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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wednesday,
January 22, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #33

Re: the assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 33rd summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 10 -- A Los Angeles newspaper (Times) today claimed that "Attorney Grant B. Cooper, faced with the threat of contempt proceedings in federal court, sought advice from another attorney on whether he should withdraw from the defense of Sirhan Bishara 'Sirhan.'"

Sirhan is accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The source of the article was someone "close to Cooper."

Continued the writer, Dave Smith, "That lawyer, the Times also learned, considered for 24 hours before advising Cooper to remain on the three-man defense team for the 24-year old Jordanian."

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) said today that "scale models of the scene of the June 5, 1968 slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy may be used as evidence" during Sirhan's trial.

The models, added the newspaper, "were previewed today by Los Angeles Police Detective Chief Robert Houghton," who headed a special task force set up to investigate the slaying. He related the information at a press conference.

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Houghton "said he did not know whether the prosecution would place the models in evidence, but there was every indication they would be," the newspaper stated.

One model, built to eight-inch scale, provides an overall view of the Embassy Room of the Ambassador Hotel, where Kennedy made his victory speech shortly before he was shot in the nearby kitchen.

The second model is a one-inch scale mockup of the kitchen.

Both models, the newspaper continued, "were originally constructed for the use of the Kennedy task force in placing witnesses to the slaying in exact position."

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12 -- A journalist on the staff of Sirhan B. Sirhan's defense counsel, today revealed information about the accused assassin in an article by William J. Drummond, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Robert Blair Kaiser, a former Time magazine staff writer, said Sirhan told him, according to Drummond, "It's all violence, chaos, unrest. Whatever happened to the old saying, 'peace and quiet?'"

Kaiser's article is slated for the January 17 issue of Life.

Since August 14, Kaiser revealed he had talked to Sirhan at least a dozen times and had also spoken to Sirhan's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

Kaiser said Sirhan talked "about different subjects--his background, family, acculturation in America, his friends, his foes. He is intellectually inclined, expansive, articulate, well-read but untrained."

The Life magazine article Kaiser added "would not include matters having a bearing on the issues in the trial..." Drummond reported.

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The newspaper writer continued that Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney and head of the prosecution team, "said Kaiser, as an agent of the defense counsel, was included in the coverage of a court order banning comment by parties in the case on the issues in the trial.

"However, Compton said the significance of the Kaiser material could not be known until the article is actually seen," concluded the newspaper.

Kaiser also told the newspaper that his article would not include matters having a bearing on the issues in the trial for the murder of Sen. Kennedy. "I won't try the case in the public prints."

Of Mrs. Sirhan, Kaiser wrote that she keeps magazines detailing the assassination of the Senator on a table.

"She picks up the magazines now and then and talks to the face of Robert Kennedy as drawn" by a Time artist.

"Kennedy, moreover, talks to her. 'It's okay, Mary,' she says he says. I forgive you. It's okay."

Kaiser continued, "Obviously, this is a very traumatic experience for a woman who has gone through a lot of traumatic episodes."

* * *

MONDAY, JANUARY 13 -- "The Sirhan murder trial is an extraordinary case. And, consequently, the selection of its jury also will be extraordinary -- not only as to the security which must be maintained over the jury, but also as to the very manner in which jurors are chosen," according to John Douglas, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

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Prospective jurors, he continues, were chosen by the County Registrar of Juror's computer at the request of the Superior Court Jury Commissioner.

The computer used the 'key number of five.' This means that every fifth person listed on the registrar's voter list in every fifth precinct was tapped as a prospect."

Twelve jurors at a time will take their place in the Hall of Justice courtroom to answer questions by the defense and prosecution "as to their fitness to serve. They will answer some, but not all, the questions put to them from the box, and in public.

"The rest of the questioning will be done in secret, in the chambers of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides at the trial.

"Judge Walker wants the private session to ascertain from each prospective juror what publicity he has seen and heard on the case, and what influence the opinions of friends, relatives and neighbors may hold over him.

"When the 12 jurors and six alternates are finally selected and sworn, they will be 'sequestered' -- locked up for the balance of the trial -- perhaps as long as three months. "

"On weekends they may be visited by their 'spouses of record.' Overnight visits are provided for in a precedent-breaking order by Judge Walker."

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MONDAY, JANUARY 13 -- Out of eight prospective jurors in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case, only one, Mrs. Rosa Molina, a widow and nurse, was passed provisionally today by the defense and prosecution.

Four were quickly dismissed, two were asked to check with their employers whether they could retain their jobs over a prolonged trial, and the eighth will be questioned further on Tuesday, January 14.

"Any lingering doubts the prosecution will seek the" death penalty in the case of the man accused of the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy vanished," reported John Douglas, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

He noted that "Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts bluntly told a prospective juror the state would not only ask the penalty, but 'urge it.'"

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported that Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three attorneys told prospective jurors:

"At the outset you should know that there will be no denial of the fact that our client fired a shot or shots that killed Senator Kennedy."

This was the first time the senator's name had been mentioned in open court since the trial began January 7.

Cooper, continued the newspaper's staff writer, Dave Smith, "said admissibility of a prospective juror depended, in part, upon the juror's ability to separate knowledge of the 24-year old Jordanian defendant's act in shooting Kennedy from a consideration of intent.

"Both the act and the intent must be established, Cooper said, before the jury may return a verdict of first-degree murder. Such a verdict requires a penalty of death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment."

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Mrs. Molina, the first accepted juror, was questioned in open court and was then taken into Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers for part of the questioning "that the defense and prosecution have agreed should not take place in open court," reported the Los Angeles Times.

The questions, explained the newspaper, "reportedly involve the influence wide publicity has exerted on the juror's opinion.

"All parties to the closed sessions -- attorneys for both sides, the prospective juror and the defendant -- have been ordered not to reveal these discussions," continued the newspaper article.

The first business of the court today was quick disposal of a defense motion to set aside the trial jury list. The defense contended that the list does not represent a fair cross section of the population.

However, after studying a four-volume, 1,010 page transcript of another case, the defense was unable to find relevant points in that case to support their original motion.

Judge Walker denied the motion, and jury selection began.

Other activity today included a press conference, hosted by Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess, and conducted by William Morris, sheriff of Shelby County, Tenn., who has the responsibility for the security of James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Rev. Martin Luther King.

Morris said, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) that Sirhan "seems far-less aware of the grim nature of the murder charge against him than does" Ray.

As for security arrangements in the Los Angeles Hall of Justice, where Sirhan is incarcerated and where the trial is taking place, Sheriff Morris termed them excellent."

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 -- Three more women jurors were provisionally accepted to day in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, bringing the total to four.

Joining Mrs. Rose Molina, a nurse, as potential jurors are Miss Carolyn L. Freeman, a clerk for Pacific Telephone; Mrs. Alicia Duke, an accountant for the State Lands Division; and Mrs. Barbara L. Collins, a service representative for Pacific Telephone.

"Three of the most important areas of questioning involve the effect of the pretrial publicity on the jurors' opinions on the case, the jurors views on the death penalty and their attitudes on psychiatry," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three attorneys, challenged Miss Freeman on the death penalty, when she said that in a case where she was completely convinced that willful, deliberate, premeditated murder had been proved, "I think I would lean toward the death penalty."

Judge Herbert V. Walker denied Cooper's challenge.

Under questioning by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, one of the three prosecutors appointed by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, Miss Freeman modified her answer, saying that her verdict "would depend on the mental attitude" of the defendant and whether he had been aggravated or provoked into murder.

"Now after all that fol-de-rol," said Cooper, "let me ask you again. If you were totally sure that first-degree murder had been proved, would you lean toward the death penalty or toward life?"

She replied, "I don't lean either way."

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The same newspaper reported, "Cooper has said repeatedly that the defense will not deny that Sirhan killed Sen. Kennedy, but that it will show that obsessive thinking and an emotional frame of mind affected his capacity to formulate the specific intent to commit first-degree murder.

"For premeditated murder to be proven, the jury must be convinced that both the act of murder and the intent to murder were clearly demonstrated by evidence.

"Since the defense has granted the former as an acknowledged fact, it is banking its defense of Sirhan on the hope that the jury will accept their evidence of Sirhan's limited capacity to plan first-degree murder and then find him guilty on a lesser charge.

"The first-degree murder charge could be reduced to second-degree murder, which carries a sentence of five years to life. First-degree murder convictions carry a penalty of life imprisonment or death in the gas chamber," added the newspaper.

In questioning Mrs. Collins, Fitts asked if she would be inclined to be lenient in her verdict on Sirhan because of his apparent youth?" He is 24.

"No," she replied.

After 12 jurors are provisionally seated, both defense and prosecution may exercise 20 peremptory challenges each, to dispose of jurors about whom they have doubt.

Six alternate jurors will also be seated.

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), reported that "hypnosis has been used on Sirhan by psychiatrists seeking

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to determine his mental state at the time he shot" Kennedy.

Use of this technique was told by Emile Zola Berman, one of Sirhan's three attorneys, at a news conference following adjournment of court.

Berman also related that the psychologists and psychiatrists "working with Sirhan had also administered the Rorschach or ink-blot test," said the newspaper. Berman declined to discuss the findings, stating he would leave this to the psychiatrists when they testify on Sirhan's behalf.

The New Yorker told reporters he was "sanguine" over success in obtaining tentative jurors, but warned that jury selection is expected to take at least 18 more court days.

"This would mean the trial would not get underway until sometime in February," wrote the newspaper's reporter.

At the press conference, Berman was asked if the Arab-Israeli political situation would figure in the trial, and he said the defense would not introduce the topic. However, he added, it would figure insofar as it goes to explain Sirhan's motivation, the Los Angeles Times noted.

"We will offer scientific evidence as well as the history, background and problems of the defendant," he said, to support the defense contention that the "intellectual content necessary to a premeditated act is not present in this case. That's going to be our defense."

Berman also disclosed that the test for the XYY chromosome syndrome has been administered to Sirhan, but he did not say if the results were to be introduced into evidence.

(The XYY syndrome is a recent scientific development by some geneticists who claim that certain males are born with an extra Y chromosome for maleness, and that the presence of this extra chromosome carries with it a tendency to resort to aggressive behavior).

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15 -- Three men, Lawrence Morgan, a systems analyst for IBM; Leslie H. Laney, a Post Office employee; and Alfonso Galindo, a civilian mechanic for the Navy, today became the first men to be provisionally seated as jurors in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case.

Previously, four women had been provisionally seated following questioning by defense and prosecution and Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Part of court time today also included the questioning of Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, the 21st prospective juror (others have been excused), and was to be continued on Thursday.

Mrs. Alvidrez was the first prospective juror to say she has conscientious objections to the death penalty. She told the court that "under no circumstances whatsoever" could she return a guilty verdict if a death penalty might result.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts challenged the seating of Mrs. Alvidrez, but Judge Walker disallowed the challenge and said arguments would continue Thursday on her qualifications.

After adjournment, Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's attorneys, cited a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and a California Supreme Court decision in which murder convictions were reversed because the jury excluded persons opposed to the death penalty.

He added that as a result of these rulings, Mrs. Alvidrez could not be legally excluded from the Sirhan jury.

Sirhan's demeanor in court today was described in one Los Angeles newspaper (Times) as "markedly lighthearted, in contrast to earlier days."

As he entered the courtroom, Sirhan spotted an acquaintance and

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greeted him in Arabic. The man was identified as Abdeen Jabara, 25, a Detroit-born attorney of Lebanese parentage.

Jabara told reporters he was a defense consultant, has been in Los Angeles two weeks and had made one previous visit here since the June 5 assassination of Sen. Kennedy.

Jabara is not an attorney of record in the case and became a consultant to the defense on his own initiative. Both Cooper and Emile Zola Berman, members of the defense team, confirmed that Jabara is here on his own initiative. They added that the visiting attorney had done some translating from Arabic to English for them.

During court today Sirhan "swapped repartee" with Fitts as the deputy district attorney questioned a prospective juror, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Fitts asked the prospective juror if he would have the courage to face Sirhan three or four months from now "and tell him face to face that for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, you must die in the gaschamber?"

As Fitts spoke, Sirhan abruptly leaned forward in his swivel chair and smiled broadly at the man being questioned, Lawrence Morgan.

Fitts continued quickly to Morgan: "You can see him now, he just leaned over, and even smiled at you. He may smile at you all through the trial."

"I smile at you, too, Mr. Fitts," Sirhan blurted out.

"Yes, you do," said Fitts. "You smile a lot."

Judge Walker cut off the dialog with the admonition: "Restrict yourself to the questions, Mr. Fitts."

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Fitts repeated his question and Morgan said he could tell Sirhan directly if he should decide on a death penalty.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 -- "A courtroom wrangle over a woman juror opposed to the death penalty raised the possibility" today "that the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan could become a landmark case in U. S. law and that Sirhan, if convicted in the slaying of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, might never be executed," reported Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Meanwhile, John Douglas, staff writer for another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), noted that "Arab-Israeli tensions have intruded into" the case.

At the conclusion of today's session in the Los Angeles Hall of Justice courtroom of Judge Herbert V. Walker, three more jurors were tentatively seated -- bringing the total to 10 persons, five men and five women.

Selected today were Mrs. Sharon A. Engle, an IBM employee; Benjamin Glick, who operates a ready-to-wear clothing business; and Gilbert F. Grace, who works for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts renewed his challenge of Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, who yesterday said that "under no circumstances whatsoever" could she vote for the death penalty.

Judge Walker disallowed the challenge yesterday, but was considering arguments and is expected to hand down a ruling. Mrs. Alvidrez said she felt qualified to judge the question of the accused assassin's guilt or innocence.

Deputy District Attorney John E. Howard, one of the three
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prosecutors appointed by District Attorney Evelle J. Younger, argued that if the woman or someone of the same opinion were seated, and that if Sirhan were convicted of first-degree murder, the court could face the possibility of a mistrial or the problem of jeopardy -- in effect presenting a second trial on the same set of facts, reported the Los Angeles Times.

"The latter case could result, Howard said, if the jury that determined guilty had to be dismissed and replaced by another jury to fix the penalty," added the newspaper.

(California law offers only the death penalty or life imprisonment on a first-degree murder conviction and also allows two juries -- one for the guilt-innocence phase and one for the penalty phase.)

(Meanwhile, on the subject of the Arab-Israeli issue, defense attorneys, reported the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, "bore down hard on whether prospective jurors held strong feelings on the tense Mid-east situation.

"This line of questioning became particularly acute during the questioning of Glick -- first, and so far the only, Jew to be tentatively seated on the jury."

As for Sirhan's attitude in court today "his bouyancy of Wednesday when he called out to a friend in the rear of the courtroom and wrangled verbally with Prosecutor Fitts, was gone" reported the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner.

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wednesday,
January 29, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #34

Re: The assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 34th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17 -- "In a surprise maneuver" today, the prosecution in the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan "passed its pre-emptory challenges of prospective jurors and said it was willing to accept 'the jury as now constituted,' "according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The newspaper noted that "the unexpected move by Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton opened up the possibility that the prosecution could begin presenting its case as early as the end of next week."

Grant B. Cooper, chief defense attorney, upon hearing that the prosecution would not exercise the remaining 19 of its 20 peremptory challenges, requested a recess to allow the three-man defense team "to weigh the possibility of accepting the jury as a whole."

"Under normal circumstances," reported the newspaper, "if the defense also waives its peremptories, the jury would simply be impaneled."

However, one prospective juror, Miss Helen L. Woodworth, had

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not yet been accepted on legal grounds by both sides. A mutual stipulation this morning directed Miss Woodworth to get a statement from her doctor whether she could endure a lengthy trial.

Judge Herbert V. Walker then directed that the jury selection proceed, even into the peremptory challenges, despite Miss Woodworth's unresolved status.

Compton stated that the prosecution holds that the jury includes Miss Woodworth and that if she is not seated, then the jury will no longer be constituted the same as when he passed the peremptory.

However, Cooper contends that the jury does not yet include Miss Woodworth, since she has not been passed by both sides.

Compton's move came after questioning and acceptance of a Jewish woman juror, Dora Jacobi, who said she is a retired university instructor. Another Jew, Benjamin Glick, clothing retailer, was accepted provisionally by the prosecution and defense Thursday.

Mrs. Alvina Alvidrez, who says she could never decree the death sentence for anyone -- including the accused slayer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was dismissed from the jury panel.

Judge Walker, reversing a previous ruling, decided in favor of a prosecution challenge to her seating. Cooper had battled to retain her, noting that recent high court decisions had ruled against the selection of so-called "hanging juries" by excluding people with conscientious scruples against execution.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, in rebuttal, had argued that

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Mrs. Alvidrez' views went beyond conscientious scruples and were inflexible to a degree not supported by the cases Cooper cited.

She was excused on legal grounds by the judge.

The prosecution exercised the only one of its 20 peremptory challenges to unseat Mrs. Alicia Duke, a divorcee and an accountant for the State Lands Division.

The defense also exercised one of its peremptory challenges in dismissing Mrs. Sharon Engle, wife of a Glendale mortician.

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 19 -- In an article titled "The Tense, Subtle Screening of the Sirhan Jurors," John Douglas, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) today explained the selection of the jury.

"If at the end of this trial, you thought it was a proper case, would you be willing to come down from the jury room, look Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in the eye and say:

" 'For the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy you die in the gas chamber?' "

This is one of more than a score of tests to which each juror is put. "It is undoubtedly the most difficult test," wrote Douglas. Asking the question of prospective jurors is Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, described as "urbane, silver-haired, given to weak jokes and verbal arabesques."

As for Grant B. Cooper, the chief defense attorney, he tells

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prospective jurors, reports Douglas: "The defense will not say that our client, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, did not fire the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy."

Douglas continues that the defense will state that when Sirhan allegedly shot the senator, he (Sirhan) lacked the "intellectual capacity" to have actual malice toward his victim."

The writer adds, "If the defense can refute the allegation of malice, which is specifically charged in the murder indictment returned against Sirhan, there can be no conviction for first degree murder" the defense will have accomplished its goal of "saving the young Jordanian from San Quentin's gas chamber."

In conclusion, Douglas writes:

"Sirhan never asks a question, but his deep-socketed eyes probe the face of every prospect.

"He sits there, concentrating. For soon, the jury selection will be finished. Twelve men and women will then hear the evidence and then decide...

"Guilty...

"Not guilty...

"Manslaughter...

"Second degree murder...

"First degree murder...

"Life...

"Death..."

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 21 --- "Defense attorneys for Sirhan B. Sirhan matched a prosecution maneuver "to day" that to outward appearances, made the seating of the jury only one juror away, "wrote a reporter, Dave Smith, in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The prosecution, he pointed out, "by withdrawing its waiver of the right of peremptory challenge, countered the defense counter-measure, unseated a Jewish woman juror and the entire process resumed with swearing-in of a final jury still estimated at a week or more away."

(On Friday, January 17, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton waived the right to challenge jurors and accepted the prospective jury as then constituted.

(However, one of the 12, Miss Helen Woodworth, had not been accepted on both sides on legal grounds. Today she reported her doctor felt confinement during a long trial would endanger her health.)

Another prospective juror, Mrs. Geraldine Scherer, was accepted in her place, and Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, announced "the defense accepts the jury as now constituted."

Because of Miss Woodworth's replacement, Compton protested that this was no longer the jury he had accepted on Friday. Cooper contended that the jury Compton had accepted never included Miss Woodworth in the first place, but only the 11 that both sides had agreed to.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker directed Compton to request a withdrawal of his waiver of the peremptory challenge privilege, and then, exercising judicial discretion, granted Compton's request.

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Compton then excused Miss Dora Jacobi, a former university instructor and one-time employee of the U.S. Air Force Institute's Neuropsychiatric Center.

Another woman, Mrs. Jeannette F. Hendler, was excused on legal grounds, after telling the court, "I am unequivocally opposed to capital punishment for any reason whatsoever, whether by an individual or by the state."

According to a Los Angeles Newspaper (Times), Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and wounding five other persons in June, 1968, "appeared pensive throughout the tedious questioning."

At one point he whispered to Michael McCowan, defense investigator, who later related that Sirhan reminded him to "get my alien registration card mailed in on time."

(Alien residents of this country must report each year, or they are subject to deportation. Sirhan is a native of Jordan.)

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that "the strain of the long preliminaries" in the trial "has begun to tell on" the defendant.

John Douglas, staff writer, said that Sirhan "showed a new tenseness and concern "today" as jury selection in the case wore into its second week.

"He paid great attention to the legal arguments that arose over peremptory challenges to tentatively seated jurors."

Douglas offered the opinion that "it now appears that both

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and prosecution may use a large number of the 20 peremptory challenges each is allowed under California law in a murder trial."

* * *

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22 -- Five prospective jurors were excused on peremptory challenges today in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case -- three by the prosecution and two by the defense.

"With 15 prosecution and 16 defense peremptory challenges still unused, it was expected that swearing-in of a jury to try" the defendant "could consume the rest of this week and next week as well, before the prosecution could begin its case," according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Dismissed from the jury, at the request of Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, were Mrs. Rosa Molina, widowed nurse; Mrs. Geraldine Scherer, retired antique dealer; and Harold Baldwin, retired bank assistant cashier.

The defense filed peremptory challenges against Mrs. Barbara Collins, telephone company customer service representative; and Mrs. Wilma Boone, electronics worker.

"A defense source," reported another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), "disclosed the reasons for challenging Mrs. Boone were developed in secret questioning in Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers," where each juror is interrogated by Walker, and the defense and prosecution.

(On Monday, January 6, 1969, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, who heads the three-man prosecution team, said, "I am very concerned about any sort of procedure which is not held in open court.

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("There are so many people," he continued, "that are sitting back and second-guessing everybody involved in the lawsuit, your honor, the defense counsel, the prosecution, that we have to be scrupulous in having it all done in open court so nobody can say, well, something happened in chambers or something was done that nobody knew was going on or went on."

(Compton opposed questioning of prospective jurors in chambers and suggested "this be done in open court. I have no objection to, if it is mechanically possible, to have one juror questioned out of the presence of the other jurors, but not out of the open courtroom."

(Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three attorneys, told Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker that jurors should be questioned "in chambers or in the absence of other jurors on whether or not they have read or heard anything about the case that would cause them to be prejudiced to one side or the other."

(Judge Walker then said the procedure of questioning prospective jurors in chambers would be followed, although "I appreciate the objection of the People and this has been voiced in the record.")

"They are asked," added the newspaper, "about the influence publicity in the Kennedy murder may have had upon them, as well as

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questions about religion and politics. Other questions are asked in open court."

Reporter John Douglas noted, "for the first time since jury selection began, this secret questioning prompted a defense challenge for cause (that is, a reason defense lawyers thought strong enough to disqualify a juror).

"Judge Walker denied the challenge for cause, leveled against Mrs. Patricia Anderson, a bank secretary;

"The incidents of Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Boone served to point up the large measure of secrecy surrounding selection of the jury that will try Sirhan . . .

"Perhaps less is known publicly about this jury than any other in the history of major criminal trials in the century," concluded the reporter.

Meanwhile, the newspaper (Herald-Examiner) reported that Sirhan, "apparently disinterested in selection of the jury . . . read in court" as the jury was being selected,

The newspaper said Sirhan "was engrossed in a thick, mimeographed report which defense aides said contained testimony of Arab refugees about their harsh treatment by Israel."

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 23 -- "Little progress was made toward final selection of the jury" today in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case, according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Much of the time was taken up with argument in Superior Judge Herbert Walker's chambers in which the defense sought to disqualify a prospective juror, Mrs. Patricia Anderson, a bank secretary.

The defense wanted her disqualified, the newspaper reported, "on the grounds that her attitude toward the death penalty in first-degree murder cases might be prejudicial to Sirhan.

"On other occasions, these arguments had been in open court.

"However, Judge Walker ordered this one heard in chambers, and, under a blanket order he issued at the opening of the trial, lawyers in the case could not disclose details.

"The problem of Mrs. Anderson became moot, however, when she told the court" that her employers "had decided that her serving during the trial, which could last three months, would be a hardship to the bank. She was excused."

Three jurors were seated today and two were removed after defense and prosecution used peremptory challenges against them.

Tentatively seated were Ronald Evans, telephone company installer; Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, high school mathematics teacher; and Mrs. Irma Martinez, utility company clerk.

Removed by peremptory challenges were James B. Avery, mail carrier; and Miss Carolyn L. Freeman, telephone company clerk.

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Meanwhile, Cooper announced, reported the newspaper, that he would argue next week that the indictment charging his client with Kennedy's murder be quashed because the 1968 Grand Jury, which returned the indictment, was chosen unconstitutionally.

"Sirhan would not be freed, however. He could be reindicted or brought to a new trial on the basis of a district attorney's complaint," said the newspaper.

When the trial first began, Cooper attacked the indictment and said the system by which prospective jurors are nominated by Superior Court judges excludes members of some minority groups from membership.

Judge Walker held Cooper's motion in abeyance at that time.

Today, Cooper said that "at the suggestion of one of the prosecutors, Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, the jurist had agreed to hear the motion next week. No date has been set," added the newspaper.

* * *

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24 -- Both the defense and prosecution today reached agreement on a jury of eight men and four women, including five minority members, to try the case against Sirhan B. Sirhan.

"The defense moved twice during the morning to accept the panel and the prosecution, after the substitution of one more juror and consideration of the panel over the two-hour lunch break, acceded on the second motion," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Members of the jury include:

Benjamin Glick, the sole Jew on the jury -- and the only final juror to be questioned in open court about his religious views on the Israeli-Arab controversy. Glick and his wife own a ready-to-wear shop.

Mrs. Irma O. Martinez, an employee of the Southern California Gas Co., whose husband is a truck driver. They are the parents of a five year old son.

Alphonso Galindo, a civilian mechanic employed by the Navy in Long Beach.

Gilbert F. Grace, a Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power employee.

George Broomis, also a Department of Water and Power employee and the father of two sons.

Ronald G. Evans, a Pacific Telephone Co. switchboard installer and the father of two children.

Susan J. Brumm, a service supervisor for Pacific Telephone Co.

Albert N. Frederico, a plumber employed by the City of Los Angeles.

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Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, a high school mathematics teacher, married to a high school history teacher.

Laurence K. Morgan, a systems analyst for IBM, who is married and a father.

Bruce D. Elliott, a systems analyst for TRW Systems, Inc. He has a Ph.D.

Neil Bortells, a service representative for Pacific Telephone.

Attorneys for both sides later expressed satisfaction with the jury, which includes four Mexican-Americans and one Jew. The jury reportedly includes seven Republicans and five Democrats, including one supporter of Senator Kennedy, who was allegedly slain by Sirhan.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker recessed the trial until Wednesday, January 29 and sent the jurors home until Thursday, January 30, admonishing them not to discuss the case with anyone and to be careful of telephone callers "who might try to advise you, as I have already experienced." They are expected to be sworn in on Thursday. Six alternate jurors must also be selected.

The judge ordered attorneys for both sides to prepare their final arguments for Wednesday on a defense motion to quash the first-degree murder indictment against Sirhan.

Cooper based the motion on a contention that the method of selection of the grand jurors who originally indicted Sirhan is unconstitutional and does not represent a proper cross-section of the community.

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wednesday,
February 5, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #35

Re: The assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 35th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 -- All 133 Los Angeles Superior Court judges were subpoenaed today by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense counsel to testify as to how they pick their nominees for the Grand Jury.

(The 1968 Grand Jury indicted Sirhan).

With each subpoena, the defense included a questionnaire for each judge to fill out and return, instead of appearing personally. The questions dealt with the racial, ethnic and economic backgrounds of all Grand Jury nominees since 1959.

(In Los Angeles County, each Superior Court judge nominates two candidates, and ultimately 23 jurors are chosen by lot).

In court today, Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three attorney's, argued, as he had earlier, for a motion to quash the indictment against his client, who is accused of killing Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Cooper has contended that the system of seating the Grand Jury excludes many classes of workers and minorities and is thus unconstitutional.

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44-156-4-3

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(A Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that the 1968 Grand Jury, which indicted Sirhan, included Negroes, Mexican-Americans and one Arab.

(Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said that the prosecution contends that since Sirhan is not a Negro or Mexican-American he can't complain about the exclusion of these groups, even if it were true, which it isn't.

(Additionally, Compton related, the defense doesn't demonstrate how their client was harmed, nor do they say Sirhan might not have been indicted).

Cooper told the court he intends to find out whether judges nominate only from their circle of acquaintances, or whether they make an effort to nominate qualified persons from all strata of society.

As for the questionnaire, Cooper said he would compile answers and add them to other testimony in support of his motion to quash the indictment.

The only witness in court today was Dr. Robert Schultz, USC population studies expert, who has been retained by the defense. He testified he had compared ethnic, demographic and economic data concerning nominees for the 1968 Grand Jury with 1960 census profiles of Los Angeles County.

Asked to draw a conclusion, Schultz replied:

"The makeup of the Grand Jury nominees in no way shows a profile of Los Angeles County."

On the basis of findings by the professor, Cooper then attacked the Grand Jury on these grounds:

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1. That it was unfair to Sirhan because he is but 24 and no member of the Grand Jury was 30 or under.

2. That it was unfair because Sirhan comes from "an economically low level" and no member of the Grand Jury, Schultz estimates, had an income of less than \$10,000 annually.

Cooper said he was not raising the racial issue, which has been cited "in successful attacks on Grand Juries . . .," a Los Angeles newspaper reported (Herald-Examiner).

Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, one of three prosecutors appointed by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, disputed this.

He said that the Grand Jury question is irrelevant because any Grand Jury would have indicted Sirhan. He pointed to the fact that Cooper concedes "Sirhan pulled the trigger that fired the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy."

Cooper continued, stating that a substantial "federal constitutional" question is raised in his attack on the Grand Jury system.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, responding for the prosecution, said while the federal courts had agreed to look at the makeup of federal grand juries, they had not involved themselves with state grand jury selection. He pointed out that there was no question but that the 1968 Grand Jury was chosen in accordance with California law.

"The federal government lets us run our own railroad," Howard said.

But Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who is presiding, declared, "in the past five years the federal government has said we can't run our own railroad. I am not sure they won't do it in this case."

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Meanwhile, Professor Schultz in profiling the grand jurors nominated by judges under subpoena, found that 88 per cent of the jurors were 45 years of age or older; 74 per cent had at least one year of college and many held graduate degrees.

He said 67 per cent were either professional or technical men or managers and that 154 of 160 nominees live in basically all-white neighborhoods which he listed as "centered on Beverly Hills and including Brentwood, West Los Angeles and the Palisades Peninsula."

The professor added that 75 per cent of the nominees lived in homes valued at more than \$25,000 and 70 per cent had annual incomes greater than \$10,000.

Countering his argument that these figures were in marked contrast to the 1960 census profile, Compton termed the professor's testimony irrelevant because the 1960 census is out of date.

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) today said the 12 members of the jury selected to hear the case, "Eight men and four women -- total strangers -- will enjoy their last day with family and friends . . . before embarking on three months of grim and tedious confinement together."

The newspaper indicated the 12 would be sworn in tomorrow and "will be kept day and night in a rigidly controlled environment in which diversions will be chosen for them, and precious few at best."

The writer of the article, Dave Smith, noted "their attention will be riveted on only one thing: giving Sirhan Bishara Sirhan his due. That won't be easy."

He added that "the defense hopes to impress the jury with a wide

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array of medical, psychological, political, sociological, and perhaps even chemical and genetic evidence to show that Sirhan was incapable of responsible premeditation of murder, that emotional factors diminished his capacity to plan.

"This is a legitimate defense under California law, one that takes account of mental imbalance less bizarre than the dithering lunacy normally required to buttress a defense of legal insanity.

"The defense of diminished responsibility also is one that each of these 12 jurors has sworn to give impartial, open-minded attention to. And in doing as they have sworn, they open themselves to agonizing hours when the time comes to decide whether to kill a man or let him live.

"The prosecution has already warned these jurors that it is merely an abstraction to say, 'I could vote the death penalty.' They must liken themselves, the prosecution stressed, not only to eye-witnesses at the beheading of a person but also to 'the man who has put his hand on the axe.'

"Until that moment of truth arrives," wrote the reporter, "the jurors will sit through one of the most cumbersome yet cautious trials in American history."

* * *

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, will "in all probability" be called to the witness stand on Tuesday, February 4, to testify to the family's low economic status since their immigration in 1957, Grant B. Cooper, one of the three defense lawyers, said today.

Cooper indicated the testimony will support the defense contention that the admitted slayer of the senator was indicted for murder

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by unconstitutionally seated grand jurors who came from a much wealthier class than he, and that the indictment should therefore be quashed.

(Should the indictment be quashed, the trial will be halted, reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

("However, Sirhan would not go free. He could be re-indicted or brought to trial on the basis of a district attorney's complaint. Meanwhile, he would remain behind bars under the police warrant charging him with murder.")

Today's trial was recessed until next Tuesday to allow preparation for further argument on the defense motion.

"The trial, said the newspaper, "bogged down again today; in a morass of technical detail as defense lawyers awaited responses from Superior Court judges on how they choose nominees for the Grand Jury."

The defense served 123 jurists with subpoenas and questionnaires on grand juror nomination as part of its attack on the 1968 Grand Jury that indicted Sirhan.

The judges had the option to testify in court or fill out the questionnaire. Three judges appeared in court.

Kenneth N. Chantry, retired Los Angeles County Superior Court presiding judge, and Superior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon said they sought members of minority groups for Grand Jury service, but were often unsuccessful.

Superior Judge Edward Brand said he did not believe in "hyphenated Americans" and paid little or no attention to the ethnic backgrounds of his nominees. Alarcon also said he sought younger nominees.

"All three judges pointed out that beside its functions of

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criminal indictment, the Grand Jury was charged under California law with responsibility for investigating and auditing the various departments of county government," said a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

"Great judgment and maturity is needed to perform this task, they said," reported the newspaper.

Meanwhile, the prosecution countered that despite defense studies indicating that some exclusion does occur, the 1968 Grand Jury did include two Negroes and one Arab-American, whose father was Syrian and whose mother was Lebanese.

Also testifying today was William A. Goodwin, Superior Court jury commissioner, who noted that for the last three years Superior Court presiding jurists have urged judges to consider ethnic, racial and economic level in choosing grand jurors.

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., Feb. 12, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #36

Re: The assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 36th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's murder case has cost Los Angeles County taxpayers \$370,416 through December 31, 1968, according to County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn who made the comment today as reported in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Hahn noted the largest expenditure so far was \$184,768 in "extraordinary" expenses which provided:

1. Construction of a temporary courtroom with armor-plated windows near the defendant's guarded cell on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

2. Installation of a closed circuit television system to carry trial proceedings to an auxiliary room for newsmen on the fourth floor of the Hall of Justice.

The newspaper related that regular departmental costs totaled \$138,697, mostly in staff time of district attorney's investigators and the public defender, which briefly represented Sirhan.

The remainder of the cost, \$46,951, was for general county overhead.

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MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 -- A \$1,050,000 damage suit against Sirhan was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court today by a 17-year old youth who was beaten and shot at the same time Senator Robert F. Kennedy was fatally wounded.

Irwin Stroll said in his complaint he was "wrongfully, unlawfully and violently assaulted" by Sirhan last June 5 "and struck in and about the face, arms and body and was shot in the leg."

Stroll, a member of Volunteers for Kennedy, asked \$50,000 in general damages and \$1 million in punitive damages.

* * *

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4 -- Both Sirhan B. Sirhan and his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, took the witness stand in his murder trial today, and were questioned about the family's financial condition.

A Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy "broke eight months of silence" as he answered questions.

On the witness stand for only a few moments, he told the court his most affluent year was 1966 when he earned \$2212.46 working for the Yellow King Ranch at Chino and Altfillisch Construction Company Horse Ranch at Corona.

Testimony today was part of a defense attempt to show that the affluence of the grand jurors that indicted Sirhan contrasts radically with the status of the Jordanian immigrant's family.

(The 1968 Los Angeles County Grand Jury indicted Sirhan shortly after the death of Senator Kennedy).

Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's three attorneys, argued that

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in not including persons whose income fell below the \$10,000-a-year mark, the grand jury was inherently discriminatory against the poor.

The Sirhans are members of this group, Cooper maintained.

The Jordanian's longest answer in his brief witness-box appearance was to Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, one of the three prosecutors.

Compton asked him how old he was, and Sirhan replied, "Twenty-five next month, sir."

Sirhan also testified he "turned over part of any money" he made to his mother. However, Mrs. Sirhan said that none of her sons, including Sirhan, ever gave her much money.

She also told the court the family was purchasing a home in Pasadena, for which they had agreed to pay \$12,000. The monthly payments are \$70 and her monthly take-home pay for work at a church nursery school was \$184.

One of the most dramatic moments in court today was when Mrs. Sirhan ended her testimony, and said "I thank God who gives me strength . . . I thank the United States also that I never go hungry and that I have a roof over my head."

Defense lawyers, related a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) "were caught by surprise by the diminutive woman's outburst."

At the conclusion of court today, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, who is presiding, denied Cooper's motion to quash the indictment against Sirhan for two reasons: that the motion was irrelevant to the proceedings and, on its merits.

Cooper claimed that the Grand Jury selection system is

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unconstitutional because it doesn't represent a broad-cross section of the population.

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported that "opening statements in the trial proper are expected next Monday or Tuesday" (February 10 or 11).

* * *

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 -- The eight-man, four-woman jury which will try Sirhan B. Sirhan was sworn in today and attorneys for the defense and prosecution began selecting six alternate jurors.

The 12 were accepted on January 24, but swearing-in was delayed by argument on the defense motion to quash the Grand Jury indictment.

Three alternate jurors were tentatively seated today, but each side has 12 peremptory challenges by which they may excuse jurors.

Members of the jury include the following:

Benjamin Glick, the sole Jew on the jury -- and the only final juror to be questioned in open court about his religious views on the Israeli-Arab controversy. Glick and his wife own a ready-to-wear shop.

Mrs. Irma O. Martinez, an employee of the Southern California Gas Co., whose husband is a truck driver. They are the parents of a five-year-old son.

Alphonso Galindo, a civilian mechanic employed by the Navy in Long Beach.

Gilbert F. Grace, a Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power employee.

George Broomis, also a Department of Water and Power employee and the father of two sons.

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Ronald G. Evans, a Pacific Telephone Co. switchboard installer and the father of two children.

Susan J. Brumm, a service supervisor for Pacific Telephone Co.

Albert N. Frederico, a plumber employed by the City of Los Angeles.

Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, a high school mathematics teacher, married to a high school history teacher.

Laurence K. Morgan, a systems analyst for IBM, who is married and a father.

Bruce D. Elliott, a systems analyst for TRW Systems, Inc. He has a Ph.D.

Neil Bortells, a service representative for Pacific Telephone.

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NEWS RELEASE

Office of the District Attorney
600 Hall of Justice
Los Angeles, California 90012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call: Jerry Littman
News Secretary
626-3888, Ext. 82396

RELEASE: Wed., Feb. 19, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #37

Re: The assassination of
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 37th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6 -- Two prospective alternate jurors in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan were unseated today by peremptory challenges by both the prosecution and defense.

Mrs. Zena F. Lewis was challenged on legal grounds by the prosecution after she told Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker that she could decide on the matter of guilt or innocence, but that under no circumstances could she vote a death penalty.

Five alternate jurors have been chosen and one seat remains to be filled, but both sides have 11 peremptory challenges.

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7 -- "Lawyers in the Sirhan murder trial labored without success today to complete selection of six alternate jurors . . ." reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Five prospective alternates were examined, but none were chosen. Mrs. Linda S. Katrenich was excused because she was so opposed to the death penalty that she would never vote for it in a murder case.

Another prospective juror, Mrs. Bernadine Holmquist, said her

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56-156-2-5

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opinions of Sirhan were so strong that his defense lawyers would have to prove to her he should not be sent to the gas chamber for first degree murder, added the newspaper.

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SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8 -- "Defense attorneys in the Sirhan murder trial expect the admitted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy to go to prison for the killing, but they hope to save him from San Quentin's gas chamber," a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) stated today.

Continued the article:

"This startling admission came from Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, as defense and prosecution continued their so far unsuccessful search for six alternates for the jury which will try the 24-year old Jordanian immigrant."

Cooper told a prospective juror "that not only would the defense concede Sirhan shot Kennedy, but also it would not attempt to win an acquittal for him."

At recess yesterday, the defense lawyer said that this "has been our plan all along, but we haven't said it publicly before. I thought it was time we did," the newspaper quoted Cooper as saying.

Added the newspaper:

"Defense sources said Sirhan was aware of his lawyers' strategy and accepted it. However, Cooper's courtroom announcement appeared to upset the defendant . . ."

* * *

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 -- Writing of jurors in the Sirhan case, John Douglas in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that they

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will soon "begin an experiment in communal living which may last a quarter of a year and end with their deciding whether a young man will live or die."

The 18 jurors (12 plus 6 alternates) will live in isolation in a downtown Los Angeles hotel (Biltmore), and their material needs will be the responsibility of Superior Court bailiffs. The Right Rev. Francis Eric Bloy, bishop of the Los Angeles Episcopal Diocese, will be chaplain to the jury.

"For the jurors, the Biltmore experience will in many ways be like living in a prep-school dormitory. But the prefects will carry guns and wear uniforms of Los Angeles deputy sheriffs.

"There will be half a dozen stationed on the Biltmore's sixth floor, where the county has taken over a full wing of 25 rooms for the jury.

"Each juror will have his own room for which the county will pay \$9 a day. The deputy sheriffs will be housed in rooms costing \$8 a day.

"When the jurors want privacy they can stay in their own rooms. If they seek the society of their colleagues, they will be able to do so in two recreation rooms. Television will be available -- but censored by a deputy who will make sure that no television news of the trial is available to the jurors and alternates.

"Jurors will also be able to read newspapers and magazines, but all reference to the Sirhan case will have been cut from these before the jurors see them.

"On weekends, and -- should the trial last that long -- on holidays, they will be taken on trips.

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"Deputy Sheriff Willard Polhemus, Judge Walker's bailiff for the last nine years, will be 'social director' for the jurors. He has done this job before.

"Weekends the jurors can be visited by their husbands and wives, if they have them. The visits can extend overnight, if the spouse is willing to pay the Biltmore \$3 for a bed.

"Meals will be paid for by the county at the rate of \$8.50 a day. If a juror wants more food, or more expensive food, he has to pay for it himself.

"If a juror wants a drink, he can have one, provided he doesn't want too many. But, he will have to pay for them himself. The County of Los Angeles does not buy liquor.

"When the trial is concluded, the jurors will know each other better than nearly any group in the world.

"Among them will develop friendships and perhaps even love . . .

"And perhaps hate," concluded the article.

* * *

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10 -- Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, whose office is prosecuting Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, met today with prosecution and defense counsel in the chambers of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Both sides said later they had discussed scale model parts of the Ambassador Hotel, where the senator was shot last June 5. They declined further comment, but one Los Angeles newspaper (Times) speculated that Younger's visit may mean 'a new development . . . in the case against' Sirhan.

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Meanwhile, Grant B. Cooper, one of Sirhan's lawyers, today predicted that the sixth and final alternate juror will be chosen tomorrow (Tuesday, February 11).

Another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) quoted Cooper as saying that if the selection is completed by noon on Tuesday, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton can make his opening statement on Thursday, February 13.

The alternate jurors, tentatively seated, include Clarence Yaw, businessman; Mrs. Eleanor Landgreen, wife of an insurance adjustor; John H. Johnson, computer design engineer; and Mrs. Bertha Feenstra, wife of an electrician.

All could be removed by defense and prosecution peremptory challenges -- those for which lawyers need give no reason.

Concerning today's meeting in the judge's chambers, the newspaper said "major carpentry that will be needed in the eighth floor Hall of Justice courtroom where Sirhan is being tried" was discussed.

Continued the newspaper:

"The Los Angeles Police Department's special Sirhan task force has constructed two scale models -- one of the ground floor of the Ambassador Hotel, the other of the kitchen off the hotel's Embassy Room where Kennedy was shot.

"The larger mockup will give the jury a view of the scene of the crime. It will be used instead of letting the jurors visit the hotel. Security considerations for Sirhan rule out a visit to the scene.

"The second model -- that of the kitchen -- will probably be introduced in evidence, Cooper said.

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"Both models are very large and will require considerable rearrangement of the small courtroom."

As for selection of alternate jurors, 23 prospective ones were examined today, two tentatively seated were removed by prosecution and defense challenges and two replacements were named.

Three prospective alternates were challenged by Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard after they expressed strong convictions against the death penalty. In two cases, Cooper opposed the prosecution challenge. The third was not contested.

* * *

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 -- During a discussion on the Los Angeles County court system today, County Supervisor Kenneth Hahn "was especially critical of the cost of bringing Sirhan B. Sirhan to trial in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the weeks spent in picking the Sirhan jury," reported Ray Zeman, county bureau chief, in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

At the Board of Supervisors meeting, the 10-member special study commission on judicial procedures was asked to review the administration of justice in the county and make recommendations.

(Sen. Kennedy was slain on June 5, 1968, and indicted by the Grand Jury two days later. Jury selection began on January 13, 1969).

With the selection of six alternate jurors today, Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker swore in the alternate panel and released all 18 jurors until 8 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, February 12) when they are to report to the Biltmore Hotel to be sequestered for the length of the trial.

The alternate jurors include:

Miss Gloria J. Haffey; George Stitzel, a Los Angeles Times pressroom foreman; Miss Ruth A. Stillman, insurance company adjuster; John H. Johnson, computer designer; Clarence Yaw, oil company purchaser; and Mrs. Eleanor B. Landgreen, housewife and mother of three sons.

* * *

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12 -- The reasons for the Sirhan trial -- the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy -- "have been obscured in the past few weeks as defense and prosecution lawyers have stepped through the delicate minuet of jury selection and preliminary motions," John Douglas, staff writer, noted in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) today.

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However, he reported things "will be back in perspective tomorrow" (Thursday, February 13) when the prosecution opens the case for the People.

While there is little argument about the basic facts of Kennedy's murder, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton told Douglas, "there are things people don't know."

These will be revealed when the prosecution makes its opening statements to the jury and alternates, "but they will ring loudest in the ears of the man whose fate they are designed to seal -- Sirhan," continued Douglas.

After the presentation by the prosecution, one of the defense attorneys, Emile Zola Berman, will speak, said the newspaper.

"The defense strategy is to move as rapidly as possible to take the edge off" of the prosecution's presentations, "which it admits will be very damaging."

The prosecution "is going for the jugular. Sirhan admits slaying Kennedy, and his lawyers concede he cannot escape punishment. But they want that penalty to be paid in prison, not in the death house.

"The prosecution wants the jury to find the youthful Jordanian immigrant guilty of first degree murder, and then, in the subsequent penalty trial, to condemn him."

Continued the newspaper:

"The defense views the Kennedy murder, in part, as a political assassination. As it seeks to prove that Sirhan acted under 'diminished capacity' -- that his killing of Senator Kennedy was without malice -- (Defense Lawyer Russell) Parsons believes that it may be necessary to show

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that obsession with the Arab-Israeli struggle, and Kennedy's avowed espousal of the Israeli cause preyed on Sirhan's mind. Witnesses will be produced to testify to this.

"Nucleus of the defense case will be the Sirhan family, compatriots of the young Arab, and a team of forensic psychiatrists, headed by UCLA's Dr. Bernard Diamond.

"Then, forecasts Dep. Dist. Atty. David Fitts:

"'The true arena of this conflict will become the mind of Sirhan Sirhan.'"

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Times) today declared that "Sirhan Bishara Sirhan probably will plead guilty to first-degree murder in the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy . . ."

* * *

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13 -- The prosecution made its opening statement today in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case, after Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker denied a motion for mistrial made by Defense Lawyer Grant B. Cooper.

The motion for a mistrial was based on grounds that a story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) yesterday "prejudiced Sirhan's rights to a fair trial by saying the 24-year old defendant probably would change his plea from innocent to guilty of first-degree murder," wrote Dave Smith, staff writer.

The denial was issued by the judge after he questioned the jurors privately in chambers. "Though several jurors admitted hearing of the story, Judge Walker said, all agreed they could disregard it and decide the case solely on the basis of evidence produced in court," the newspaper related.

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