

Walker: No.

Sirhan: I at this time, sir, withdraw my original plea of not guilty and submit the plea of guilty as charged on all counts. I also request that my counsel disassociate themselves from this case completely.

Walker: Do I understand -- stand-up -- do I understand that you want to plead guilty to murder in the first degree?

Sirhan: Yes, sir, I do.

Walker: All right, and what do you want to do about the penalty?

Sirhan: I will offer no defense whatsoever.

Walker: The question is, what do you want to do about the penalty?

Sirhan: I will ask to be executed, sir.

Walker: Now, I know of nothing in the law that permits a defendant under any circumstances to enter a plea of guilty to murder of the first degree and ask for execution.

Sirhan: Well, I have, sir.

Walker: Well now, just a minute. Why do you want to do this?

Sirhan: I believe, sir, that is my business, isn't it?

Walker: No, it isn't. Now, when we come to accept a plea, you have to give a reason.

Sirhan: I killed Robert F. Kennedy willfully, premeditatedly, with 20 years of malice aforethought, that is why.

Walker: Well, the evidence has to be produced here in court.

Sirhan: I withdraw all evidence, sir.

Walker: There is no such procedure.

Sirhan: To hell with it.

Walker: Well, the court will not accept that plea. Proceed with

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the trial. Let me give you to understand here and now that this court will not put up with any more of your interrupting. You are to follow the advice of the court and sit down there. Any further interruptions by you in this trial will result in you being restrained. You understand that?

Sirhan: Sir?

Walker: I mean by that that you will have a face mask put on you which will prohibit you from talking and, further, your arms will be strapped to your chair and the trial will proceed. You understand that?

Sirhan: I understand. However, sir, I intend to defend myself pro per (defendant representing himself). I don't want to be represented by counsel.

Walker: You have retained counsel. Counsel is staying in the trial.

Sirhan: What I have said, I don't want anyone to have a trial shoved down my throat, sir, and you are not going to shove it down my throat, sir, in any way you want.

Walker: You say you want to go pro per?

Sirhan: Yes, I will.

Walker: What are the defenses, let me ask what are the elements of the crime of murder?

Sirhan: I don't understand all of this legality. You let me --

Walker: I am conducting these proceedings, not you. What are the defenses to murder in the first degree?

Sirhan: I don't know.

Walker: I find you are incapable of representing yourself. Sit down and keep quiet, and, if not, I intend to keep you quiet.

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Sirhan: No, sir, I still maintain my original point. I plead guilty to murder and ask to be executed.

There was some additional exchange between the judge and Sirhan, and a recess was called. After the recess, and before the jury was brought back into court, Cooper told Judge Walker that his client 'has advised us definitely, positively and unequivocally that he does not desire us to continue to represent him.'

Cooper then said the three-man defense team was "perfectly willing, as a matter of fact I might say anxious, to withdraw from the case and let him either represent himself or be represented by other counsel."

Cooper said, however, that they would be willing to continue and that the attorneys did not want to appear to be deserting Sirhan. Judge Walker denied the offer to withdraw, saying good cause for such withdrawal had not been shown and adding that Sirhan appeared clearly unable to represent himself.

The trial continued, the jury was led in and Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother, was called to testify. However, as her voice quavered, Judge Walker adjourned court.

He noted, "I can't conceive of a worse set of circumstances under which a mother could be called to testify. I think she shows great courage."

Others called today by the defense included:

Ziad Hashimeh, 25, a childhood friend of Sirhan's; and

Baron Sarkees Nahas, a Palestinian nobleman and former United Nations official.

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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., March 12, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #40

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 40th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, MARCH 3 --- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today admitted from the witness stand at his murder trial that he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and had "no doubt" he shot and wounded five other persons in Los Angeles on June 5.

Also testifying today were an elder brother, Adel, 30, and the defendant's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

Under questioning by one of his attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, Sirhan when asked if he also shot and wounded Paul Schrade, a United Auto Workers official, replied, "If that's what the indictment reads, I must have."

Sirhan said he "never heard of" Schrade nor did he have any knowledge of, or malice toward, Irwin Stroll, William Weisel, Elizabeth Evans or Ira Goldstein, who were also wounded.

"I was not aware of anything," Sirhan added.

One Los Angeles newspaper (Times) described the defendant as almost relishing his turn on the witness stand. His answers came clearly and quickly, sometimes even before Cooper's questions

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"At one point, Sirhan even supplied a word when Cooper groped for another term for bombing noises."

The newspaper noted Sirhan's demeanor 'was almost sunny' in comparison to his "emotional blowups last week when he demanded to fire his three-man defense team, plead guilty and be executed."

The "temper tantrums last week came when the prosecution began introducing into evidence the notebook pages on which Sirhan had written 'Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated.'"

On Friday, Sirhan told Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker that if the notebooks were admitted, he wouldn't be getting a fair trial. However, today, Cooper read that very page, with Sirhan following eagerly as Cooper intoned: "May 18, 9:45 a.m., '68. My determination to eliminate RFK is becoming more the more (sic) of an unshakeable obsession."

Sirhan said the handwriting was his and that the phrase "Port Wine" was the name of a horse. He admitted writing "please pay to the order of . . ." several times; and the repeated injunction, "RFK must be assassinated."

Following this, Cooper began questioning the defendant about his family's life in war-torn Jerusalem, where Sirhan was born on March 19, 1944.

Sirhan recalled "quite vividly" the death of an Arab soldier who was blown up by dynamite when Sirhan was three or four; and noted that the family fled during the 1948 Israeli-Arab hostilities from the new part of Jerusalem to the former Jewish quarter of the old Walled City.

The reason for the flight, Sirhan was told, was because "The Jews kicked us out of our homes. The Zionists kicked us out. We were terrorized out of leaving our homes."

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Sirhan also described for the court the massacre at the village of Dair Yasin in April, 1948, when Arab girls with mutilated breasts were paraded in front of us, to terrorize us and get us out of our homes."

He also recalled the family's flight to the old Walled City. "I was naked, he said, and the family was in a state of panic.

After settling there, he said, he heard bombings on an average of once a week from 1948 until the family left Jerusalem for the United States in 1956.

The Sirhan family subsisted on United Nations Relief and Works Agency rations, the defendant continued, including brown sugar, margarine, flour, beans, "and a gallon of kerosene in the winter."

Also described by Sirhan was the incident in which he saw a neighborhood shopkeeper's body after a bombing and of being sickened by the sight of a human hand in a bucket of well water he drew one day.

Adel Sirhan testified about many of the incidents recited by the accused assassin and also told of a change in his brother after Sirhan fell from a horse in September, 1966.

Adel described his younger brother before the fall as friendly, ambitious and "doing well in school except when our sister (Ayda, who died in 1965, of leukemia) was sick," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

After the fall, related Adel Sirhan, his brother became irritable, nervous, stayed home more and read a great deal.

Sirhan, said his brother, once had a fight with a younger brother, Munir, 21, and sometimes argued with his family when they watched television newscasts of Middle East conflicts, demanding: "How can you sit there and watch these things being done to people?"

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Adel also told of hearing Sirhan talking to himself in his bedroom. Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts asked if Sirhan couldn't have been reading aloud or studying his German or Russian courses. Adel said he might have.

Adel told of finding his brother sitting in his room with a lighted candle on the desk before a mirror as he read from literature he got from the Rosicrucians, an order which espouses the development of one's mental powers over matter.

The newspaper added that "the defense has claimed that Sirhan was in a virtual trance when he killed Sen. Kennedy -- a trance similar to those he suffered at traumatic scenes in his childhood.

"They also claim he later induced such trances through his obsessive personality and his mystical experiments with self-hypnosis."

Also on the witness stand was Sirhan's mother, who related a series of incidents she said her son witnessed as a child. Each time, she said, he was seized by a fit of shaking, the color would drain from his face, his lips would go dry and he would sometimes "black out" remaining ill for days.

Mrs. Sirhan remarked, "We are lucky in this country. I want you to know this. Everybody is blessed in the United States." At this outburst, the judge cautioned her to restrict testimony to answering questions directly.

* * *

TUESDAY, MARCH 4 -- Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy "created a lecture atmosphere" in court today "that

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gave rise to grave doubts in the minds of his hearers as to the accuracy of his IQ test, reported last week as 89, slightly below the 90-110 range considered average," Dave Smith, staff writer, noted in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

On the witness stand for the third day, Sirhan said he first learned of Kennedy's support for Israel last May and that he hated the senator so much that "if he were in front of me, the way I felt then, so help me God, he would have died. Right then and there.

"He was doing a lot of things behind my back that I didn't know about. It just burned me up," related the defendant.

Sirhan continued that "up to that time, I loved Robert Kennedy. I cared for him very much. I hoped he'd win the presidency."

What changed his attitude was a television documentary showing the senator in Israel in 1948, celebrating the creation of the Jewish state.

Sirhan, who was four at that time, and living in Jerusalem, said he had never known of this.

His love for the senator turned to hate and a few days after seeing the film, Sirhan wrote (on May 18): "Robert Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June '68."

"Sirhan's anger at his victim's pro-Israel views cropped up repeatedly" in court today as he "unveiled a lifetime of loathing for Zionism," reported the newspaper.

When Senator Kennedy spoke in Los Angeles supporting military aid for Israel, Sirhan became so angry that he glared into his bedroom mirror, practicing a mental exercise taught by a mystical cult, until he saw the senator's face in the mirror rather than his own.

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"I can't prove it, sir," he told Grant B. Cooper, one of his defense attorneys, "but I saw his face in the mirror. I was that burned up about him."

Testimony revealed -- through a page-by-page reading of Sirhan's notebooks -- that former President Johnson and former UN Ambassador Arthur Goldberg were marked for possible murder.

"As with the Kennedy reference, Sirhan said he couldn't remember writing of an intent to kill Mr. Johnson or Goldberg, but admitted he must have, since the notes were in his hand," reported the newspaper.

"Once he said, 'It is not me, sir. It is not Sirhan, sitting right here, that wrote that . . . I couldn't write that without provocation.'"

He was then asked by Cooper if he ever had in mind killing President Johnson, and Sirhan replied, "No, but I hated his guts at one point. He said the United States supports the territorial integrity of all nations, and he stressed all nations."

Goldberg, according to Sirhan, repeated Mr. Johnson's phrase.

He was then asked, "Should he have died for that?" and replied "Why not? He didn't stick to his word."

During testimony today, Sirhan astonished spectators . . . with an impassioned -- and accurate -- discourse on the growth of Zionism, Palestinian history and England's behind-the-scenes agreements on Palestine's future," said the newspaper.

Sirhan also described a mystical experiment in which he plunged his hand into boiling water, "thought cool," and didn't get burned. He also turned candle flames different colors just by thinking about it, he said.

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"I can't prove it, but God damn it, I did," he stated.

After more than an hour of confirming his fragmented writing, Sirhan told Cooper, "All this sounds like a crazy man writing."

"Do you feel you're crazy?" Cooper asked. "Do you think you're completely normal?"

"No, sir, I'm not crazy," Sirhan replied.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 -- Continuing his testimony today in court, Sirhan B. Sirhan said he saw Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in person for the first time two nights before he shot and fatally wounded the senator.

Sirhan said he was "really thrilled . . . He looked like a saint to me. I liked him."

A reporter for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), noted that "the statement was startling to spectators at the murder trial. On Tuesday, they had heard Sirhan admit to murderous rage at Sen. Kennedy's pro-Israel views,"

The first encounter with the New York senator took place on June 2 when Kennedy was surrounded by movie stars and singing a song with Andy Williams at the Ambassador, site of the slaying.

"My whole attitude toward him changed when I saw him that night," Sirhan related to his defense lawyer, Grant B. Cooper.

"Before, I'd associated Kennedy with his statements about the Phantom jets to aid Israel and I pictured him as a villain, but that night he looked like a saint to me. I liked him."

Speaking publicly for the first time about his activities June 4, the eve of the shooting, the defendant said he arrived at the Ambassador Hotel after getting lost while looking for a Jewish parade on Wilshire Boulevard.

"He had not known that Kennedy would be at the hotel that night, Sirhan said. All thoughts about Kennedy and memories of the written determination to assassinate the senator were completely out of Sirhan's mind, the defendant testified," reported Dave Smith, staff writer, in the newspaper.

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Under Cooper's questioning, Sirhan's murderous impulses towards Kennedy were revealed -- chronicled in his school notebook.

As questioning wore on, Cooper "elicited these emotional patterns: murderous hate for anyone expressing sympathy for Zionist aims; a perplexing warmth toward Kennedy for his views on other subjects, and an abrupt forgetting of political considerations when confronted by Kennedy in person," continued the newspaper.

"June 4 had been a haphazard day of often-changed plans," added the newspaper, as Cooper asked Sirhan if he intended to kill the senator on June 2, referring to comments in the notebook.

Sirhan replied, "No, sir, I did not. The notebook was completely forgotten in my mind." He did not have a gun with him that night. The defendant also denied that on June 2 he had been in the hotel kitchen area where Kennedy was shot two nights later.

(two prosecution witnesses, however, testified earlier they got lost in the hotel corridors and ran across Sirhan in the pantry area the night of June 2.)

He said today that in his opinion, the witnesses were "complete liars. They swore to tell the truth and they didn't," he said.

On Tuesday, June 4, Sirhan said he planned to spend the day at the races, but didn't like the entries so he went target shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club.

He was there from noon until 5 p.m., and denied earlier testimony that he practiced rapid-firing; an elderly man nearby was doing that.

When the range closed, said Sirhan, he had eight bullets left in the gun

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and intended to expend those last shots, but the rangemaster's order came before he could do it.

Sirhan put the gun on the back seat of his car "so if I got a traffic ticket I don't have to explain." He started for home, but didn't unload the gun because it was difficult to eject the bullets.

Later, he saw an ad in a newspaper (Times) about a march for Israel and the phrase "Six Days in June," referring to the six-day Arab-Israeli war.

"That brought me back to the six days in June of the previous year," he testified. "I should have been dead for those six days . . . These Zionists, Jews, whatever the hell they are, were trying to rub in the fact that they beat the hell out of the Arabs."

Sirhan said he was so infuriated that he decided to drive to the parade site, but he was a day early.

He became lost and since he hadn't been home, the loaded pistol was still on the back seat. "The gun was completely out of my mind," he added.

Not finding the parade, the defendant stopped at election headquarters for former Sen. Kuchel, Republican, California. From there he went to the Ambassador, parked and locked his car, and left the gun on the back seat.

Earlier, today, Cooper told of Sirhan's interest in the Rosicrucian's Digest, a monthly publication of the mystical cult, which contained an article titled "Put It In Writing."

On May 18, it was brought out that Sirhan wrote, "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June '68." And on June 5, Sirhan shot and killed Kennedy.

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"This mental chain of events was laid bare as Cooper read methodically through the reading and writing that made up Sirhan's thinking," reported the newspaper.

Cooper also introduced into evidence two pages which he argued successfully two weeks ago were "too inflammatory" to be placed before the jury.

The pages, kept from evidence then but released to the press, contained Sirhan's wholesale endorsement of all forms of communism -- even conflicting forms -- and an angry attack on the United States.

"Cooper read the pages aloud and later explained to newsmen that defense psychiatrists felt the writings had a strong bearing on Sirhan's state of mind -- which is the key issue in whether Sirhan is sentenced to death or simply imprisoned," added the newspaper.

Sirhan told the court he was not involved with anyone in the plan to kill the senator and couldn't remember why he used the term "we" when he wrote "We believe that Robert F. Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the poor, exploited people."

"The hand that is doing this writing will do the slaying of the above-mentioned victim," read another entry.

* * *

THURSDAY, MARCH 6 -- "Outside-courtroom explosions, unknown to the Sirhan trial judge and jury, enliven the proceedings almost daily," according to Al Stump, staff writer, commenting in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald Examiner) today.

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He mentioned, for example, the appearance of Issa Nahileh, described as a member of the British bar and as director of the "Palestinian-Arab delegation to the United Nations."

Asked by a reporter why he was here, the lawyer said he was an observer and "a group from my homeland interested in Sirhan's welfare paid my way from New York."

Asked if he were really here to "cool off Sirhan when he becomes almost uncontrollable and raves in court that he wants to plead guilty, fire his lawyers?" the visitor stated that Sirhan was a victim of circumstances.

He noted that Sirhan witnessed Arabs forced from their homeland by Zionists and as a child lived in a blood bath.

Also noted by Stump was the fact that Sirhan's mother "now feels free to walk out of the Hall of Justice, without a lawyer or guard at her side. Previously, she never left the building except under escort."

Sirhan B. Sirhan completed four days of testimony today as he was questioned by one of his defense attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, and cross-examined by Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney.

He told the court that he got drunk on June 4, blacked out while trying to sober up, and "the next thing I remember, I was being choked."

According to Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), "it was the first time Sirhan has mentioned that he had been drinking the night Kennedy was killed."

The defendant revealed that he didn't learn for many hours that he had fatally shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy and that he was being choked in a struggle

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to subdue him as his gun continued firing, wounding five others.

Asked by Cooper if he knew that during the blackout, "You walked up to Sen. Kennedy, pointed a gun to his head, pulled the trigger . . . and he later died."

He replied, "Yes. So I learned."

Under questioning by Cooper and cross-examination by Compton, Sirhan "denied specific recollection of the shooting or of the rages that consumed him when he wrote in his notebooks that Kennedy must die," the newspaper continued.

Added the newspaper report:

"Compton's questioning sought to dispel in jurors' minds the impression Cooper had earlier aimed for in characterizing Sirhan's notebook writings as the disjointed scribbles of a disordered mind.

"Instead, Compton suggested, much of the writing was mere doodling reflecting Sirhan's daily interests -- girls, horse racing, jockeys and snatches of Arabic songs."

Sirhan flared in anger when Compton asserted that the defendant must have had more notebooks than the three introduced in evidence. Sirhan replied, "Were you with me. Ask me. Don't put words in my mouth!"

Compton then asked if he had more such books, and Sirhan snapped, "I said I don't know."

At another point, Sirhan remarked of one of Compton's questions, "That's stupid."

"Compton continued in a mild, pleasant tone of voice, but with a thinly veiled skepticism at Sirhan's invariable answer:

" ' I don't exactly remember, ' " noted the newspaper.

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However, Sirhan did admit to a faint recollection of discussing the Jack Kirschke murder case with Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, one of the prosecutors in the Sirhan case.

Continued the newspaper's account:

In later questioning by Compton, the defendant "recalled one of the significant details of the Kirschke case. Kirschke, a deputy district attorney and friend of both Compton and Howard, was convicted in 1967 of murdering his wife and her lover and sentenced to death. (The sentence was later commuted to life imprisonment).

"Kirschke claimed he was in Las Vegas at the time of the murder, but one detail that helped convict him was the fact that when he was arrested there and charged with murder, he failed to ask whom he was accused of murdering.

"Sirhan, who is reported to have followed that trial on television, was asked by Compton if Howard hadn't told him last June 5 that he probably would be tried. 'You didn't ask 'tried for what?' did you, asked Compton.

"I don't remember,' replied Sirhan.

"By Sirhan's account on the witness stand Thursday, this conversation with Howard would have occurred several hours before Sirhan learned he was accused of shooting Kennedy."

Sirhan was asked by Compton if he thought the killing of Kennedy helped the Arab cause, and the reply was that he (Sirhan) didn't know enough about politics.

"Are you glad he's dead?" was another question and the reply: "No sir, I'm not glad."

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Another question -- "Are you sorry?" Answer by Sirhan -- "No sir, I'm not sorry, but I'm not proud of it either."

The prosecutor "then touched on an explosive courtroom scene that occurred last Friday, after the jury had been removed from the courtroom," the newspaper reported.

"Did you not say you killed Robert Kennedy wilfully, premeditatedly and with 20 years of malice aforethought?" Compton asked. "Yes sir, I did" was Sirhan's reply.

Both defense and prosecution attorneys were called to Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's bench and then Compton asked his final question: "You said you were willing to fight for the Arab cause?"

"Yes sir," said Sirhan.

"Are you willing to die for it?"

"Yes sir, I'm willing to die for it."

Cooper then resumed questioning his client, going over line by line the transcript of last Friday's blowup. Jurors learned for the first time that Sirhan had tried to fire his three attorneys, change his plea to guilty and demand execution.

Cooper asked Sirhan if he hadn't done that because he was mad at the way his defense was going, and Sirhan admitted, "Sir, I was boiling."

* * *

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 -- "Retro-grade amnesia may explain" why Sirhan doesn't remember details involved in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy,

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Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, remarked, according to a story by Al Stump in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald Examiner).

"In such a case, " Cooper told Stump, "a person has memory along a certain line, then it snaps off and he remembers nothing. "

Stump also quoted "a leading psychiatrist" as follows:

"Briefly, this is a condition where a traumatic event happens. The person involved retains recall of some of it -- usually the initial portion. But he will forget events prior to it or events associated with it or contributing to it or in some way adjunctive to it.

"It's a well-known repression with no positive explanation.

"And it's very common -- happens to many people. It also is very easily feigned. "

Stump also related that Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, another defense lawyer, recently "gave the first clinical analysis yet submitted. "

Cooper said that Sirhan "is not psychotic, but a borderline case of schizophrenia of the paranoid type. "

Continued Stump:

"These terms mean what in layman's language? Experts say they mean:

"Psychotic -- one who cannot understand reality in either a gross or a special way; a term without the legal implications of the word 'insane. '

"Schizophrenia -- type of personality characterized by loss of contact with the environment and by disintegration of the personality; includes dementia praecox and some related forms of insanity.

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"Paranoid -- one who believes others are out to destroy him and he must defend himself (but not often defends himself in an actively violent or criminal way).

"Such terms are expected to become vital as clinical psychologists and psychiatrists move in to testify sometime next week."

FRIDAY, MARCH 7 -- Dave Smith, staff writer, reported in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) today that Richard Lubic "was the last, and briefest, of a puzzling string of defense witnesses whose testimony appeared to strengthen the prosecution case" in the Sirhan case.

Besides Lubic, who claimed to have heard a voice swear at Senator Robert F. Kennedy and then heard the shot, other persons heard today were Hans Peter Bidstrub, who said Sirhan asked him for information on the senator; and two friends of Sirhan, Enrique Rabago and Humphrey Cordero.

According to Lubic, in the early moments of June 5, he heard a voice swear at the senator and then heard the gunshot that took his life. Smith reported that Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, "didn't even ask if he could identify Sirhan as the man who said, 'Kennedy, you son of a bitch,' and fired the shot."

Bidstrub, testified that Sirhan, drink in hand, asked him as early as 10 p.m. if Kennedy was staying at the Ambassador Hotel, on what floor and in what room and if Kennedy had any bodyguards.

The witness said he talked to Sirhan about 15 minutes at one political party the night before, and his first impression was that Sirhan was "half drunk

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and very talkative." Earlier this week, Sirhan told of arriving at the Ambassador Hotel, through a series of haphazard changed plans, without knowing Kennedy would be there.

"Bidstrub's testimony," related the newspaper, "tended to corroborate the defense claim that Sirhan had been drinking that night, and three other witnesses said they also saw Sirhan with a glass in his hand.

"Bidstrub's recollection of the assassination night and of his later interviews with law enforcement officials and defense counsel appeared hazy, so much so that he could not definitely recall his former statements when confronted with them "today."

Rabago and Cordero testified they talked with the defendant around 10 p. m. and said he had a drink in his hand, but did not appear particularly intoxicated to them.

Rabago asked Sirhan if he thought Kennedy would win the Democratic primary election and he replied yes, adding: "Don't worry if Sen. Kennedy doesn't win. That son of a bitch is a millionaire. Even if he wins, he's not going to do anything for you, for me or for the poor people." Rabago said he had regarded Sirhan as "educated and arrogant."

* * *

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., March 19, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #41

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 41st summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, MARCH 10 -- Dr. Martin M. Schorr, a clinical psychologist, today in court described Sirhan B. Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, 'as a paranoid personality -- who felt he was right and everyone else was wrong,' according to a story in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The newspaper continued that the defendant is also 'a schizophrenic guided by inner beliefs that didn't match the realities of the outside world.'

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) declared that psychiatric testimony conflicted "sharply with claims of" Emile Zola Berman, one of the defense attorneys.

The newspaper related that Berman, in his opening statement, said:

"The evidence in this case will disclose that the defendant, Sirhan Sirhan, is an immature emotionally-disturbed and mentally-ill youth."

The newspaper related that Sirhan, according to Berman, was "totally a product of a sick, obsessed mind and personality."

Schorr said that Sirhan has no "psychotic responses" and "is not a raving maniac." The doctor also said his examination turned up no evidence of brain damage in the Jordanian immigrant. But despite this, Sirhan is far from normal, he added.

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Schorr described tests given Sirhan and said he scored "better than the average American" on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale test of verbal skills. His verbal intelligent quotient was 109, ranking higher than 75 per cent of the population. Balancing this was a non-verbal intelligence quotient of only 82, better than only 10 per cent of the population, and yielding a "spuriously low" IQ of 98. The average is from 90-100.

Under questioning by Berman, Schorr, who is affiliated with UC Hospital, San Diego, said Sirhan's identification in the Rorschach "ink-blot" test included such things as a dove flying, a crushed frog, a human profile exploding, a "male-female" rooster, a human trachea, a monster "charging at me," a ballet dancer, ears, scarred seals or sea lions, the act of sexual intercourse, the Suez Canal, a rotting red apple and spurting blood and a liver.

"Schorr pointed out that Sirhan, rather than seeing pictures only in the colored ink, sometimes found recognizable shapes in the white spaces," reported Dave Smith, staff writer, in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

The general pattern of the test, Schorr testified was the strongest evidence of extreme paranoia, a highly aggressive, assertive nature, a rigid, very perfectionistic personality convinced of its own rightness, and a dangerously high tendency to give way under stress to unchecked emotional reactions, said the newspaper.

He related that the defendant failed to answer certain significant questions on another test, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, which indicated he "was very anxious to convince me how normal and sane he is."

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The doctor said this was a 'typically paranoid reaction -- to convince me how right he is and wrong everyone else is.'

He revealed that the indications of psychosis on the tests -- particularly the wide range of highs and lows -- were 'consistent with schizophrenia,' which he described as a 'discrepancy between the inner and outer reality.'

In court today, Sirhan seemed more pleased with the results of the tests than when scores on his IQ tests in junior high school were revealed several weeks ago -- and he exploded, said Smith.

It was disclosed today that additional police protection for Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother, and his two brothers, Adel and Munir, was ordered briefly last week, after reported telephone threats by another brother, Sharif.

A 24-hour guard on the Sirhan home was established for one day. Police said no charges have been filed nor arrests made.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 -- In his second day of testimony for the defense in the Sirhan B. Sirhan case, Dr. Martin M. Schorr, clinical psychologist, said that 'in the dark recesses of' the defendant's mind, he 'harbored hope of being caught when he' shot Senator Robert F. Kennedy, wrote John Douglas, staff writer, in a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Schorr told of his theory as he was cross-examined by Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard.

Asked by Howard if Sirhan's behavior around the time of the assassination indicated he was thinking rationally and thus was not in a dissociative personality state, another newspaper (Times) said:

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"Schorr would not agree that Sirhan's thinking was rational, but only that it was thinking within the context of a paranoid psychosis.

"Asked if Sirhan might have lied about drinking the night of June 4, Schorr said that lying under oath would be indicative of sociopathic tendencies, and that exhaustive testing showed that Sirhan was not sociopathic.

"Howard then asked, 'If you had seen (Sirhan) on June 3, could you have predicted the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy?'

"Schorr said he could not have predicted that specific murder, but said that if similar tests were administered at random to 100 people, three or four of them, including Sirhan, would have been pin-pointed as 'odds-on favorites to commit murder.'

"Howard drew from Schorr the admission that one of the tests, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, was known in psychology by the nickname 'Mickey Mouse,' and that it was considered to yield 60 to 70 per cent accuracy on sick populations.

"But Schorr added that the test was nonetheless considered fairly reliable and was used only in conjunction with other tests. His own diagnosis of Sirhan, he said, was not based on the MMPI alone, but in the context of other tests.

"Howard also asked Schorr, 'What would be the behavior of a man who had just committed a political assassination and was glad he had done it?'

"Schorr said such a person would not have written down his intention to do so, as Sirhan did in his notebooks, and would not have committed the act in such a circumstance as to show his 'hope of being caught.'

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"Hope of being caught?' Howard asked skeptically.

"He wouldn't go into a crowded pantry,' said Schorr. 'He'd go into an armory with a rifle and he'd try to get away.'"

"Sirhan was seized by more than half a dozen people before he'd even finished firing the eight shots from his revolver in the crowded pantry of the Ambassador Hotel).

Continued the article in the newspaper:

"Howard also asked Schorr what stress might have developed the night of June 4 to push Sirhan into a dissociative state so that he could kill Kennedy and have no recollection of it.

"Schorr said it might have been the sight of the revolver in Sirhan's car, adding that 'the gun is a symbol that relates to stress dating from his formative years.'

"Said Schorr, 'The gun symbolized the giving to himself of an aggressive personality he doesn't possess; also the need to be treated like a man and act like a man; also the need not be castrated, as he allegedly was by his father, through alleged cruelty and beatings.'"

Schorr also testified that he does not believe that Sirhan was capable of mature and meaningful premeditation in the killing of the senator.

He described the Palestinian Arab to the court as a paranoid psychotic, incapable of controlling his emotions, ruled by obsessions of his own grandiosity and delusions of persecution.

The doctor, who administered five psychological tests to Sirhan in November, said he felt the defendant's mental condition was essentially the same last June as it was in November and as it is today.

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A Los Angeles newspaper (Times) added that if the jury agrees "Sirhan could be found guilty of a lesser degree of murder than first degree, and sentenced to imprisonment rather than death."

Describing one of the tests given Sirhan, Schorr said the Thematic Apperception Test consists of pictures in which the patient is asked to see and then describe a story or set of circumstances. What the patient sees depends upon his subconscious reactions, he said.

Reported the newspaper:

"By far the most dramatic, however, was Sirhan's reaction on one entirely blank card. Sirhan told Schorr:

"'This is the figure of that arrogant, self-assured bastard with the victorious smirk on his face. This is the true picture of the conqueror. It's the minister in Israel, Moshe Dayan, and he's looking down at people, but there's a bullet that's crashing through his brain at the height of his glory.'

"Schorr interrupted: 'Where in relation to this picture would you be standing if you were part of the scene?'

"'Part of the scene?' Sirhan retorted, 'I am the scene. I'm the one killing him.'

"Schorr said Sirhan described other pictures in terms of loneliness, seeing people as assaulted, depressed, hopeless and suicidal."

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12 -- In his third day of testimony today in the Sirhan case, Dr. Martin M. Schorr, clinical psychologist, said the defendant "substituted Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for the father he would have preferred to kill," according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that "words spoken by Sirhan minutes after he admitted the fatal shooting . . . have come back to haunt him at his murder trial in Superior Court."

Feeling it would not be proper to kill his father, Sirhan instead compromised and chose a "symbolic replical of his father" -- Kennedy, the psychologist told the jury.

He added that Sirhan "also removes the relationship that stands between him and his most precious possession -- his mother's love."

During a recess, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother, objected when the statement was read to reporters, and declared, "I don't like this."

In cross-examination of Schorr, Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard sought to cast doubt on the validity of psychological tests administered to Sirhan in November, contending the scoring and interpretation results are arbitrary.

Schorr, however, defended his scoring of tests given Sirhan and would not concede that interpretations would vary widely from one psychologist to another.

Schorr repeated his belief that for several hours before and many hours after the killing, the defendant shifted back and forth between the real world and a fantasy world.

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Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"The psychologist said Sirhan was unaware he was drifting from one state of consciousness to another, and while he may have wanted to kill Kennedy, he was and still is genuinely unaware that he did.

"Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts began to play tapes of the first interviews between Sirhan and police after his arrest in the early morning of June 5.

"In the first tape, made at 12:45 a.m., less than half an hour after Kennedy was shot, Sirhan was advised of his constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent, and did so. He wouldn't give his name, height or weight, and his few responses did not bear on the shooting at all."

* * *

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 -- The prosecution today continued to play recordings of the first encounters between Sirhan and police "in an effort to prove the Palestinian Arab was fully self-possessed as he skillfully avoided self-incrimination," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

"The defense has contended," reported Dave Smith, staff writer, that Sirhan, "several hours before and after the assassination" of Kennedy "was in a 'dissociative state' induced by drunkenness, rage and self-hypnosis, and that he remembers nothing of those hours."

Playing of the tapes in court revealed that at first Sirhan was uncommunicative, subdued and nearly inaudible as police and district attorney's investigators sought to learn his name. However, by 3:15 a.m., three hours after the shooting, Sirhan was engaging in earnest discussion

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and humorous banter -- still without telling anything about the shooting or even his name.

"Every time questions began to bear on the events of the preceeding few hours, Sirhan cited his constitutional right to remain silent," said the reporter.

"He waxed chatty, however, about other matters and discussed with Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, now one of his prosecutors, the Jack Kirschke murder case, in which Kirschke, formerly a deputy district attorney, was convicted of murdering his wife and her lover."

At the Ramparts Police Station and at downtown police headquarters, the defendant "persistently turned questions back on his questioners as he asked their views of justice, truth and falsehood."

"Sirhan also revealed," wrote the reporter, "a quick and apparently deep affection for Sgt. William C. Jordan, now a lieutenant, who questioned him gently on subjects not related to the Kennedy assassination."

Sirhan, it was revealed, debated with Howard, Jordan and George W. Murphy, district attorney's investigator, on the high cost of prenatal care, the stock market, the "Boston Strangler" case, local politics and world travel -- "all in a blithe but intense manner."

Concluded the newspaper article:

"Defense attorneys later told reporters that the tapes could support their case as well as the prosecution's, contending that Sirhan's increasing clarity through the interviews showed only that he was sobering up and coming out of his alleged dissociative state."

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FRIDAY, MARCH 14 -- "A series of striking similarities" has been noted in the language of a psychologist's report on the mental condition of Sirhan B. Sirhan "and that of a case study in a book by a New York criminal psychiatrist," according to a New York Times News Service story in today's editions of a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Continued the article:

"The psychologist in the Sirhan case, Dr. Martin M. Schorr of the San Diego County Hospital, acknowledged that he was familiar with the book, entitled "A Case Book of a Crime Psychiatrists," by Dr. James A. Brussel, assistant commissioner of mental hygiene for the state of New York. But he denied plagiarizing any part of it.

"'I know I read the book,' Schorr said in an interview . . . but I know it was prior to the trial.' The he added:

"'You can use pretty much the same language when you talk about cases.' Later, at lunch, the psychologist said that 'I read this book quite thoroughly last year.

"'When I see a phrase that fits in with my thinking, subconsciously it becomes part of my language.'

"The similarities were noticed by a reader of the New York Times who saw part of Schorr's report in the newspaper. The reader, a New York resident who asked that she not be identified, called the Times and said she had (borrowed) Brussel's book from a library and, after reading it, was struck by the seemingly familiar words when she saw the newspaper account.

"in his testimony, Schorr, a defense witness, was allowed by the

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prosecution to read several excerpts from a four-page report that he had prepared on Sirhan after administering a battery of tests to the admitted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy."

The article, by Douglas Robinson, offered the following excerpts from Dr. Schorr's testimony and from the book:

"Dr. Schorr: Essentially, the more he (Sirhan) railed and stormed, the more the mother protected Sirhan from his father and the more he withdrew into her protection.'

"Dr. Brussel: And the more he stormed, the more the mother protected her boy and the more he withdrew into her protecting arms.

"Dr. Schorr: He hated his father and feared him. He would never consciously entertain the idea of doing away with him. But somewhere along the line, the protecting mother fails her son.

"Dr. Brussel: The boy hated his father, yes -- and, more important, feared him. Therefore, he would never entertain the idea of doing away with the man . . . Then, somewhere along the line, the protecting mother may have 'failed' her boy.

"Dr. Schorr: She, whom he loved, never kept her pledge, and now his pain had to be repaid with pain. Since the unconscious always demands maximum penalties, the pain has to be death.

"Dr. Brussel: She whom he loved never kept her pledge, and he began to feel that she really didn't love him. Pain had to be repaid with pain, and since the unconscious always demands the maximum, the pain had to be death.

"Schorr, in discussing the similarity between his report and

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Brussel's case study, said that 'my training was in intraphysics and so was his, therefore we think alike.'

"'One phrase Dr. Brussel has used for paranoids, for example, he continued, 'is champion grudge-hater. I liked the description so much, I've used it many times.'"

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with the same 'conspicuous omission' of events of the shooting or memory of writing in diaries that he wanted to assassinate Kennedy.'

* * *

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 -- A Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) today published an Associated Press story from Taibeh, Occupied Jordan, quoting Sirhan's father as saying his son shot Kennedy because of the senator's endorsement of Israel.

Sirhan Sirhan, Sr., an olive grower, rejected testimony given in his son's Los Angeles trial that the son may have been mentally upset at the time of the slaying, reported AP.

The father said, according to AP, 'there is nothing wrong with Sirhan. He tries to tell the court why he killed Sen. Kennedy but they won't let him.

If Sen. Kennedy had not said he would send Phantoms (planes), tanks and other military equipment to Israel, Sirhan would not have done it,' the father stated.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Elizabeth Young Evans, 43, who was shot during the Kennedy assassination, filed a \$351,000 Superior Court damage suit against Sirhan, according to the same newspaper.

In the suit, Mrs. Evans also named 50 'John Does.' They include 'unknown persons' who may have conspired with Sirhan in the fatal shooting. Also named as Doe defendants are the manufacturers and sellers of the pistol used in the assassination.

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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., March 26,
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #42

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 42nd summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, MARCH 17 -- Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was almost a forgotten man at his own murder trial as a subsidiary trial shaped up over the credibility of clinical psychologist Martin M. Schorr today, reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times).

After learning last Friday that many of Dr. Schorr's statements about the defendant were almost verbatim quotes from another man's book, the prosecution began introducing relevant portions of the book, 'Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist,' by Dr. James A. Brussel," as evidence, related the newspaper.

It was indicated by Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard, one of three prosecutors assigned to the case by Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, that portions of the book not admitted into evidence will then be brought out in continued cross-examination of the psychologist.

Schorr testified that Sirhan shot Kennedy last June as a "symbolic replica" of his own father. Schorr's analysis of Sirhan was found to be almost an identical match to Brussel's hypothetical analysis of a New York killer more than a decade ago, added the newspaper.

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner), noted that a letter written by Schorr to Russell E. Parsons, one of the three defense lawyers, was read into the record. It reported Sirhan hated his father and transferred this hatred to Kennedy."

Continued the newspaper's account:

The wording of the letter written in December of last year was similar to Brussel's language in the Psychiatrist-author's

description of a 1957 murder case in New York.

Associate prosecutor John Howard pressed Schorr on the possibility the psychologist may have prejudged Sirhan.

The letter from Schorr to Parsons dated July 10 -- before Schorr interviewed Sirhan -- said in part:

'Most murders committed by basically passive non-violent personalities are psychotic discharges of previously undiagnosed subtle but real schizophrenia.'

However, Schorr insisted he did not reach any conclusions about the defendant's mental state until after he examined Sirhan.'

* * *

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 -- Psychologists, including Dr. Orville Roderick Richardson and Dr. Martin M. Schorr, today assessed Sirhan B. Sirhan 'as a man of diminished mental capacity,' according to a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner).

Dr. Richardson told the court that the defendant 'appeared to be in somewhat worse shape when Dr. Schorr tested him than when I tested him.'

The doctor tested Sirhan on July 20, 1968, about six weeks after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was slain. Schorr examined Sirhan on November 25-26, 1968.

Reported the newspaper:

'Deterioration in Sirhan's thinking processes during the intervening months, Dr. Richardson said, showed up in the defendant's responses on the Bender-Gestalt test, in which a subject copies various designs presented to him.'

'The two psychologists told the court their findings to almost the same battery of psychological examinations: the Rorschach, in which a subject evaluates ink blots; the Wexler Adult Intelligence Scale, which measures intelligence; the Bender-Gestalt; the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, in which a subject tells a story about a series of pictures.'

Dr. Richardson, arriving at generally the same conclusions as Dr. Schorr, emphasized that he made his evaluation on the basis of

'content and sequence analysis,' or what the answers said rather than on the quantitative or statistical results used by Dr. Schorr.

Earlier today, Dr. Schorr concluded six days of testimony and under cross-examination admitted that he copied several passages used in his report from 'A Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist' by Dr. James A. Brussel.

Reported the newspaper:

"He said he copied the material because he wanted 'to use language that was alive and vivid to state what I had so fumblingly stated in my earlier report.'

"The borrowed phrasing, he said, was used only to illustrate his findings from testing Sirhan and in no way influenced his evaluation of the defendant.

"He said he knew nothing about the cases Dr. Brussel was describing, but liked the way the author described paranoid characteristics.

"Pressed by Assistant District Attorney John E. Howard, Dr. Schorr said he often copies phrases from technical books and that, 'When I use language to describe what I have already written, I don't quote it (indicate by quotation marks). I don't claim authorship for these.'

* * *

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19.-- 'Watching Sirhan Bishara Sirhan every day, it is sometimes difficult to remember he is a man, 25 years old today,' Dave Smith, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) wrote today.

Continues the article, in part:

'To many people, a 25th birthday is a time to take stock on that first third of their lives which usually governs how the rest will go.

'But to Sirhan, this milestone marks the virtual end of a life that was oddly incomplete, barely begun.

'He enters the courtroom with a jaunty strut, smiles and

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waves at his mother, Mary, and brothers, Munir and Adel, and occasionally even nods a greeting to certain reporters whose stories he has read and been pleased with.

He is elaborately polite to everyone in the courtroom, chopping up his sentences with a respectful 'sir' at every phrase, so that he is sometimes difficult to follow as he threads his delicate, courteous way through testimony on how he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the head at point-blank range but can't remember doing it.

He is on trial for his life, in what he reportedly regards as a purely political assassination, an act of patriotism to the Palestinian Arab cause, justified by maltreatment of Arab refugees like himself.

All the psychiatric evidence for both sides agree that Sirhan doesn't want to be portrayed as a psychotic, but as a man with a mission.

Sirhan's view of his motive is thus a heroic one, and he is said to be gratified that many Palestinian refugees regard him as a national hero and eloquent exponent of their long-standing grievance against Zionism.

What is striking about Sirhan's view is its utter irrelevance to the quiet Pasadena existence he has known for half his life.

In some twisted way that perhaps only psychiatry may ever explain, Sirhan walked the quiet, shaded streets of Pasadena and grew to a meek, polite adulthood with bloody scenes of Arab-Israeli conflict raging before his mind's eye.

Concerning Sirhan's inability to remember the events at the Ambassador Hotel, Smith notes that this is the keystone of Sirhan's defense theory of diminished capacity to premeditate.

His attorneys claim that the diminutive Arab was in a trance when he killed Kennedy, suffering a dissociative reaction to which paranoid schizophrenics are prone, abetted by degrees of drunkenness, self-induced hypnosis, long-term rage at Zionism and short-term rage at Kennedy's support of Israel.

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"The prosecution counters that Sirhan's alleged trance is part retrograde amnesia and part convenience.

"Whether amnesia is feigned or a genuine part of Sirhan's mental illness remains to be proved. But the untested evidence of his illness -- from his childhood in Jerusalem to his own chaotic scribbles in his college notebook - testify to both a life of flight down blind alleys and to an iron probe that could not or would not seek a way out."

In court today, Dr. O. Roderick Richardson, clinical psychologist, resumed the stand and described Sirhan as a paranoid schizophrenic whose mental illness was 'about as severe as you can get without being unchangeable.'

He told the court that he felt Sirhan had been acutely ill for a year or two before the June 5 slaying, adding that when he administered psychological tests last July, Sirhan was then 'getting worse.'

9 The defendant, related Richardson, 'was a very ill person who was descending further into mental illness.' Sirhan, he continued, had not passed the point of no return. He was close to being incurable, but still capable of either improvement or regression.

The doctor said he felt Sirhan's condition had worsened by November, when he was tested by Dr. Martin M. Schorr who, after six days on the stand, admitted he lifted from a psychiatrist's book the language he used in describing Sirhan as a paranoid schizophrenic.

"On the whole," reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times), "Richardson's conclusions tended to support those of Schorr, though Richardson admitted under cross-examination by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts that he scores tests differently from Schorr, and would not have made certain conclusions that Schorr did."

"In describing Sirhan's paranoia, Richardson said he found Sirhan to be 'blaming, suspicious, wordy, power-oriented, judgemental and moralistic' in his relationship with other people.

He said Sirhan showed signs of delusions of omnipotence

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and grandeur and wishes to associate himself with symbols of prestige and status. Sirhan also felt himself the victim of unidentified influences, Richardson testified.

Richardson said Sirhan had a superior intelligence and likened him to a 'good engine out of tune' because of erratic functioning in his daily emotional life.

The witness also declared that Sirhan's reactions to the Thematic Apperception Test revealed depressive, suicidal, hostile tendencies heightened by anxiety over anything suggesting sex.

Said the newspaper:

'One reaction, to a picture of a man and woman in a bedroom, 'suggests a sexual problem,' Richardson said. Sirhan interpreted the picture as showing a man after he had either raped or strangled the woman. 'This emphasis on aggression and hostility in connection with sex,' Richardson said, 'makes the sexual topic a frightening one' for Sirhan.'

* * *

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 -- Sirhan B. Sirhan premeditated the killing of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, but not in the mature and meaningful way that must be proved to justify a death sentence for first-degree murder in the opinion of a clinical psychologist and a psychiatrist, both of whom testified in the trial today.

O. Roderick Richardson, psychologist, said that Sirhan's plan to kill Kennedy 'would be premeditation of the sort when a mental patient in a locked ward plans to steal the keys from the night nurse and escape through the kitchen window.'

Psychiatrist Eric H. Marcus conceded that Sirhan was capable of planning the slaying, forming an intent to commit murder and harboring malice aforethought.

But, added Marcus, such plans arose from Sirhan's paranoid view of himself as a 'savior of society,' and in this context could not constitute mature and meaningful premeditation.

Besides Richardson and Marcus, the defense called two more

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clinical psychologists, Dr. Stephen J. Howard and Dr. William Crain. The two were excused with little or no cross-examination, and testified they examined raw data from five psychological tests administered by Richardson to Sirhan.

A Los Angeles newspaper (Times) reported that after evaluating the tests independently they reached the same diagnosis as Richardson: that Sirhan is a paranoid schizophrenic and was in a state of diminished mental capacity when he shot Kennedy."

It was revealed for the first time in open court -- by Marcus -- that the prosecution's psychiatric consultant, Dr. Seymour Pollack, also considers Sirhan a paranoid schizophrenic, added the newspaper.

But, Marcus testified, Pollack also maintains that there is no relationship between Sirhan's mental illness and the crime. Marcus found Sirhan to be suffering from delusions of persecution, particularly political persecution, and said, I fail to see that logic of contending there is no relationship between Sirhan's delusions and his committing a crime directly related to his political views.

Under questioning by Grant B. Cooper, one of the defense attorneys, Marcus admitted that he and all other psychologists and psychiatric experts in the case, including Pollack, had met on Feb. 2 in Cooper's office to compare findings.

Reported the newspaper:

It was after that meeting, when all reports for both sides turned out to be in substantial agreement, that the prosecution and defense agreed to submit a change of plea, from innocent to guilty, with the understanding that Sirhan would receive a life sentence.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker was willing to accept the plea change, but insisted that the jury determine the penalty. Sirhan was unwilling to risk the death penalty at that time, so the agreement fell through.

The defense went on with its original plea and the prosecution was committed to try the case and attempt to dilute the effect

of psychiatric testimony that is corroborated by its own experts.'

During cross-examination by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts today, Richardson was asked if Sirhan might have slain the senator because he wanted to be regarded as a hero to the Palestinian Arab cause.

Sirhan 'was not grandstanding,' said Richardson. He conceded that some people could have seen themselves in a hero's role in the Arab-Israeli conflict and decided to kill on a rational basis, but not Sirhan.

Richardson added that Sirhan's tests showed that his decisions are not made on a rational basis but a psychotic one.

As for Sirhan's mental condition, Marcus testified that this became noticeable only after the defendant was thrown from a horse in September, 1966. Soon after the fall, Sirhan, who had ambitions to become a jockey, quit his job as an exercise boy.

Noted the newspaper:

'Marcus said Sirhan did not suffer any brain damage from the fall, but said the fall 'was the last straw. His career aspirations were finished and from then on he started going visibly downhill.'

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) related that the defense had reduced the number of its witnesses, and quoted Cooper as saying 'We might as well wind it up. We're in good shape so why prolong it.'

Added the newspaper:

'Cooper foresaw that the defense could conclude its case by the end of next week. Only 24 hours earlier he had forecast a timetable which would have lasted at least two weeks.'

* * *

FRIDAY, MARCH 21 -- A psychiatrist, Dr. Eric H. Marcus, said in court today that Sirhan B. Sirhan was deliberately made drunk in his cell last year for medical tests.

The defendant had to be physically restrained because

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the alcohol turned him into a wild beast, the psychiatrist related.

Sirhan, added Marcus, was given six ounces of gin in Tom Collinses, downing four in 18 minutes, and you might say he went beserk.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

'While drunk, Sirhan would not talk about his fatal shooting of Robert F. Kennedy last June, but spoke of Kennedy as if he were still alive,' Marcus testified.

'He said Sirhan mumbled that '20 years is long enough for the Jews,' that Kennedy 'didn't have to help them, and 'The bastard (Kennedy) isn't worth the bullets,' when asked if he killed him.

'Marcus said Sirhan was very polite when sober, but when drunk yelled, 'Get that bastard out of here,' as Marcus, a Jew, started to enter the cell.

'But later, Marcus said, Sirhan mistook him for a brother and 'asked me to take him home.' Marcus said he had the impression Sirhan thought he was at the Ambassador and wanted to be driven home.

'The defense which called Marcus to testify, contends that Sirhan was intoxicated the morning of June 5, when he shot Kennedy.

'Marcus said Sirhan appeared extremely nervous and agitated when drunk in his cell and at one point grabbed for his own throat, thinking he was choking.

'Marcus said Sirhan was given the alcohol to test his brain waves under the influence of alcohol.

'Earlier, Marcus conceded Sirhan might be lying or 'malingering' in claiming he doesn't remember killing Kennedy.

'But, Marcus added, he doesn't believe so.

Defense Atty. Grant B. Cooper today offered into evidence two of Sirhan's high school history texts in attempting to prove that Sirhan 'may have begun vaguely planning an assassination as early as 1962 or 1963, when he was a junior or senior at John Muir High School in Pasadena,' reported the newspaper.

In one book, where the assassination of William McKinley is

described as the third slaying of a U.S. president, Sirhan was alleged to have written, 'Many more will come.'

In the second book, on European history, Sirhan is said to have underlined a passage describing the 1914 assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand -- the act which triggered World War I.

'It was the only underlining in the entire text,' said the newspaper.

Under cross-examination by Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, Marcus said Sirhan had told him at some point during the four psychiatric interviews stretching from June-October, 1968, that he couldn't remember the hours immediately before and after the shooting of Kennedy.

'You don't believe it, do you?' asked Fitts. 'Yes, I believe it,' responded the psychiatrist.

'Marcus said Sirhan might have developed a retrograde amnesia, which results 'when a person does something that causes so much anxiety that it is blocked out of a person's mind...In my experience, I have hardly ever seen a murderer who remembers what he's done. I think it's a bona fide amnesia, not malingering,' reported the newspaper.

Meanwhile, another Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) noted that Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, associate dean of criminology at the University of California, Berkeley, testifying today said that he diagnosed Sirhan as mentally ill and suffering from schizophrenia.

Sirhan was 'drawn like a magnet' to Kennedy, whom he admittedly shot, Diamond added.

Sirhan was said to have told Diamond that he loved and hated Kennedy. The criminologist said he came to accept the contradictory conversation as typical of Sirhan, related the newspaper.

Continued the newspaper's report of the trial:

'Dr. Diamond, who said he saw psychological test results showing Sirhan mentally ill before he met the defendant, recounted what Sirhan told him about the night of June 4-5.

'The story he related to me on the initial interview is essentially the story which he told on the witness stand,' he said,

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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., April 2, 1969
After 10 a.m.

WEEKLY SUMMARY #43

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 43rd summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

MONDAY, MARCH 24 -- Through self-hypnosis, Sirhan B. Sirhan programmed himself "like a computer" to assassinate Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, John Douglas, staff writer for a Los Angeles newspaper (Herald-Examiner) wrote about today's trial.

"This is the conclusion of Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, Berkeley criminologist," the writer added, as the doctor today climaxed two days of testimony by reading his opinion.

The doctor's summary, as published in a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

"The combination of events which led to the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy by Sirhan, I think, started with Sirhan Sirhan's exposure to violence and death in Jerusalem in 1948, and it continued with his immigration to the United States, the development of his mental illness in which his whole personality altered and he became preoccupied with revolution, violence, destruction, paranoid fantasies of glory, power and becoming the savior of his people.

As his delusional fantasies grew bolder, his fanatical hatred and

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fear of the Jews increased with each radio and television broadcast concerning the tension in the Middle East, while in real life, Sirhan was withdrawing into a ruminative, brooding, isolated sense of failure and insignificance. To improve his mind and to gain control, he hoped, over his personal destiny, he read mystical books and subscribed to and studied the Rosicrucian correspondence courses in self-hypnosis and mind power.

"He practiced his lessons diligently to the point where he became frightened by his own magical, supernatural powers of concentration. He actually believed that he could stop the bombers from reaching Israel and thereby save the Arabs, simply by willing the death of all who would help the Jews.

(The reference to the bombers concerns the senator's backing of sending 50 planes to Israel).

"His experiments in inducing the magical trances worked better than he realized -- they worked so well that they frightened Sirhan and convinced him that he was losing his mind, that he was going insane. Repeatedly, he would practice his lessons doing all that his correspondence courses prescribed, looking in the mirror, thinking thoughts of love and peace, only to emerge from his trance -- a trance that he did not really believe had actually happened -- to find his notebook filled with incoherent threats of violence and assassination.

"He knew it was his writing, but he had no knowledge or recollection of writing them. He concluded he was crazy and he feared to let anyone know what was happening. He thought they would lock him away in a mental hospital.

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"He sought the remedy in his books on mysticism and the occult, and he daydreamed of the power of his gun, taking every opportunity on many different days to shoot it, firing hundreds and hundreds of shots as if each shot would somehow make up for his every growing sense of helplessness, impotence and fear of loss of self-control.

"With absolutely no knowledge or awareness of what was actually happening in his Rosicrucian and occult experiments, he was gradually programming himself, exactly like a computer is programmed by its magnetic tape, programming himself for the coming assassination. In his unconscious mind there existed a plan for the total fulfillment of his sick, paranoid hatred of Kennedy and all who might want to help the Jews. In his conscious mind there was no awareness of such a plan or that he, Sirhan, was to be the instrument of assassination.

"It is my opinion that through chance, circumstances, and a succession of unrelated events, Sirhan found himself in the physical situation in which the assassination occurred. I am satisfied that if he had been fully conscious and in his usual mental state he would have been quite harmless.

"But he was confused, bewildered and partially intoxicated. The mirrors in the hotel lobby, the flashing lights, the general confusion -- this was like pressing the button which starts the computer.

"I agree that this is an absurd and preposterous story, unlikely and incredible. I doubt that Sirhan himself agrees with me as to how everything happened.

"Sirhan would rather believe that he is the fanatical martyr who by his noble act of self-sacrifice has saved his people and become a great

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hero. He claims to be ready to die in the gas chamber for the glory of the Arab people.

However, I see Sirhan as small and helpless, pitifully ill, with a demented psychotic rage, out of control of his own consciousness and his own actions, subject to bizarre dissociated trances in some of which he programmed himself to be the instrument of assassination, and then in an almost accidentally induced twilight state he actually executed the crime, knowing next to nothing as to what was happening.

Diamond related in court today that Sirhan, under hypnosis, filled in this picture of the hours leading up to the shooting:

After having four Tom Collinses at various political parties at the Ambassador Hotel on June 4, Sirhan went back to his car to go home, but felt "dizzy, drunk, sickish-tired."

He opened his car door, saw the pistol on the back seat and thought, "The Jews will steal my gun." He tucked the gun under his belt and returned to the hotel for some coffee to sober up on.

The defendant wandered around the hotel until he found a coffee bar located in an alcove between the Embassy Room, where the senator was speaking, and the Colonial Room, where the senator headed after the speech.

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times) on Diamond's testimony:

"The alcove was walled with mirrors, and Sirhan became confused with the brightly lighted chandeliers reflecting in the mirrors, and the crowds of people, multiplied by the dozen in the floor-to-ceiling looking glass.

He had several cups of coffee with a girl -- described as brunette and beautiful -- and Diamond said Sirhan was absolutely consistent in denying

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that there was any thought of doing anything with his gun."

Diamond added that he discounted the possibility that Sirhan might be faking mental illness, saying that among paranoid schizophrenics like Sirhan, their chief wish is to 'fake sanity, rather than insanity,' because they don't want to be thought of as psychotic,' reported the newspaper.

Continuing his testimony, the psychiatrist cited one previously undisclosed family scene, which he said, contributed heavily to Sirhan's mental deterioration.

In the summer of 1957, Sirhan's father, Bishara, and brother, Adel, were digging an irrigation ditch around a tree, while Sirhan skipped in the mud.

After warning Sirhan to stop, Bishara started to beat his son, but was stopped by Adel. Bishara, Diamond said, stormed into the house and told his wife, Mary, that she must choose between him or the children, because he demanded to be master of his house.

She chose the children, Diamond said, whereupon the father took the family savings, returned to Jordan and has not been in touch with his family since.

The doctor also revealed he once considered using sodium pentathol -- "truth serum" -- on Sirhan instead of hypnosis, but Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker ruled this out.

It was explained that he made the ruling after learning that in rare cases a subject could die from the effects of sodium pentathol.

Judge Walker felt that the death of Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab, from a dosage of sodium pentathol administered by Jewish doctors -- Diamond

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