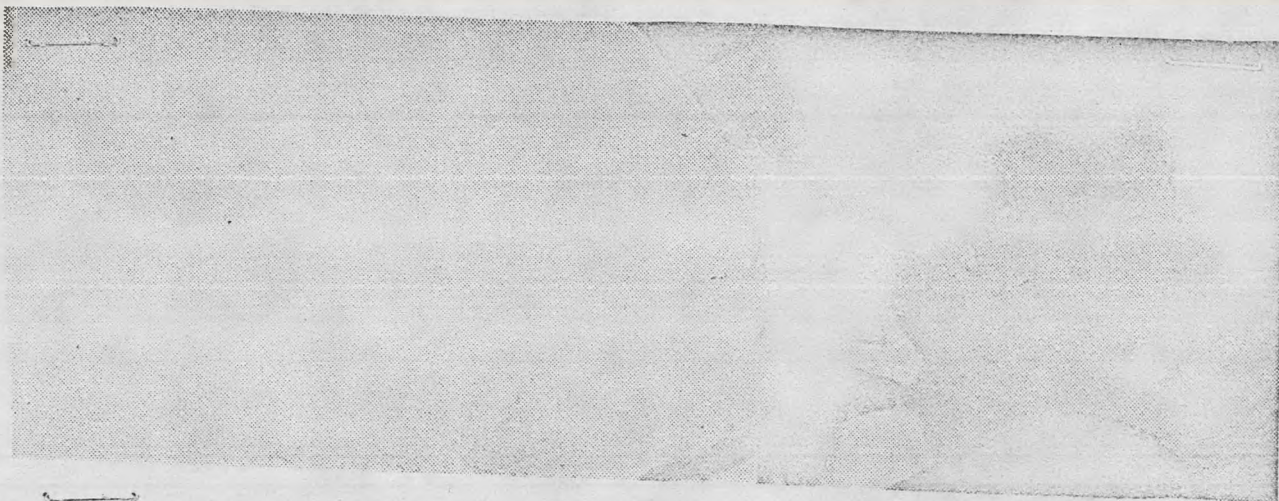


Superior Court
Judge
Herbert V. Walker.
Called a
"careful legal
technician"
by his
colleagues,
he is
remembered
for the
Confidential Magazine
libel trial
and other
notable cases
including the
Robert Emmett Thornton
and
Caryl Chessman
cases.
He is 69,
has served on
the criminal
court bench
for 13 years.



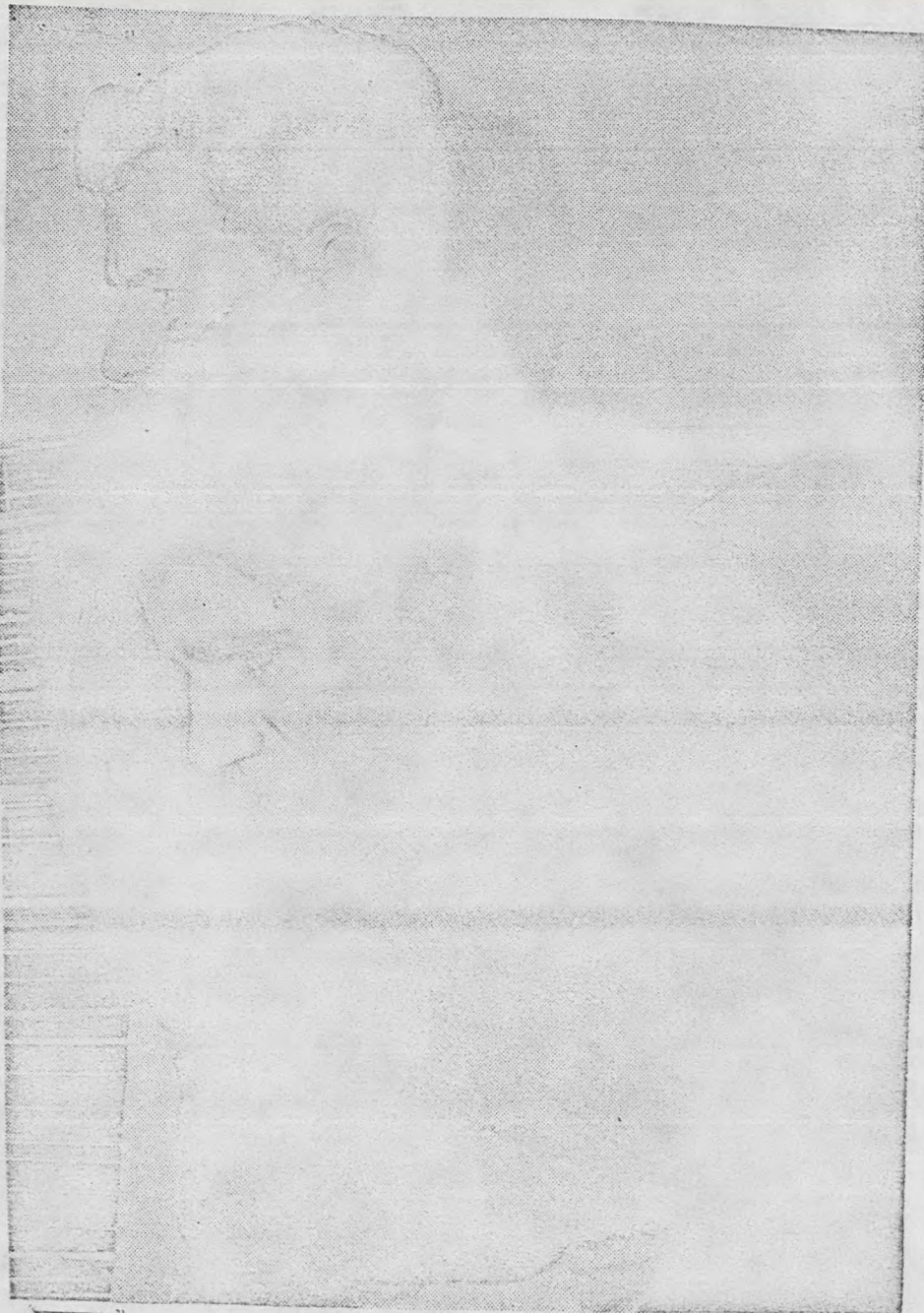
Sen. Robert F. Kennedy
lies clutching
a rosary
shortly after
he was shot
early on June 5
of last year.
He succumbed
early the
next day.

—UPI Telephoto—



-UPI Telephoto

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



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.

—UPI Telephoto