

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SIRHAN'S NEW QUARTERS A CELL WITHIN A CELL

Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, will be able to visit relatives only through a thick glass window in his new Hall of Justice jail cell, according to Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess.

Only Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, and a jail guard assigned to his six-by-nine-foot cubicle, will have personal contact with the Jordanian immigrant.

Pitchess said any other visitors allowed to see Sirhan will be separated from the prisoner by a partition through which they can see. However, voice communications will be accomplished through a telephone hookup.

Sirhan, confined to a maximum security cell in the hospital section of Men's Central Jail since his arrest June 5 after Kennedy and five others were shot in the Ambassador Hotel, was moved to the Hall of Justice Sunday. Kennedy was the only fatality.

The transfer, accomplished by a three-car police convoy in the afternoon, was so secret Parsons did not know about the move until his client was securely confined to his new quarters in one of the top floors of the Hall of Justice.

The jail section occupies the 10th through 14th floors of the building, which also houses the courtroom in which Sirhan is expected to stand trial.

Pitchess said the transfer was "routine... and was part of an over-all previously scheduled program of security for the inmate."

The way apparently was paved to hold future courtroom proceedings in the Hall of Justice instead of in the chapel of the men's jail, a mile away, where Sirhan has made his only two appearances.

The next court date for the accused man is July 19, when he is scheduled to enter his plea.

Sirhan's new cell—freshly painted green—is described as a "cell within a cell."

In the inner cell to which Sirhan is confined is a bunk fixed to the wall, a toilet stool without a cover, a wash basin and a 12-inch mirror, made of metal and attached to a wall.

It is located in an isolated corridor with no outside windows and no other prisoners.

Inside the cell with Sirhan is an unarmed jail guard. A second guard stands just outside the cell and others are assigned to the maximum security area.

The larger area is equipped with bars and sliding doors like the cell, but it has the 20-by-30-inch window through which Sirhan can communicate with visitors via telephone.

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Mr. Conrad _____
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Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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

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☐ Being Investigated

57 JUL 23 1968

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145 JUL 22 1968



SIRHAN SIRHAN'S NEW JAIL FOR SIRHAN LOS ANGELES COUNTY HALL OF JUSTICE

Remember matches headline to building where accused slayer was moved in a secret transfer

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UPI-99

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, THE ACCUSED SLAYER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WAS SECRETLY MOVED FROM A HOSPITAL WARD AT THE COUNTY JAIL TO THE HOLDING CELL WHERE HE IS EXPECTED TO STAY DURING HIS TRIAL. IT WAS DISCLOSED TODAY.

SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS SAID THE MOVE WAS MADE SUNDAY AS "PART OF AN OVER-ALL PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM OF SECURITY FOR THE INMATE."

PLANS TO MOVE THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT INTO SPECIALLY PREPARED QUARTERS AT THE HALL OF JUSTICE PRIOR TO HIS COURT APPEARANCE JUNE 26 WERE CANCELLED WHEN SECURITY MEASURES WERE NOT COMPLETED IN TIME.

THE PROCEEDINGS, AT WHICH SIRHAN'S ATTORNEY, RUSSELL J. PARSONS WAS GRANTED A CONTINUANCE TO JULY 19, WAS HELD IN THE SAME JAIL CHAPEL WHERE HE WAS ARRAIGNED THE DAY AFTER KENNEDY'S DEATH.

SIRHAN'S NEW QUARTERS IN THE FORTRESS-LIKE HALL OF JUSTICE IN THE LOS ANGELES CIVIC CENTER ARE LESS THAN A MILE FROM THE NEW COUNTY JAIL WHERE HE WAS HELD IN THE HOSPITAL SECTION.

COUNTY SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZED UP TO \$20,000 EXPENDITURES TO TURN THE HOLDING CELL AND COURTROOM WHERE SIRHAN WILL BE TRIED INTO A STEEL FORTRESS.

HEAVY STEEL SHIELDS WERE PLACED OVER WINDOWS ALONG A SEALED PASSAGEWAY WHERE THE DEFENDANT WILL WALK FROM THE 13TH FLOOR CELL TO THE EIGHTH FLOOR COURTROOM.

ONLY JAIL ELEVATORS RUN ABOVE THE EIGHTH FLOOR, AND NEW WALLS AND STEEL DOORS WERE ERECTED IN THE CELL.

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Kennedy Slaying
Claimant a Suicide

JUAREZ, Mexico, July 5 (UPI)—Police said today Crispin Curiel Gonzalez, 17, a Mexican-American who said he was involved in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was found hanged in his hospital psychiatric cell.

Authorities had said they did not believe Gonzalez's story and felt he did it for publicity. But he had been put under observation in the psychiatric wing of Liberty Hospital in Juarez, just across the border from El Paso, Tex. Gonzalez was arrested last month after a passerby picked up a letter he had dropped and found it said he claimed to be an accomplice to the Kennedy shooting.

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FILE
6-11-68

The Washington Post A-11
 Times Herald _____
 The Washington Daily News _____
 The Evening Star (Washington) _____
 The Sunday Star (Washington) _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 Sunday News (New York) _____
 New York Post _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Sun (Baltimore) _____
 The Worker _____
 The New Leader _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 People's World _____
 Date JUL 6 1968

67 JUL 16 1968

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 145 JUL 15 1968

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Lack of Evidence in Shooting Sirhan Kin Cited by Police

Pasadena police said Thursday they are hampered by lack of tangible evidence as they investigate the alleged attempt on the life of Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, brother of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, 35, told police he was shot twice from one of two cars which followed him as he drove north on the Pasadena Freeway early Wednesday.

Police said Thursday that finding the white Volkswagen bus, from which Sirhan said, the two shots

were fired, was the first priority in their investigation. But they said they had no concrete clues.

Lt. Gerald Wright said the only tangible evidence—two .38-caliber slugs recovered from Sirhan's car—was of no value now. A ballistics test would be useless unless the gun which fired them could be found, he said.

Wright also said that police still have no doubts at this time that the incident occurred as Sirhan told them.

The Times reported Thursday that Sirhan's answers to certain key questions during a lie detector test administered Wednesday were considered unsatisfactory. Wright declined to comment.

After nearly nine hours of police investigation Wednesday, Sirhan was taken to the Sirhan family residence in Pasadena. The home is under heavy police guard.

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

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Los Angeles, Calif.

FILE

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Munir Sirhan, left, his older brother, Saidallah, and two policemen examine damage to the car of the older Sirhan brother. —UPI Photos

Two Shots on the Pasadena Freeway

Ambush of Sirhan Kin Fails

PASADENA, Calif., July 4 (UPI) — The eldest brother of the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy told police he became the target of would-be killers on a freeway in the pre-dawn hours yesterday.

Saidallah B. Sirhan, a 36-year-old unemployed machinist, told police seven white men in two vehicles pursued his car on the Pasadena freeway and fired two shots which narrowly missed him.

Mr. Sirhan, brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, told police the attack occurred while he was en route home here from a futile attempt to contact a woman writer for an underground newspaper in neighboring Los Angeles.

BULLETS FOUND

Police said two bullets from a .38 caliber pistol were recovered. Mr. Sirhan said he leaned way over in the car after the first shot rang out. The second bullet was found on his jacket on the floor between the front and back seats.

"Had the driver been sitting upright, the projectile probably would have passed thru his neck," one policeman reported.

The attack preceded by only a short time publication in the Pasadena Independent Star-News of a copyrighted interview.

"I feel that I should not be punished for the alleged acts of my brother by being deprived of my citizenship," the elder Sirhan was quoted as saying.

HEARING CANCELED

He told a reporter that the Government canceled a June 7 naturalization hearing. He said authorities told him the hearing — two days after the Kennedy assassination — would be rescheduled, but said so far it has not been.

"I feel that I am

loyal to the United States," Mr. Sirhan said. "I came to this country to better my conditions in life," he added, saying that "without citizenship, I am unable to advance myself in the United States."

The nerve-wracking pursuit began as Mr. Sirhan was driving alone thru the Chinatown section of downtown Los Angeles. He said the drivers of the pursuing vehicles sounded their horns and changed lanes as they got onto the freeway.

FLANKED HIM

Mr. Sirhan said he drove in the middle lane to let the vehicles pass, but they began to flank him. One of four persons in the bus pointed a pistol at him.

The first bullet tore thru the right wind-wing of Mr. Sirhan's car. At this point, he leaned over to avoid being shot. The second bullet also ripped into the car.

The two pursuing vehicles then turned off the freeway and Mr. Sirhan said he drove to the police station here to report the attack. Police advised him to go to the home of his mother, Mary Sirhan, 55, and his brother, Adel, about 28, which is under police protection.

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The Washington Post _____
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The Washington Daily News 5 _____
The Evening Star (Washington) _____
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New York Post _____
The New York Times _____
The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
People's World _____
Date 7-4-68

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128 JUL 12 1968

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Two Shots Fired at Sirhan's Brother in Auto, Police Report

Accused Assassin's Kin Tells Pasadena Officers Bullets Came From Car That Had Followed Him From Los Angeles

BY ERIC MALNIC
Times Staff Writer

Two shots were fired Wednesday into a car driven by Saidallah Bishara Sirhan, a brother of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, police reported.

However, The Times learned that Sirhan underwent a persistent, lengthy police interrogation and his answers to certain key questions during a lie detector test were considered unsatisfactory.

Sirhan, 35, told officers the shots came from one of two cars that followed him from Los Angeles to Pasadena on the Pasadena Freeway shortly before dawn.

The first shot struck a coat on the back seat of Sirhan's car, Pasadena Police Lt. Gerald Wright said. Sirhan told investigators he ducked

and a second shot zipped past his head and buried itself in the door beside him.

"If he had been sitting upright, the projectile probably would have passed through his neck," a Pasadena policeman said.

Sirhan told officers the shooting took place about 100 yards from the end of the freeway. He said the cars turned in opposite directions on a cross street at that point, while he proceeded directly to the police station.

Lt. Wright said he had "no doubt at all" about the incident. "We're taking it for a fact right now," he said.

Brother Awaiting Trial

Sirhan's 24-year-old brother, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, is in County Jail awaiting trial on charges he shot Sen. Kennedy June 5 at the Ambassador.

Saidallah Sirhan is the second eldest of the five Sirhan brothers. He is single and unemployed and has been living in a Pasadena apartment away from the remainder of the Sirhan family.

Pasadena police urged Friday that he move into the family home in Pasadena, which is under heavy police guard.

Saidallah Sirhan told officers he had been in Chinatown early Wednesday in an unsuccessful attempt to contact a woman reporter from an underground newspaper.

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Miss Gandy _____

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

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Los Angeles, Calif.

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Editor: Nick B. Williams
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Noticed Cars Following Him

He said he was returning home on the Pasadena Freeway in the downtown Los Angeles area at about 4:30 a.m. when he first noticed two cars following him.

One car, a white Volkswagen bus, contained four men, he said. The other, a green 1959 Chevrolet, contained three men.

After following him for about six miles, he said, the two cars pulled beside him, the Volkswagen on the right, the Chevrolet on the left.

Without warning, a man in the bus—possibly the driver—pointed a



UNDER HEAVY GUARD — Saidallah Bishara Sirhan is squeezed between two detectives on leaving Pasadena police headquarters where he reported that shots were fired at him as he drove on the Freeway. Times photo by Larry Sharkey

pistol at him and fired one shot, Sirhan said.

The shot shattered the right wind wing of his car and buried itself in the coat on the back seat, he said.

Sirhan said he threw himself to the right, seconds before another shot crashed through the wind wing and struck the door beside him.

The 35-year-old Pasadena said the two cars left the freeway at Glenarm St., where the Pasadena Freeway becomes the Arroyo Parkway. The bus turned right on Glenarm, the Chevrolet left, he said.

Sirhan said he then drove on to the police headquarters, about a mile away.

Police said they recovered two bullets from the car, both .38-caliber. After checking the vehicle, they returned it to Sirhan's apartment home, where it was parked in a garage.

Officers then took Sirhan on a careful retracing of his route in an attempt

to gather further evidence.

Saidallah Sirhan entered the United States from his native Jordan in June, 1960, nearly three years after his mother and three of his brothers—including Sirhan Bishara Sirhan—had immigrated here.

He filed a petition for naturalization on Nov. 27, 1967—the only member of his family to apply—but his naturalization was postponed on June 7 of this year by a U.S. district court.

At one time he worked as a house painter, but in recent months he has been unemployed.

The five Sirhan brothers are Sharif, 39; Saidallah, who will be 36 Sunday; Adel, 29; Sirhan, 24; and Munir, 20.

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SIRHAN 7/3 HC
 ADV FOR AMS SUN JULY 7
 BY JOAN SWEENEY

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--FOR THE PAST MONTH, THE WORLD OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY HAS CONSISTED OF A 12 BY 12 FOOT JAIL CELL AND 30 FEET OF CORRIDOR OUTSIDE IT.

ONLY TWICE SINCE HE WAS TAKEN TO THE CELL AFTER A SECRET MUNICIPAL COURT ARRAIGNMENT JUNE 5, A FEW HOURS AFTER KENNEDY WAS SHOT AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, HAS SIRHAN LEFT ITS IMMEDIATE VICINITY. BOTH TIMES WERE FOR BRIEF COURT APPEARANCES IN A MAKESHIFT COURTROOM THAT USUALLY SERVES AS THE CHAPEL OF THE MEN'S CENTRAL JAIL, A MAXIMUM SECURITY FACILITY.

SIRHAN'S CELL ACTUALLY IS A ROOM IN THE HOSPITAL WING OF THE LARGE REINFORCED CONCRETE STRUCTURE SITUATED IN AN INDUSTRIAL SECTION ADJACENT TO A RAILROAD TRACK IN DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES.

THE CELL IS PAINTED A GREENISH-GREY AND IS SPARSELY FURNISHED WITH A BED, A WASH BASIN, TOILET AND A WRITING DESK THAT CAN BE RAISED OR LOWERED TO REST AGAINST THE WALL.

ALTHOUGH SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES NOW REFUSE TO COMMENT ON SECURITY PRECAUTIONS, THEY WERE BELIEVED TO BE THE SAME AS ORIGINALLY EMPLOYED: A GUARD IN THE ROOM WITH SIRHAN, A SECOND WATCHING HIM THROUGH A SMALL WINDOW IN THE STEEL DOOR OF HIS CELL AND THREE OTHERS ON THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE.

THE JAIL ITSELF IS A THREE-STORY BUILDING WITH SEVERAL WINGS. IT WAS BUILT IN 1964 AND HOUSES APPROXIMATELY 3,700 PRISONERS BESIDES SIRHAN.

51 JUL 12 1968

FOR MR. TOLSON

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SIRHAN IS ALLOWED OUTSIDE OF HIS CELL TO EXERCISE IN THE 30-FOOT CORRIDOR IN FRONT OF IT. BUT HE HAS NO CONTACT WITH ANY OTHER JAIL INMATES. ALTHOUGH HE EATS THE SAME TYPE OF FOOD THE OTHER PRISONERS DO. HIS MEALS ARE PREPARED IN A SEPARATE KITCHEN. APPARENTLY AS AN ADDED SECURITY PRECAUTION.

HIS VISITORS HAVE BEEN FEW: ATTORNEY A. L. WIRIN OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION; DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER WILBUR LITTLEFIELD; HIS PRESENT ATTORNEY, RUSSELL PARSONS; A BROTHER AND HIS MOTHER, WHO LAST MONDAY PAID HER FIRST VISIT TO HER SON SINCE HE WAS JAILED.

HE IS ALLOWED READING MATERIAL, AND REQUESTED SEVERAL BOOKS ON THE OCCULT. ALL MAIL ADDRESSED TO HIM IS TURNED OVER TO HIS ATTORNEY.

HE HAS NOT LEFT THE JAIL SINCE HE ENTERED IT. FOR HIS TWO COURT APPEARANCES HE WAS TAKEN TO THE JAIL CHAPEL UNDER HEAVY GUARD, AND ALL PERSONS ALLOWED IN THE ROOM WERE THOROUGHLY SEARCHED BEFORE HAND.

COUNTY SUPERVISORS HAVE AUTHORIZED A \$20,000 EXPENDITURE FOR INSTALLATION OF ARMOR PLATE AND BULLETPROOF GLASS IN A COURTROOM AT THE OLD HALL OF JUSTICE, SEVERAL BLOCKS AWAY, TO PROTECT SIRHAN DURING HIS TRIAL.

HOWEVER, THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT, DONALD E. WRIGHT, HAS COMPLAINED THAT HE WAS NOT TOLD OF PLANS TO TURN THE COURTROOM INTO A NEAR FORTRESS AND THAT SUCH DECISIONS WERE THE PREROGATIVE OF THE TRIAL JUDGE. HE ALSO HINTED THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF A CHANGE OF VENUE.

IF THE TRIAL IS HELD HERE, SIRHAN WOULD BE TAKEN FROM HIS CELL IN THE CENTRAL JAIL TO A HOLDING CELL ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE WHERE WORKMEN HAVE INSTALLED ARMOR PLATING IN A CORRIDOR TO PROTECT HIM WHEN HE WOULD BE MOVED TO AND FROM THE COURTROOM ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR.

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FOR MR. TOLSON

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UPI-128

(BROTHER)

PASADENA, CALIF.--AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE EARLY TODAY ON THE LIFE OF SAIDALLAH B. SIRHAN, BROTHER OF SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN, ACCUSED ASSASSIN OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

POLICE SAID TWO SHOTS WERE FIRED AT SIRHAN, 35, FROM ONE OF A PAIR OF CARS WHICH PURSUED HIM ON THE PASADENA FREEWAY AS HE WAS RETURNING TO HIS HOME ABOUT 4:30 A.M. PDT.

BOTH BULLETS STRUCK SIRHAN'S CAR. HE SAID HE LEANED OVER AWAY AFTER THE FIRST SHOT WAS FIRED AND THE SECOND BULLET WAS FOUND ON HIS JACKET LYING ON THE FLOOR OF THE BACK SEAT.

"HAD THE DRIVER BEEN SITTING UPRIGHT THE PROJECTILE PROBABLY WOULD HAVE PASSED THROUGH HIS NECK," AN OFFICER SAID.

SIRHAN SAID THAT AFTER THE SHOTS WERE FIRED HE DROVE TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS AND THE TWO PURSUING CARS TURNED OFF THE FREEWAY.

POLICE SAID BOTH BULLETS, FROM A .38-CALIBER GUN, WERE RECOVERED. SIRHAN SAID THE BULLETS CAME FROM A HANDGUN.

HE SAID HE FIRST NOTICED THE CARS AS HE WAS DRIVING THROUGH THE CHINATOWN SECTION OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES. HE SAID THE CARS' HORNS WERE BLOWING AND THEY WERE CHANGING LANES.

SIRHAN SAID HE WAS RETURNING FROM ATTEMPTING TO CONTACT "A LADY WRITER" FOR AN UNDERGROUND NEWSPAPER BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO FIND HER.

SIRHAN SAID HE GOT ON THE FREEWAY AND INTO THE MIDDLE LANE TO LET THE CARS PASS BUT THEY BEGAN TO FLANK HIM. HE SAID HE SAW A HANDGUN BEING POINTED AT HIM FROM THE WINDOW OF ONE OF THE VEHICLES, A SMALL FOREIGN-MADE BUS, BUT HE COULD NOT TELL WHETHER IT WAS HELD BY THE DRIVER OR THE PASSENGER IN THE FRONT SEAT. HE SAID THERE WERE TWO OTHER MEN IN THE BACK SEAT.

THE OTHER CAR HE SAID CONTAINED THREE MEN, ONE DRIVING AND TWO IN THE REAR.

AFTER THE SHOOTING, POLICE ADVISED SIRHAN TO GO TO HIS MOTHER'S HOME WHICH IS UNDER GUARD.

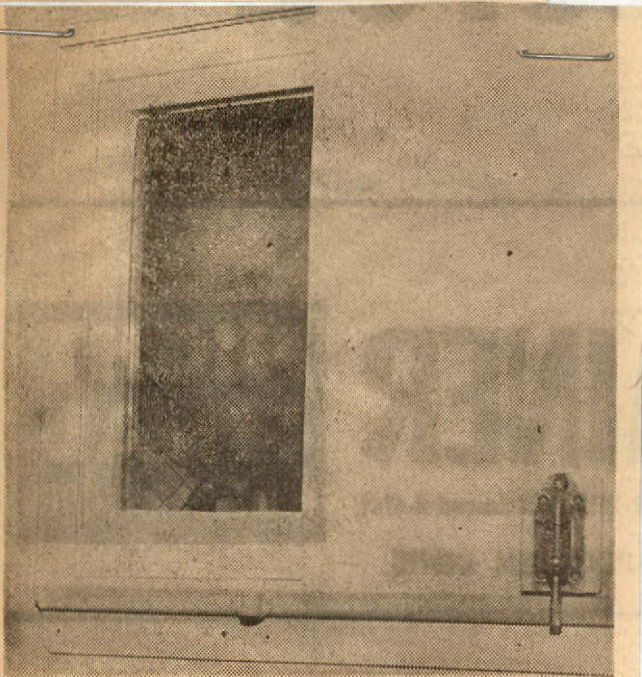
OFFICERS SAID POLICE WOULD RETRACE SIRHAN'S 10-MILE ROUTE WITH HIM IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION.

7/3--EG116PD

FOR MR. TOLSON

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Path of Fate Sirhan Will Walk Each Day



Steel Shielding Covers Every Corridor Opening

Workmen have completed installation of armor plating in the 9th floor corridors of the Hall of Justice in preparation for the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, charged with killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sliding metal panels over door windows and inch-thick metal plates over windows exposed to interior courtyard walls have been put in their places.

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Mr. DeLoach	_____
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Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

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

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57 JUL 23 1968

Only the courtroom in which Sirhan will be tried remains to be chosen and shielded to complete the \$20,000 bullet-proofing project which began last week.

When the courtroom is selected, workmen will construct a transparent barrier completely across the facility, separating Sirhan, the judge, jury and court officials from spectators.

One police official who watched workmen complete the 9th-floor project declared "this man (Sirhan) has greater security than even the president of the United States."

Sirhan has been confined in the county's Central Men's Jail since his arrest June 5, after Kennedy was mortally wounded and six other persons injured in a burst of gunfire, at the Ambassador Hotel.

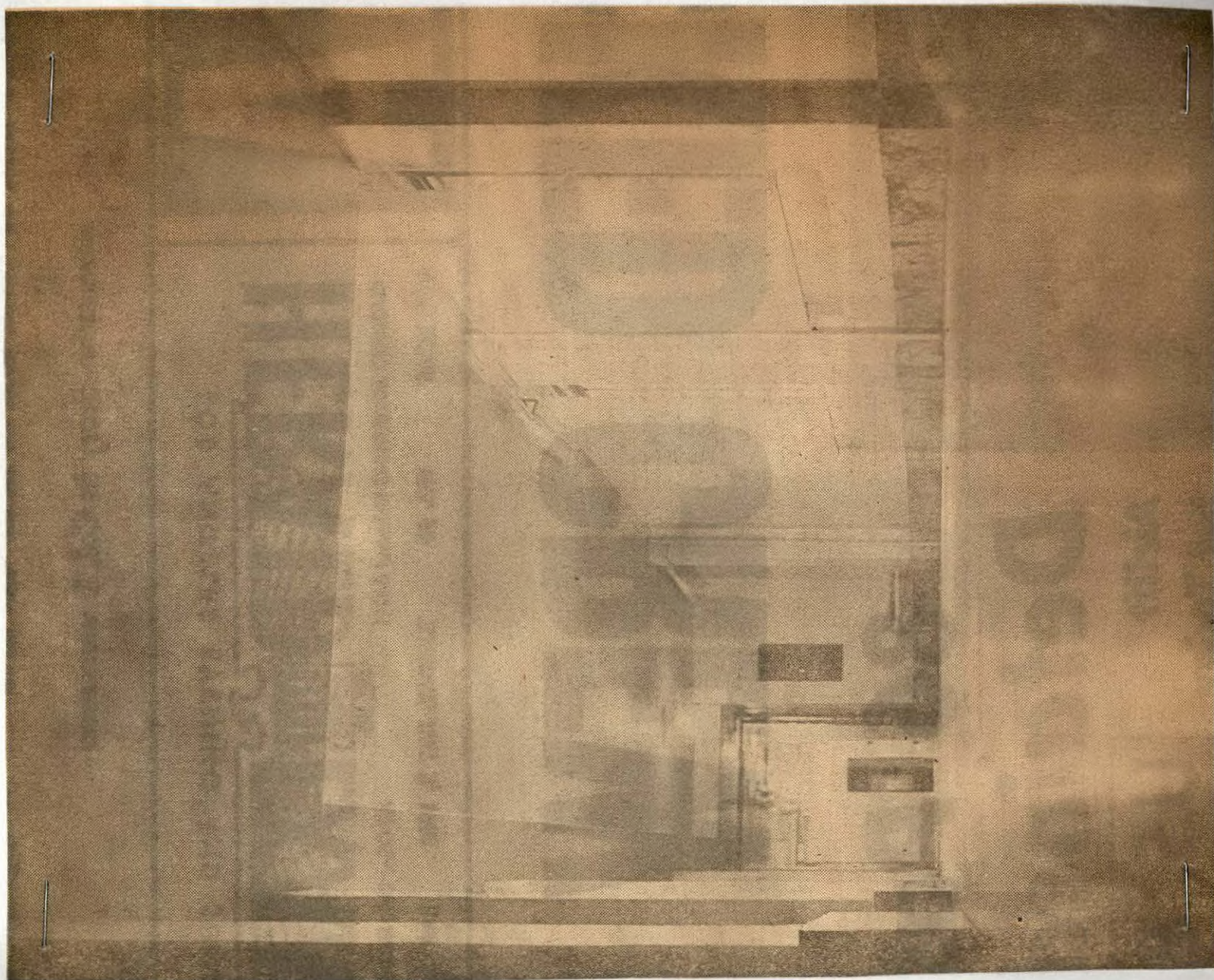
During the trial, it is expected he will be confined to the Hall of Justice jail, located on the floors above the building's 9th level.

Jail prisoners must pass through the 9th floor en route to 8th floor courtrooms. Separate stairwells lead to each individual courtroom.

Sirhan will be brought to the 9th floor and then escorted to the courtroom level by passing through two solid metal doors, each of which has a small window. It was over these windows sliding metal plates, have been placed. They can be controlled only from within the corridor.

His brief journey also will proceed past two 9th floor windows, exposed only to a very few inner windows in the Hall of Justice. These were covered with inch-thick metal plates.

Since his confinement to Central jail, he has been kept under constant guard by deputies inside and outside his cell. Each visitor allowed to see Sirhan is thoroughly searched.



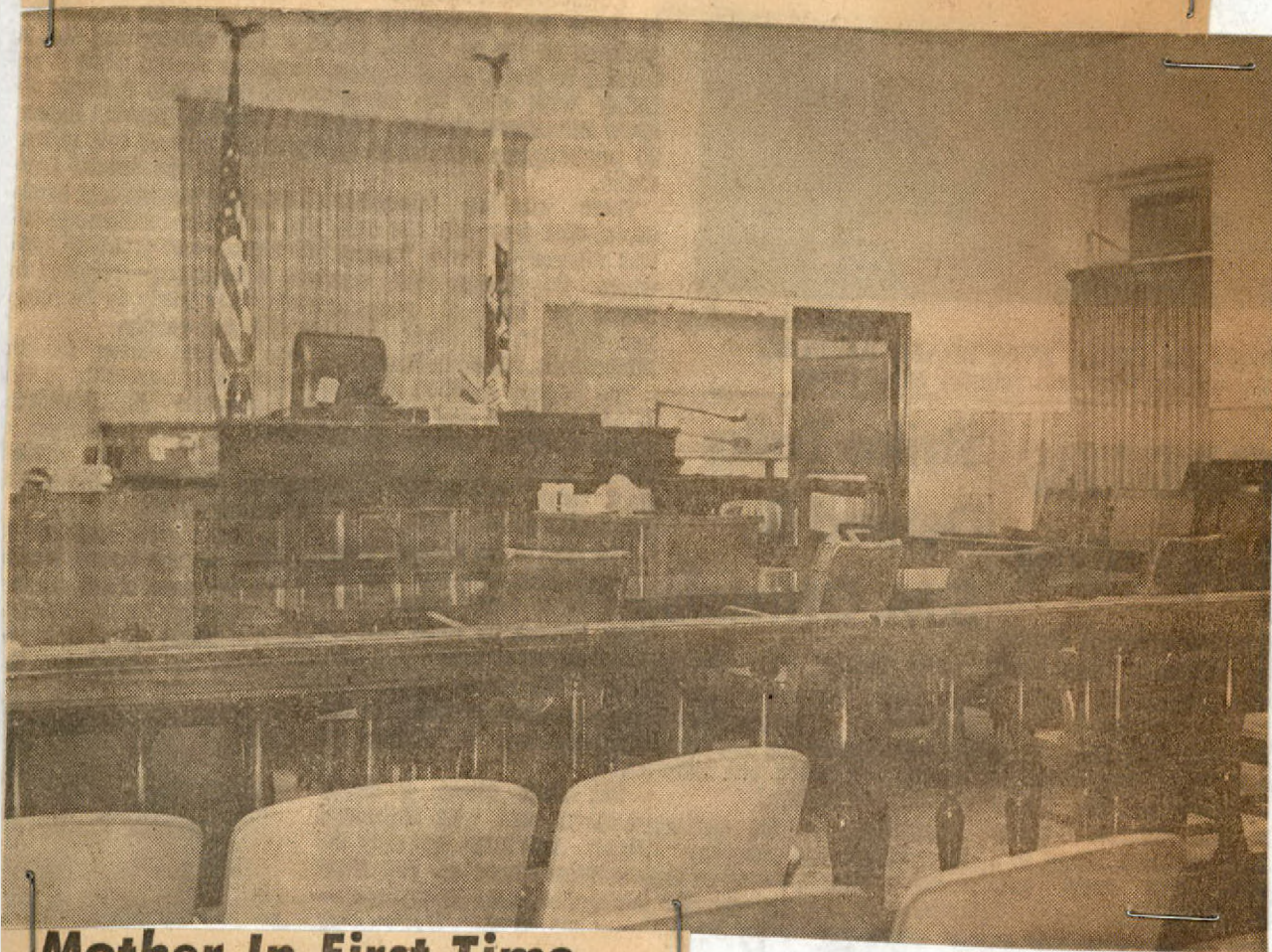
2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

WALK TO JUSTICE for Sirhan B. Sirhan will be armor-plated, with extensive security installations now being placed. At the County Hall of Justice, windows in steel doors along the path the accused killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy must take have had sliding steel panels installed, which lock from the corridor side (photo at far left). Sirhan will enter the hallway (left) from the small door at the center, which leads to the cell blocks. Inch-thick steel shields have been placed over the ninth floor windows, with a scant 4-inch margin allowing light to enter. The accused will take a right turn at the end of the hall, descend to the courtroom level on steel-plated steps (below). The stairway leads to an anteroom of the courtroom (lower left), where the trial may take place. Security plans call for a transparent shield to be placed in the courtroom, separating onlookers from Sirhan, judge and court officials.

—Herald-Examiner Photos by Bob Schultz



Story May Unfold in This Courtroom



Mother In First Time Visit to Jailed Sirhan

Mrs. Mary Sirhan—mother of son, Adel, and Sirhan's defense Sen. Robert Kennedy's suspect-attorney, Russell E. Parsons, ed slayer—spent nearly two A spokesman said Mrs. Sirhan hours in her son's jail cell and seemed happy with everything seemed "happy to see him." that was being done to aid Mrs. Sirhan visited her 24-Sirhan. She expressed gratitude year-old son in the new County for strict security measures tak-Jail yesterday, the first time en to protect him. she had seen Sirhan B. Sirhan The 55-year-old mother re-since he was jailed June 5. She portedly did not bring anything was accompanied by another into his cell.

Sirhan Family of Little Cohesion, Aloof From Community and One Another

Accused Slayer Said to Be Quiet, Polite and Thoughtful

By ROBERT WINDELER
Special to The New York Times

PASADENA, Calif., June 29

Mary Sirhan sat on the faded yellow sofa in the tiny living room of her house on Howard Street and sighed as she looked through a copy of Life magazine with a picture of her fourth son and of James Earl Ray on the cover.

"All wrong," she said softly with a noticeable Arabic accent. "The names are all spelled wrong and in the baby picture they got Adel and him mixed up."

Everyone was always getting Adel and "him" mixed up. And with the Sirhans hard facts were hard to come by, especially since the court had told them not to talk.

Adel and he were close in age (Adel is said to be 27 years old; his younger brother Sirhan B. Sirhan is 24) and even closer in looks. Neighbors were never sure just who it was out cutting the grass or washing the car.

But Adel was the gregarious one, the one who went out with girls, who worked as a carpenter until he found a job as a musician. He felt at home in bars.

The Silent One

Sirhan was the silent one, the polite attendant at two Pasadena gas stations, the thoughtful neighbor who always had time to help an old lady roll a rug or reline a shelf, the serious student at Pasadena City College who kept wishing he was at U.C.L.A.

His social life in school seemed to consist of an occasional coffee with fellow students at Bob's Big Boy, a hamburger place across from the campus.

His only apparent aberration after school was spending most afternoons of the racing season at nearby Santa Anita, betting on every race and either winning a bundle or losing everything in his pockets. Once he did so well he quit working for Ivan Millicic's Chevron service station and lived off his winnings.

And Sirhan, according to a close family friend, was his mother's favorite. "He was the one who didn't wander," she said. He was at home at home.

Adel now sat in the living room across from his mother, sifting through a pile of mostly unopened letters and telegrams looking for a particular address.

Waiting to Plead

Sirhan sat in a 12-foot-square maximum security cell at the Los Angeles County Central Men's Jail, waiting to plead guilty or not to the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and not acknowledging, according to all reports from the jail, that that murder had ever taken place.

But the Senator was murdered, and on Howard Street they were talking about it. Mrs. Sirhan, a tiny woman not quite five feet tall and weighing 90 pounds, has read every magazine and newspaper account she could find.

There were frequent visits from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and a few friends who got past both the Pasadena policemen who sat on the front porch or in a police car in the driveway and Shareis, her second son, who answered the door.

"Her heart is broken both ways," said Mrs. M. A. Pulite, a neighbor. "She is broken hearted for Kennedy and for her son. Most of the time she seems fine — I say fine, but how do I know, how does anyone know, what's inside her?"

Sirhan has not seen his family since his arrest June 5. They have made no attempt to visit him, and he has not asked for them. Ask Mary Sirhan about

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that and she will simply say that she is under court order not to make a statement but that no, she still has not seen her son.

Different Careers

Despite their living together most of the time, the Sirhan family — mother, five brothers and a sister — seemed always to be apart, from one another and from their surroundings. They pursued different careers and made different friends. They seldom communicated with each other — in English or in Arabic.

In this city, famous for its wealth, they were poor. In a thoroughly assimilated, largely Lebanese Arab-American community in greater Los Angeles, they were first-generation Jordanian nationalists. Of an ethnic group with a strong patriarchal tradition, they were a family without a father.

The Sirhans came here in 1957, with a father, Bishara Sirhan (according to tradition all his sons bear his first name as a middle name) but he left shortly afterward to return to Jordan, not to be heard from again until his son Sirhan was said to have killed Senator Kennedy.

Mary Surhan found work quickly, as the low-paid housekeeper for a church-run nursery school. But her children had less luck.

Saidallah, now 35 and the eldest, was a painter who was so often out of work that he had time to paint the Sirhan house on Howard Street three times, inside and out.

He was the only one of the family to have taken steps to become an American citizen, and he would have become one this month but for an unsettled matter of a narcotics charge.

Shareif, who is in his early 30's, found work as an accountant for the State Baptist Convention but was dismissed, causing his family to quit the Baptist Church in protest.

The Sirhans' daughter, Ayda, died of leukemia three years ago. She would have been 30. She worked as a bookkeeper and shipping clerk and was the closest to her mother.

But even here there was estrangement; Ayda married a man named Mennell, who was several years her senior, under mysterious circumstances. They lived in Palm Springs, where he ran a shop. Mrs. Sirhan never met her son-in-law until Ayda's funeral, and he has not been seen since.

Munir, the suspect's 20-year-old younger brother, is also called Joe and it was through him that the murder weapon was traced. He was a clerk at Nash's Department Store here and he tried to resume his normal life last week.

He walked to the corner of Howard and Lake Avenue, to get the bus in the direction of Nash's, and waved to the lady in the Orange Julius stand, who said it was nice to see him back. Within an hour he was home again and a beige car with two F.B.I. men in it came by to take him away for questioning.

Best Hope of Family

Sirhan himself was the least outgoing of the six children, but the only one who went to college and the best hope of all of them. He enrolled at Pasadena City College, a two-year publicly supported school of 13,000 students best known for its privilege of picking the annual queen of the Rose Bowl. There, he studied history and languages, including Russian, and he kept his name out of the weekly newspaper and school yearbook.

Toni Saylor, a classmate at P.C.C., remembers one night in the fall of 1964 at Bob's Big Boy when Sirhan criticized her for favoring Lyndon B. Johnson in the upcoming election. "We thought he must be for Goldwater, but he never said so," she recalls. She also recalls that in other sessions "he was always kind of secretive about what he was doing, but he would discuss girls a lot."

At various times, according to friends and neighbors, Sirhan wanted to be a journalist, a diplomat or a teacher. He gave up all those ideas to pursue a career as a jockey.

He had the build for that (5 feet 2 inches, 120 pounds) but apparently not much else. He failed his first test for an exercise boys' license, and when he finally did get the

license he fell from a horse and landed on his head, collecting \$1,705 in workmen's compensation. His new attorney, Russell Parsons, has hinted that brain damage from that fall might be a possible defense in his trial.

Of his brothers, Sirhan saw only Adel with any regularity. And most of the places Adel went were not for him.

Musician at Club

At the Fez, a second-story night club in Hollywood decorated in red velvet, the patrons sit on camel-leather floor cushions to watch the best of the few belly dancers in town.

The Fez is one of the few gathering spots of the Arab community in Los Angeles and it was there that Adel gave up wood cutting to become a musician. Over the protests of his mother, by all accounts a teetotaler, a strong moralist and a deeply religious woman who thought night clubs an unsuitable place for her children, Adel played the qurd, an Arabian guitar, while the dancers writhed and twisted.

Adel even sneaked his younger brother, Sirhan, into the club a time or two to play the tamboura, a Middle Eastern drum; and even Mrs. Sirhan was persuaded to go there one recent evening, to sip Turkish coffee and watch the proceedings.

It was one of the family's infrequent encounters with the larger Arab-American community in Los Angeles, a community that saw them as outsiders and treated them as such.

Liked California Climate

Arab-Americans here, numbering from 10,000 persons to 30,000 families according to va-

ous estimates, are overwhelmingly Lebanese and overwhelmingly Christian. Most of them came here prior to World War I, when Syria and Lebanon were actually one country, as Christians fleeing persecution by the majority Moslems.

They picked Southern California because the climate was so like the one they had left behind, except that it was less humid and less extreme. Oranges, dates, poinsettias and palm trees, mountains and ocean and snow and desert all came close together here in the same way as there.

The second and third generations of these first immigrants are, in the words of Prof. Gustave von Grunebaum, an Arabic affairs specialist at the University of California at Los Angeles, "well-civilized, with a high percentage of the men in the professions, well-groomed, prosperous and not organized."

They are also passionately pro-American and English-speaking (even the monthly magazine "Pyramid" is not in Arabic except for one page). There are no Arab-American neighborhoods, few organizations outside the Syrian orthodox cathedral, no congregating places except for that church, only a few broadly Mediterranean restaurants — with approximately 50 per cent Jewish patronage — and of course the Fez.

There is an active Republican club, but most Arab-Americans here vote Democratic and seemed to be for Mr. Kennedy. The Arab student organizations quietly support anti-Israeli efforts in the Middle East. They are noisy or activist.

At a student rally last year at the cathedral St. Nicholas,

which helped raise \$10,000 and 20 tons of clothing for Arab refugees, Sirhan Sirhan " lurked alone in the shadow just as he did the night Kennedy was killed," said Father Paul Romley, dean of the cathedral.

Arrived After '56 Crises

As Jordanians (of which there are only 50 families in the area, according to the Lebanese consul, Wadih Dib), comparative latecomers and political refugees — they arrived just after the Suez crisis of 1956 — the Sirhans from the first did not belong to the greater community.

The family spoke Arabic at home, although the younger children learned English well. They never made the trip into Los Angeles to the Syrian church except for a few visits at the very beginning and, for Ayda, one at the very end. Father Romley buried her at Forest Lawn Cemetery after she died.

"They've always been humble and aloof," said Father Romley. And in an ethnic community that has prospered, and that has a predilection to take care of its own who have not, the Sirhans always seemed to be poor.

The Sirhans also clung to the dream of one day returning to Jordan, and only Said even tried to become an American citizen.

The rest of the community is glad to be Americanized and "grateful that we are here where there is opportunity and not back in the Middle East where there is nothing but trouble," in the words of Philip Zogaib, a Syrian-American who edits "The Pyramid."

And now the Sirhans are more estranged than ever.



Abdullah Schleifer for The New York Times

A street in Hart al-Sherif, Jerusalem. It was in this quarter that the Sirhans lived before coming to the U.S.



United Press International

Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin's father.

Sirhan Granted 3 Weeks More to Enter Plea

By Joseph A. St. Amant
LOS ANGELES, June 28 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, surrounded by guards in a jail chapel turned into a courtroom, today was granted an additional three weeks to enter his plea on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The 24-year-old defendant displayed an icy calm when he appeared before Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer and spoke only a half-dozen words in response to questions from the court.

He showed a moment of nervousness when he entered the makeshift courtroom, flanked by five deputy sheriffs who towered over him. As he walked up a step to the counsel table Sirhan nervously stroked his upper lip with his right forefinger.

At the end of the nine-minute hearing he arose from the table and started to leave. He stumbled over the first step but recovered himself.

The motion for a continuance was made by Defense Counsel Russell E. Parsons, who pointed out that he was just recently named as attorney for Sirhan and had had only a limited time to study the case.

The Judge granted the continuance until July 19 at 9 A.M. and the District Attorney's office, represented by John Howard and David Fitts made no objection.

Sirhan was clad in a long-sleeved light blue shirt, open at the neck, black slacks and black shoes. His hair appeared to have been freshly cut.

After he sat down Judge Schauer asked, "Are you the defendant Sirhan B. Sirhan?" "Yes, sir," Sirhan replied in precise English.

Later in the proceedings, Judge Schauer explained

that time was running out on a 60-day time limit for bringing a defendant to trial after the date of indictment.

Parsons said he would waive the time limit and the Judge asked Sirhan if he agreed.

"Yes, sir, I do," said Sirhan after a whispered conference with Parsons.

The proceedings were witnessed by about 125 newsmen and a few members of the public. There were 12 uniformed deputies spaced about the chapel courtroom.

Sirhan's brother Adel, was also there, escorted by a half-dozen plainclothes sheriffs detectives.

No one was permitted to leave the courtroom until Sheriff Peter Pitchess returned to the room, indicating that Sirhan was back in his maximum security cell.

Newsmen and all other spectators were "frisked" on the way in. Their names were taken on a register at the ground floor waiting room.

Then they were escorted to the third floor and given another and more severe frisking in a mess hall near the chapel. Pen knives, fingernail clippers and any other potential weapons were held by deputies.

No cameras or recording equipment were allowed in the courtroom.

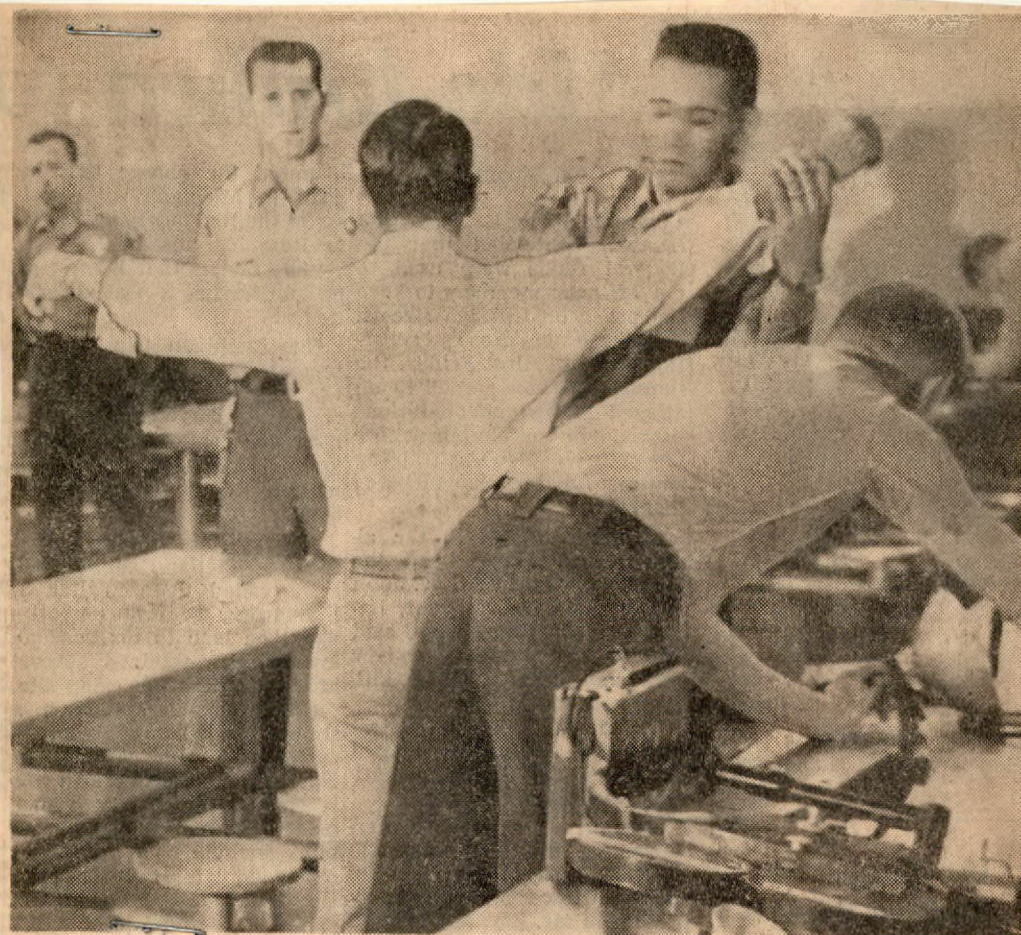
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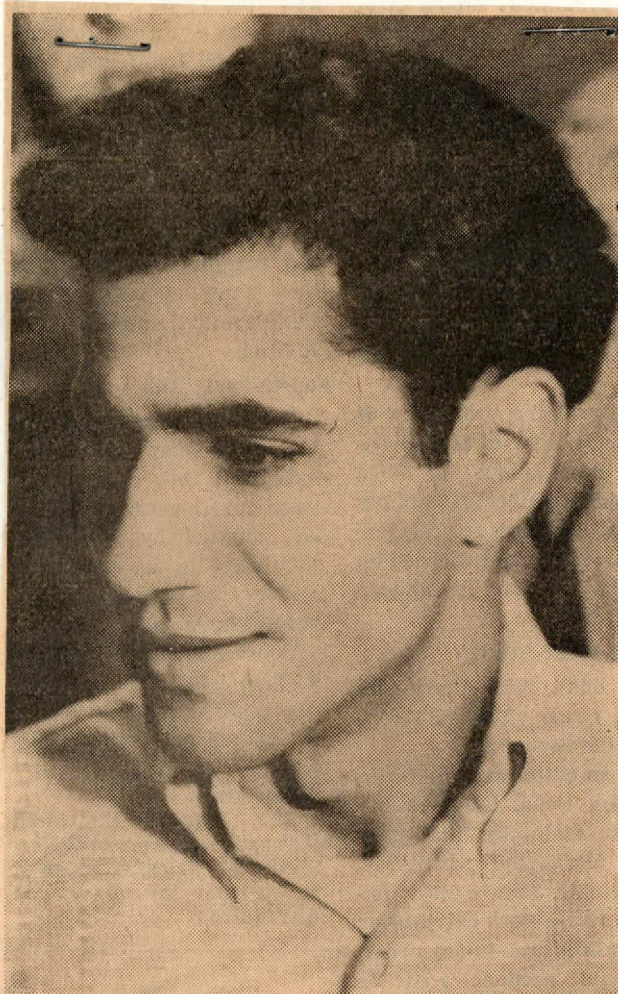


Newsman is searched for weapons inside Los Angeles County Jail chapel where hearing was

held for Sirhan B. Sirhan. At right, Sirhan, treated recently for a leg injury, is wheeled

out after winning delay. He got to his feet during hearing which took only nine minutes.

Associated Press-United Press International



Associated Press

Sirhan Wins More Time for Plea

Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, displays faint smile after being granted three additional weeks in which to prepare his plea by Los Angeles judge. Story on Page A6.

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Maneuvers May Stall Sirhan Trial to Fall

LOS ANGELES, June 29 (AP) — Sirhan B. Sirhan yesterday won a three-week delay before he must enter a plea in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. It was the first of an expected series of legal maneuvers which could delay his trial until fall.

Sirhan, 24, appeared calm at the nine-minute court hearing at which his attorney was granted the right to have the Jordanian, who is accused of Sen. Kennedy's murder, undergo psychiatric examination.

At the request of Russell E. Parsons, Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer appointed a psychiatrist to examine Sirhan. Results of the examination will be available only to Sirhan and his lawyer. It will be conducted by Dr. George Abe, of Metropolitan State Hospital at Norwalk.

INSANITY PLEA?

The judge ordered Dr. Abe's examination completed "at the earliest possible date." Mr. Parsons already has said he is exploring insanity as a possible defense for his client.

Parsons said Sirhan will be visited Monday by his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, for the first time since his arrest.

Sirhan's family went into hiding under police protection after Sen. Kennedy's assassination. Mrs. Sirhan moved back to her home in suburban Pasadena a few days ago.

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A Faint Smile

For a moment, there was a trace of a smile on the lips of Sirhan B. Sirhan as he left an extraordinary court hearing held yesterday in the chapel of ~~the jail~~ where he is being held on charges of

assassinating Robert F. Kennedy. It lasted just nine minutes and thruout he maintained an icy calm. The court gave him three more weeks to enter his plea. (Story on Page 2.)

Sirhan Plea Off 3 Weeks

Los Angeles, June 28 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, guarded so carefully he barely could be seen, was granted a three-week continuance today before he pleads to charges he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and wounded five other persons.

Five burly deputies surrounded the 24-year-old Jordanian in a makeshift courtroom in the chapel of the new County Jail for a preliminary hearing before Superior Judge Richard Schauer.

The short defendant was hardly visible to newsmen with the deputies towering over him. He sat and sometimes stood during the nine-minute session and then was taken back to his cell in a wheelchair, presumably because of ankle and hand injuries suffered when he was subdued following the shooting of Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel June 5.

The judge quickly granted the continuance until 9 a.m., July 19 at the request of Sirhan's new attorney, Russell E. Parsons.

Also at the request of Parsons, the judge appointed Dr. George Abe of Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk, Calif., to make psychiatric examination of Sirhan "as expeditiously as possible."

Results of Abe's tests will be available only to the defense—not even to the judge—to enable Parsons to decide whether to plead Sirhan insane.

The chapel, from which all religious symbols had been removed, has a capacity of about 400 persons. The hearing attracted 150 to 200 persons, including plainclothes detectives,

newsmen, attorneys and about a dozen other spectators.

One onlooker, guarded by seven plainclothes deputies, was the defendant's brother, Adel. The two did not exchange glances as the accused entered the room.



Associated Press Wirephoto
Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is accompanied by attorney Russell B. Parsons as he is wheeled to an elevator in Los Angeles County Central jail after hearing yesterday.

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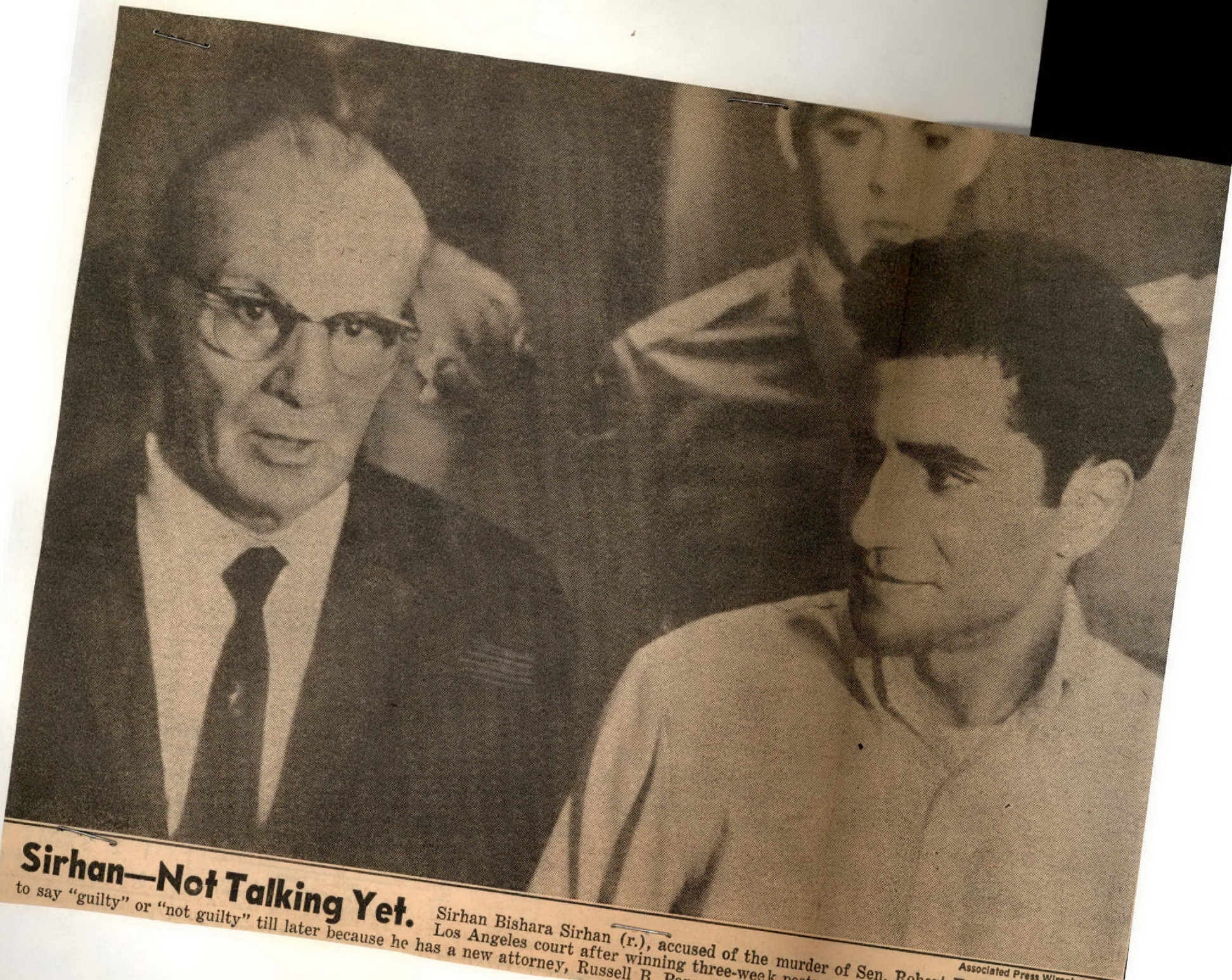
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Sirhan—Not Talking Yet.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan (r.), accused of the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, leaves Los Angeles court after winning three-week postponement of his plea. He won't have to say "guilty" or "not guilty" till later because he has a new attorney, Russell B. Parsons (l.)

Associated Press Wirephoto

—Story on page 2



—Associated Press

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, leaves the jail chapel in Los Angeles. His attorney, Russell E. Parsons (left), escorts him down the hall.

Sirhan Granted Delay; Mental Tests Slated A2

LOS ANGELES (UPI)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan has won a three-week delay before he must enter a plea in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, 24, appeared calm at a 9-minute court hearing yesterday at which his attorney, Russell E. Parsons, was granted the right to have the Jordanian, who is accused of Kennedy's murder, undergo psychiatric examination.

At the request of Parsons, Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer appointed a psychiatrist to examine Sirhan. Results of the examination will be avail-

able only to Sirhan and his lawyer. It will be conducted by Dr. George Abe, of Metropolitan State Hospital at Norwalk.

The judge ordered the examination completed "at the earliest possible date." Parsons already has said he is exploring insanity as a possible defense for his client.

Parsons said Sirhan will be visited Monday by his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, for the first time since his arrest.

Sirhan's family went into hiding under police protection after Kennedy's assassination. Mrs. Sirhan moved back to her home in suburban Pasadena a few days ago.

The darkhaired Jordanian's brother, Adel, was in the court room yesterday, but the brothers did not look at one another.

Parsons' request for a three-week continuance—until July 19—was the first in an anticipated series of delaying maneuvers that may postpone Sir-

han's trial until after the November general election.

The attorney told the judge he needed more time to study the transcript of the grand jury hearing which resulted in Sirhan's indictment.

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Sirhan Entering of Plea Is Delayed 3 Weeks

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today was granted an additional three weeks to enter his plea on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The 24-year-old defendant displayed in icy calm when he appeared before Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer. He spoke only half a dozen words in response to questions from the court.

He showed a moment of nervousness when he entered the makeshift courtroom, formerly a jail chapel, flanked by five deputy sheriffs who towered over him.

The motion for a continuance was made by defense counsel Russel E. Parsons, who pointed out that he was just recently named as attorney for Sirhan and had only a limited time to study the case.

The judge granted the continuance until July 19. The district

attorney's office made no objection.

At the request of defense counsel, the court appointed Dr. George Y. Abe of the metropolitan state hospital to give Sirhan a "general psychiatric examination."

The continuance meant Sirhan may not be tried until September and possibly even until after the November elections.

Sirhan has selected as his courtroom attorney Grant Cooper, the lawyer who defended Dr. Bern-

ard ~~Finch~~ in the sensational Finch-Tregoff murder trials.

Former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association and one of the West Coast's top criminal attorneys, Cooper agreed to serve without fee in fulfillment of a "duty" to see that Sirhan receives a fair trial and competent defense.

Parsons, a veteran of almost 50 years' experience specializing in appeal cases, previously was retained as the attorney of record for the Jordanian immigrant.

Cooper will enter the case after representing a defendant in a case charging that millionaire Harry Karl and entertainers Phil Silvers, Tony Martin and Zeppo Marx were cheated of thousands of dollars in card games at the Los Angeles Friars Club.

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Sirhan Picks Cooper, Noted Criminal Lawyer

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — Accused assassin Sirhan Bishara Sirhan has selected as his courtroom attorney Grant Cooper, the lawyer who defended Dr. Bernard Finch in the sensational Finch-Tregoff murder trials.

Former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association and one of the West Coast's top criminal attorneys, Cooper agreed to serve without fee in fulfillment of a "duty" to see that Sirhan receives a fair trial and competent defense against the charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy here on June 5.

Russell E. Parsons, a veteran of almost 50 years' experience specializing in appeal cases, previously was retained as the attorney of record for the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant.

Cooper will enter the case after representing a defendant in a case charging that millionaire Harry Karl and entertainers Phil Silvers, Tony Martin and Zeppo Marx were cheated of thousands of dollars in card games at the Los Angeles Friars Club.

Cooper will join Parsons at the conclusion of the Friars Club trial. The news of his affiliation with the Sirhan case leaked out prematurely last night.

Cooper, who got two hung juries before Finch and his red-haired mistress, Carole Tregoff, were convicted in 1961 of the murder of the doctor's wife, feared disclosure he would represent Sirhan might prejudice the jury against his client in the Friars Club trial.

Parsons was to represent Sirhan today at a hearing in a heavily guarded courtroom. Sirhan was expected to ask for a delay of his trial — which now appears unlikely to begin until September.



—UPI

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SIRHAN 6/28 NX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WHO WITNESSES SAID WAITED IN A HOTEL PANTRY AND FIRED THREE SHOTS INTO SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, APPEARS TODAY IN A MAKESHIFT COURTROOM TO ANSWER FIRST DEGREE MURDER CHARGES.

INSTEAD OF ENTERING A PLEA AS SCHEDULED (AT 9 A.M. PDT, 12 NOON EDT), DEFENSE ATTORNEY RUSSELL E. PARSONS WAS EXPECTED TO SEEK A THREE-WEEK CONTINUANCE SO HE AND A NEW DEFENSE ATTORNEY CAN STUDY THE CASE.

PARSONS ALSO MAY REQUEST ADDITIONAL PSYCHIATRIC TESTS FOR THE 24-YEAR-OLD DEFENDANT POSSIBLY TO BOLSTER A PLEA OF INNOCENT BY REASON OF INSANITY.

A CONTINUANCE WOULD RESULT IN SIRHAN NOT ENTERING A PLEA BEFORE JULY 19. THE SERIES OF LEGAL MANEUVERS PROBABLY COULD DELAY THE START OF THE ACTUAL TRIAL UNTIL SOMETIME IN SEPTEMBER.

SIRHAN REPORTEDLY WILL HAVE THE AID OF ATTORNEY GRANT B. COOPER, ONE OF THE TOP CRIMINAL LAWYERS ON THE WEST COAST.

COOPER THURSDAY DENIED THE REPORT HE WOULD JOIN THE CASE BUT OTHER SOURCES CONFIRMED THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LOS ANGELES BAR ASSOCIATION HAD AGREED TO SERVE WITHOUT FEE.

THE SITE OF TODAY'S PROCEEDINGS WAS THE SAME JAIL CELL CHAPEL WHERE THE BLACKHAired JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT WAS ARRAIGNED JUNE 7 ON THE GRAND JURY INDICTMENT CHARGING HIM WITH THE KENNEDY SLAYING AND THE WOUNDING OF FIVE OTHER PERSONS.

THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED MORE THAN 50 THREATS ON THE LIFE OF SIRHAN AND HIS LAWYER. ONLY THURSDAY, FOUR MEN WERE ARRESTED FOR CARRYING EXPLOSIVES ONTO THE GROUNDS OF THE JAIL.

THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE, HOWEVER, SAID "THE ARRESTS WERE IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH SIRHAN."

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79 JUL 2-1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE
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289A

SIRHAN 6/27 HC
 1ST NIGHT LD 248A

BY JOSEPH A. ST. AMANT

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, WHO REPORTEDLY WILL HAVE THE LEGAL AID OF GRANT B. COOPER, ONE OF THE NATION'S ABLEST CRIMINAL LAWYERS, GOES INTO A MAKESHIFT COURTROOM FRIDAY TO ANSWER CHARGES HE FIRED A FATAL BULLET INTO THE BRAIN OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY AND WOUNDED FIVE OTHER PERSONS.

IT WAS REPORTED THAT COOPER WOULD JOIN ATTORNEY RUSSELL E. PARSONS IN DEFENDING SIRHAN AS SOON AS COOPER WINDS UP A CURRENT TRIAL IN WHICH FIVE PERSONS WERE ACCUSED OF CHEATING MEMBERS OF THE FRIARS CLUB OUT OF MORE THAN \$400,000 IN ALLEGEDLY CROOKED CARD GAMES.

HOWEVER, COOPER DENIED THE REPORT THAT HE WOULD HELP PARSONS DEFEND SIRHAN.

SIRHAN WAS DUE TO ENTER A PLEA TO THE CHARGES FRIDAY, BUT PARSONS PLANNED TO SEEK A THREE-WEEK CONTINUANCE SO HE CAN STUDY ALL PHASES OF THE CASE, INCLUDING THE GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPT.

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311A

JAIL 6/27 HC

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--FOUR YOUNG MEN WERE ARRESTED THURSDAY FOR CARRYING EXPLOSIVES ONTO THE GROUNDS OF THE COUNTY JAIL WHERE THE ACCUSED SLAYER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, SIRHAN B. SIRHAN IS HOUSED.

HOWEVER, A SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID "THE ARRESTS WERE IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH SIRHAN."

ROBERT GLASS, 18, JAMES NEAL DEAGUSTINE, 18, MARK WILMOT, 17, ALL OF REDONDO BEACH, CALIF., AND ROBERT YOUNG, 20, OF TORRANCE, CALIF., WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY WHEN A ROUTINE SEARCH OF THEIR CAR PRODUCED TWO "ARTILLERY GROUND BURST SIMULATORS."

DEPUTIES SAID THE DEVICES WERE OF THE TYPE COMMONLY USED BY THE MILITARY DURING FIELD TRAINING PROBLEMS AND WERE CONSIDERED DANGEROUS WITHIN A RADIUS OF 15 YARDS. A QUANTITY OF MARIJUANA WAS ALSO FOUND IN THE CAR.

THE FOUR WERE BOOKED ON CHARGES OF POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA AND BRINGING EXPLOSIVES ONTO JAIL GROUNDS.

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UPI-52

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN SIRHAN'S NEW ATTORNEY WILL ASK FOR A THREE-WEEK CONTINUANCE IN THE SEN. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION CASE WHEN HIS CLIENT APPEARS IN COURT TOMORROW.

THE 24-YEAR-OLD DEFENDANT WAS SCHEDULED TO ENTER A PLEA TO THE FATAL SHOOTING OF KENNEDY AND THE WOUNDING OF FIVE OTHER PERSONS WHICH WAS DEFERRED AT HIS ARRAIGNMENT JUNE 7.

RUSSELL E. PARSONS, CONSIDERED ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S TOP APPELLATE LAWYERS, SAID HE WOULD ASK FOR THE CONTINUANCE SO HE COULD STUDY ALL PHASES OF THE CASE AGAINST HIS CLIENT.

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UPI-162

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, THE JORDANIAN NATIVE SUSPECTED OF FIRING A FATAL BULLET INTO THE BRAIN OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, HAS HIS NEXT DAY IN COURT FRIDAY.

SIRHAN, 24, WAS SCHEDULED TO ENTER A PLEA TO CHARGES HE KILLED THE NEW YORK DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL AND WOUNDED FIVE OTHER PERSONS.

BUT THERE WAS SPECULATION THAT INSTEAD HIS NEWLY-APPOINTED ATTORNEY WOULD SEEK A CONTINUANCE TO STUDY THE VOLUMINOUS COUNTY GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPT OF THE HEARING THAT LED TO SIRHAN'S INDICTMENT.

IT ALSO WAS BELIEVED THAT THE ATTORNEY, RUSSEL E. PARSONS, WOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT OF A SECOND PSYCHIATRIST TO EXAMINE SIRHAN.

THE SUPERIOR COURT EARLIER APPOINTED TWO PSYCHIATRISTS TO INTERVIEW THE DEFENDANT IN COUNTY JAIL, BUT ONE OF THEM, DR. EDWARD STAINBROOK, DECLINED.

THE OTHER PSYCHIATRIST, DR. ERIC MARCUS, ALREADY HAS EXAMINED SIRHAN.

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TOP CLIPPING

DATED 6/27/68

FROM WASH. CAP. NEWS SERVICE
MARKED FILE AND INITIALED

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285A

SIRHAN 6/27 HC
 SUB 10TH PGH NIGHT LD SIRHAN LOS ANGELES 248A STARTING: AN
 ADDITIONAL DELAY.

AN ADDITIONAL DELAY WAS EXPECTED WHEN ATTORNEY GRANT D.
 COOPER, WHO DEFENDED DR. R. BERNARD FINCH IN ONE OF THE
 NATION'S MOST SENSATIONAL MURDER CASES, JOINS PARSONS IN SIRHAN'S
 DEFENSE.

THE NEWS COOPER WOULD BE CODEFENSE COUNSEL LEAKED OUT
 PREMATURELY WHILE HE WAS BUSY IN ANOTHER TRIAL. HOWEVER,
 LABELED THE REPORTS HE WOULD HELP DEFEND SIRHAN AS "DEFINITELY,
 POSITIVELY, UNEQUIVOCALLY UNTRUE."

PICKUP 11TH PGH 248A: THUS, THE BEST
 VR548PPD

287A

COOPER 6/27 HC

SUB 2ND PGH COOPER LOS ANGELES 284A STARTING: GRANT COOPER, FORMER
 GRANT COOPER, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE LOS ANGELES BAR
 ASSOCIATION AND ONE OF THE WEST COAST'S TOP CRIMINAL ATTORNEYS,
 REPORTEDLY AGREED TO SERVE WITHOUT FEE IN FULFILLMENT OF A DUTY TO
 SEE THAT SIRHAN RECEIVES A FAIR TRIAL AND COMPETENT DEFENSE OF THE
 CHARGE OF THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

HOWEVER, COOPER DENIED THE REPORT, SAYING IT WAS "DEFINITELY,
 POSITIVELY, UNEQUIVOCALLY UNTRUE."

PICKUP 3RD PGH 284A: RUSSELL E. PARSONS
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UPI-142

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A BULLETPROOF ENCLOSURE TO PROTECT SIRHAN B. SIRHAN AND POSSIBLY EVEN THE JUDGE AND JURY AT HIS TRIAL ON CHARGES HE ASSASSINATED SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY WAS ORDERED CONSTRUCTED TODAY BY COUNTY SUPERVISORS.

SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN SAID THE COUNTY MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT PLANS TO START BUILDING THE ENCLOSURE, WHICH COULD COST UP TO \$20,000, FRIDAY UNLESS SIRHAN'S ATTORNEY OBTAINS A CHANGE OF VENUE ON THAT DAY.

HAHN SAID PRESIDING SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DONALD R. WRIGHT REQUESTED THE PROTECTIVE DEVICE AND ASKED THAT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ENCLOSURE NOT BE MADE PUBLIC.

HOWEVER, HAHN SAID THE ENCLOSURE WOULD BE BUILT OF ARMOR PLATING AND ARMORED GLASS. INDICATIONS WERE THAT IT MIGHT PROTECT THE DEFENDANT, JUDGE, JURY AND ATTORNEYS.

HAHN SAID THE ENCLOSURE WOULD BE BUILT UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JUDGE WRIGHT AND SHERIFF PETER PITCHESS.

COUNTY WORKMEN ALREADY WERE BUSY INSTALLING ELABORATE SECURITY DEVICES IN THE HALL OF JUSTICE, WHERE IT IS BELIEVED SIRHAN WILL BE TRIED.

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DEATH WAS NEARBY—Just one hour before he was slain by an assassin's bullet Look magazine captured this poignant picture of Senator Robert F. Kennedy with his son Michael, 10, on his lap watching the California election returns on TV. The photograph appears with an article in the current issue of Look. When Look staffers chided Sen. Kennedy about his

indifference to protection, he replied: "Oh, hell, you can't worry about that. Look at their faces. These people don't want to hurt me. They just want to see me and touch me. And if there is somebody out there who wants to get me, well, doing anything in public life today is Russian roulette."

—UPI Photo

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BREAD UPON WATERS — Juan Romero, 17-year-old busboy who tried to aid mortally wounded Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, holds two crucifixes sent him to replace the rosary he gave the Senator. His two brothers help sort out some of the mail — and there has been much of it — commending him for his thoughtfulness at a time of crisis.

—UPI Photo

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But Resenting Authority

Neighbors Recall Sirhan as Shy, Polite

By George Lardner, Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES — To his neighbors in Pasadena, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was simply the shy but bright boy next door who lived with his mother and two of his brothers.

He has been indicted for first-degree murder in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. What stands out in Miss Ann Sylvan's mind are Sirhan's "wonderful manners."

On East Howard street, a polyglot stretch of low-income homes, Sirhan was always like that, impeccably polite, speaking when spoken to, smiling when smiled at.

The most daring thing he seems to have done was to toss sticks and stones at Bert, the household collie next door.

"I think it was Bert's barking," a neighbor said, sympathetically.

Other than that, Sirhan outwardly contented himself with frequent visits to the library and occasionally a game of Chinese checkers with the elderly women a house away. Within a fortnight of the assassination, he asked Mrs. Martin Pulite across the street how to plant a garden for his mother.

Yet jotted down in a loose-leaf notebook in his house apparently around the same time, or perhaps several days earlier, was the

injunction: "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5"—the first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war.

Mrs. Pulite summed up one view of the dichotomy, this way:

The Monday evening before the assassination, she had been on her way to give a plant from her well-manicured garden to another neighbor. Mrs. Pulite decided to visit Sirhan's mother, Mary, first.

Sirhan, she said, was home. He asked her all about the flower.

Mrs. Pulite put her hands to her head. One night, a flower, she sighed. The next night, "pazzo" (crazy).

The contradictions show up, too, at the health food store a few blocks away where Sirhan worked diligently last fall and winter before quitting March 7 in an argument over delivery schedules that ended when owner John H. Weidner called police.

As a \$2 an hour stock clerk and delivery boy, Sirhan chatted often with customers and fellow workers. Generous with the hard-earned pay, he secretly used to pay the bills of one elderly customer who couldn't afford all the health food he liked to buy.

But the young Jordanian immigrant, says Weidner, also resented authority, a tendency that perhaps had its roots in the strict discipline of his father who once reportedly held a hot iron to the boy's feet.

At the health food store, says customer Art Bean, "when the boss came around, he'd drop the conversation just like he'd been whipped."

"He had this attitude of rebellion against society," says Weidner. "Most of all, he was anti-Israeli."

Weidner's wife, Naomi, recalls one conversation earlier this year vividly. Sirhan was bitter about last year's June war. Mrs. Weidner recalled the Nazi atrocities against the Jews in World War II.

Suddenly, she says, Sirhan blurted out: "Don't you think the Jews can be cruel? I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone else, not even my parents."

Sirhan claimed, as a little boy, to have seen an Israeli soldier mutilate an Arab woman.

But in Taibeh, in occupied Jordan, his father, Bishara (the name means "good news"), has said his son had never even seen any Israeli soldiers in the long-ago fighting when Sirhan was just about four.

Real or imagined, the repressions seem to have had no outlet.

Sirhan kept to himself. He neither smoked nor drank, according to neighbors and acquaintances. If he had any close friends, boy or girl, they have yet to be found. He used to go to the race tracks but usually with his brothers. Occasionally, he

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United Press International

BISHARA SIRHAN
... harsh father

dropped in at the Fez nightclub, but its owners say, "with his mother or brothers."

Classmates at Pasadena's John Muir High School recall Sirhan as generally quiet and introspective, but relatively outspoken on ethnic issues and individual rights.

A member of the junior and senior student class councils, Sirhan helped draft a proposed constitution for the junior class that school officials thought went too far.

Authority won out. The constitution was voted down, quite possibly by the upper middle-class white youngsters from La Canada who looked down on the growing numbers of Negroes, Orientals and Mexican-Americans at the school.

To John McGrain, a 22-year-old social worker who was president of the junior class council that included Sirhan, he was "definitely the kind of guy who would make a model citizen. This is the puzzle. What happened?"

Sirhan's mother, Mary, a \$195-a-month housekeeper at a nearby church nursery school, has been asking herself the same question.

Those who have seen her since the initial shock of the assassination say that she has been grasping at Sirhan's fall from a horse 20 months ago as the explanation.

Sirhan, who wanted to be a jockey, took the spill Sept. 25, 1960, while he was "breezing a filly" at a race horse ranch near Corona where he was working. His mother has been reported as saying he was never quite the same after that.

Sirhan claimed an injury that affected his eyesight. A neurosurgeon who examined him a year later, Dr. Forrest L. Johnson, found "no evidence of a neurological problem at this time."

But less than two months before the assassination, Sirhan collected \$1705 of a \$2000 compromise settlement (the rest went for costs such as doctor's bills and attorney's fees).

The same reported pattern—accident, personality change, then attempted violence—curiously seems to have afflicted his brother, Sharif, 34.

Until an auto accident in

May of 1963, Sharif was a gregarious, hard-working bookkeeper in Los Angeles with the Southern California State Baptist Convention.

After the accident, where he sustained whiplash injuries to his back, neck and head, Sharif seemed to "withdraw from the group and from society," says his former supervisor, George Matas. "He complained of headaches, said his eyes hurt. His work deteriorated. We finally had to let him go."

For Sharif, the climax came when he was arrested in December 1963—the same month he was dismissed—after breaking up with his girl friend. It was said he cut the brake lines of her car and put gunpower in the manifold. Convicted of tampering with an auto, Sharif drew a year's probation.

That Sirhan's accident may have affected his behavior can be counted at this point only as maternal conjecture. It may even be questioned whether Mary Sirhan really knew her children. She was apparently unaware her only daughter was married until the girl's funeral several years ago.

But it seems apparent that resentment of Israel and Robert F. Kennedy's support of military aid for the country is hardly enough to explain the assassination of which he stands indicted. Virtually every Arab and Arab-American waxes bitter about Israel. There is only one Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

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Sirhan's Church Quest Fruitless, Cleric Says

By RUSSELL CHANDLER
 Star Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the man charged with assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, kept searching for a religious meaning which he apparently never found attending a succession of Southern California churches, according to a long-time minister acquaintance of his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan.

Dr. Ben T. Cowles, director of the Westminster Presbyterian Counseling Service in Pasadena, Calif., said the Sirhan family brought its Christian faith to America 11 years ago but tried church after church without being reached or settling down. Cowles and the Rev. Harry Eberts, minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church, broke the news of the arrest of the 24-year-old Sirhan to his mother. Mrs. Sirhan has been employed in the church nursery school for 13 years and sometimes attends services there.

Cowles, in a telephone interview, said of the family: "They were estranged within themselves. They never made an entrance into the church or American society."

He described the accused assassin, an emigrant from Jordan, as "thoughtful and serious-minded. He was searching for something," Cowles said the traditional church "didn't realize the depth of his need."

Sirhan, while in his teens, attended a Pasadena church where he sometimes went to Sunday school and youth meetings. The family had attended a Greek Orthodox Church in Los Angeles, but transportation became a problem, Cowles related.

The mother and father and two youngest children went to Pasadena 11 years ago under the sponsorship of still another church — First Nazarene. Members there say the family attended for only about one month. In 1957 the father returned to Jordan.

The two oldest boys, Saidallah and Shareff, went to Pasadena several months later under sponsorship of the Baptist Church.

Eberts said Mrs. Sirhan "is a woman to whom her Christian faith is part of the center core of her being. She knows her Bible well enough that biblical words and phrases seem to come naturally in her conversation. She is perfectly appalled at this act and unable to understand its genesis."

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2 Tales of Girl in Polka Dots:

One Stands, One Falls

By WILLIAM FEDERICI

The intense investigation into a possible conspiracy surrounding the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy took a bizarre turn yesterday.

Although Los Angeles police canceled a nationwide hunt for the girl in the polka dot dress, saying the girl "was the figment of the imagination of an overwrought Kennedy campaign worker," police refused to comment on or discredit testimony of an eyewitness who described the same girl as standing next to Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of firing the fatal shots in the kitchen pantry of the Ambassador Hotel on June 5.

Calls Report Erroneous

Assistant Chief of Detectives John Powers said yesterday:

"The young girl (Sandra Serrano) who reported seeing the brunette in the polka dot dress running from the hotel shouting 'We killed Kennedy!' was erroneous in her report. She was overwrought and overexcited."

Powers refused to comment on testimony given to the grand jury that indicted 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant Sirhan by Vincent DiPierro, a part-time waiter at the hotel.

DiPierro, 19, a freshman at Santa Monica City College, said yesterday: "I am standing by my testimony. I can't change it. I only told what I saw. She may have been just standing next to him, but they were smiling at each other. He may have been flirting with her. I don't know."

Many Girls in Polka Dots

Authorities say that the Embassy Room in the hotel was "filled with girls with polka dot dresses."

Police gave no explanation for the conversation that Miss Serrano said she had with the young girl in polka dots as she ran exuberantly shouting to a man who joined her: "We killed Kennedy."

Girl Ignored by Jury

Miss Serrano, 20, a Youth-for-Kennedy volunteer from Altadena, Cal., said she ran alongside the girl and asked "Who did you shoot?" and the polka dot girl

answered, "We just shot Sen. Kennedy."

On Miss Serrano's report, an all-points police alarm was issued hours after the slaying. Despite this, the young Kennedy volunteer was never asked to testify before the grand jury.

Meanwhile, investigators continued the hunt for two Arabic-speaking men reportedly seen with Sirhan two days before the killing discussing how they could "get" Kennedy. Police refused comment on the investigation.

Both Sirhan's lawyer, Russell H. Parsons, and Chief of Police Tom Reddin have reported receiving threats against their lives. Police have taken precautions in both cases.

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RFK 'Plots' Crumble, But Rumors Persist

By George Lardner Jr.
 Washington Post Staff Writer

A-1
 LOS ANGELES, June 22—Hemmed in by the mountains, the smog hovers over Los Angeles like a giant poison bubble. The rumors hinting of a conspiracy in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy are even thicker.

One by one, they are proving to be false.

But those who originate and spread the stories remain apparently unaware of the real facts that show them to be spurious.

Investigators are squelching the rumors largely under the enforced silence of a court order, designed to insure Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old accused assassin a fair trial.

At the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, where Sirhan was seen practicing with a .22-caliber revolver less than 12 hours before the assassination, Cashier David Buckner has told investigators, and presumably others, that he saw "a woman and another guy" with Sirhan at the gun range that day.

In suburban Alhambra, not far away, at a neighborhood bar decorated with prints of rear-view nudes, the two brothers who own the place have talked to FBI agents and Los Angeles detectives at length.

They have been told to keep quiet, but the customers at the Golden Garter have not. Sirhan, it is said, was at the watering spot several times with a friend named "Jim" and perhaps Jim's girl friend, "Karen."

Jim, it is added darkly, has dropped out of sight.

The whispered talk is honest believed. But The Washington Post has learned that at the gun club, a woman who turned up at the practice range did talk with Sirhan. The man she came with her husband, was farther away, practicing by himself. She was left a couple of spaces away from Sirhan with a pistol she didn't know how to shoot.

So she asked him.

Always polite, Sirhan obliged. He even let her fire a couple of rounds on his Iver-Johnson .22. But neither the woman nor her husband would have known him if he were King Hussein.

Cashier Buckner, however, remains apparently unenlightened. The rumor spreads.

Fanning out from the Golden Garter, investigators have also found "Jim" and his swarthy friends. It is not Sirhan.

But no one has told the bar's proprietors, Carl and J. Andy Martigani, much less the customers. The talk goes on. Some embellish it. By now, in some minds, the phantom Sirhan associated with "Jim" has acquired a phantom girl friend, "with the sexiest figure you ever saw."

Visions of "polka dot girls" spring up in response.

Police still believe there is a "polka dot girl" to be found—though not the one initially reported to them.

Miss Sandy Serrano, a 20-year-old Youth for Kennedy volunteer from Altadena, had told newsmen that she had seen a dark-haired girl

In a white dress with polka dots run from the Ambassador Hotel shortly after the shooting and shout shot him.

With her, Miss Serrano had said, was a man who appeared to be of Latin extraction.

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Police Friday canceled the all-points bulletin for Miss Serrano's "polka dot" girl, concluding that she had been "overwrought." It was learned that Miss Serrano had been invited to take a lie detector test, but at least initially, she declined.

Not all reports of "polka dot" girls have been discarded, however. Vincent DiPierre, who testified before the Los Angeles County Grand Jury, told of seeing Sirhan exchanging smiles with such a girl moments before the shooting.

Detectives and presumably FBI agents believe him. Asked how this could be squared with the cancellation of the all-points bulletin based on Miss Serrano's initial report, one source replied simply that "it isn't the same girl."

Investigators have also yet to confirm or discount reports that two men were with Sirhan when he bought ammunition at a San Gabriel gun shop the Friday before the June 5 shooting.

Even so, they point out that it takes more than

a smile to make a conspiracy. Other sources add that the proprietors of the gun shop were somewhat "less positive" in talking to the police than they were with the press about seeing Sirhan with two men.

Other allegations have been squelched, but again in a secrecy that fails to counter their circulation and the currency that rumors gain with widespread repetition. Los Angeles has enough to feed every sort of preconceived notion.

Mayor Sam Yorty, never known for his reticence in public speaking, has loudly charged that communism was behind the assassination.

Across town, near Hollywood and Vine, one Arab-American businessman whispers to another that he has "the real story." Sirhan, he confides darkly was a secret agent, "paid by the Zionists" to blacken the name of the Arab world.

The "Zionist plot" story appears to have its origins in the self-defense mechanisms in the Middle East where it first surfaced.

Yorty's charge appears to have been simply a wild swing from right field.

Alleging that "evil Communist organizations" inflamed Sirhan, Yorty declared that the suspected assassin's car had been spotted near a building where the radical left-wing W. E. B. DuBois Club was holding a meeting.

What Yorty did not disclose was that the meeting had been held more than two years ago—March 4, 1966. Sirhan was never seen inside the DuBois Club. The car was his brother Adel's.

Beyond that, probably most Arabs and Arab-Americans in Los Angeles have parked near the building at one time or another. The Fez—a Middle Eastern belly-dance palace (for the whole family)—is right down the street. Sirhan's brother Adel used to play a guitar-like instrument called the oud there every night.

Yorty's charge, however, was made before Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon handed down the court order aimed at banning most out-of-court statements to the media about the case. By then, many of the rumors were already afloat. The facts have been harder to come by.

Beneath the surface, however, investigators—while still not ruling out the possibility of a conspiracy—have yet to find any genuine evidence of one. Sirhan himself, and what drove him to the Ambassador Hotel, still pose the biggest enigma.

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SIRHAN 6/21 NX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--A NEW LAWYER TOOK OVER THE DEFENSE OF THE ACCUSED ASSASSIN SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY THURSDAY AND SAID HE IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SIRHAN B. SIRHAN DEPORTED OR DECLARED INSANE.

"SOMEONE MUST DEFEND THIS MAN," SAID RUSSELL E. PARSONS, 69, A CRUSTY VETERAN OF MANY MURDER TRIALS. "I WILL DO THE BEST I CAN. EVERY MAN, NO MATTER WHO HE IS, IS ENTITLED TO THE BEST DEFENSE."

PARSONS FORMALLY BECAME THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN'S LAWYER BY PRESENTING SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RICHARD SCHAUER WITH A REQUEST, SIGNED BY SIRHAN, THAT HE BE RETAINED. UP TILL THEN, SIRHAN'S ATTORNEY OF RECORD HAD BEEN WILBUR LITTLEFIELD, A CHIEF TRIAL DEPUTY FOR THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE.

MEANWHILE, SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS LAID DOWN ONE NEW RULE FOR SIRHAN, HELD UNDER HEAVY GUARD AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL. HE SAID THAT WHEN SIRHAN RECEIVES VISITS FROM FELLOW JORDANIANS HE MUST TALK TO THEM IN ENGLISH--NOT HIS NATIVE ARABIC.

PITCHESS REVEALED THAT SIRHAN WAS INTERVIEWED TUESDAY BY THE JORDANIAN CONSUL IN LOS ANGELES,

PITCHESS REVEALED THAT SIRHAN WAS INTERVIEWED TUESDAY BY THE JORDANIAN CONSUL IN LOS ANGELES, GEORGE ZRAIKAT. LITTLEFIELD, WHO WAS STILL SIRHAN'S ATTORNEY AT THE TIME, ATTENDED THE MEETING.

"CONSUL ZRAIKAT EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS OF SIRHAN'S CONFINEMENT," PITCHESS SAID. "HE PRAISED THE SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN BY THE SHERIFF TO INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE DEFENDANT."

HE SAID JORDANIAN DIPLOMATS HAD COMPLAINED TO THE U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT THAT THE INTERVIEW WITH ZRAIKAT WAS IN ENGLISH.

PITCHESS SAID THE JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF ITS CHICAGO CONSULATE BE ALLOWED TO INTERVIEW SIRHAN IN ARABIC. THE SHERIFF SAID HE REJECTED THE REQUEST FOR "SECURITY REASONS."

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WASHINGTON RELEASE UNDER THE NEWS SERVICE

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Jordan Is Denied Talk With Sirhan

LOS ANGELES, June 20 (AP)—A request by the Jordanian government for an interview in Arabic with Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who is accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has been rejected by Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess.

Pitchess said today an interview with the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant must be in English "for security reasons."

The interview was sought after Jordan officials had expressed dissatisfaction with an earlier talk in English between Sirhan and George Zraikat, a local representative of Jordan.

Zraikat and Deputy Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield visited Sirhan in his cell last Tuesday, the sheriff said. At that time, Pitchess said, Zraikat said he was satisfied with the physical arrangements of Sirhan's imprisonment.

Pitchess said Sirhan has made no complaints about his treatment at the Central County Jail. He said Sirhan's appetite was good and that he is permitted to exercise in a 30-foot corridor.

Pitchess said finger, ankle and knee injuries Sirhan suffered when he was subdued

and arrested June 5 are healing satisfactorily.

Meanwhile, Los Angeles attorney Russell E. Parsons officially relieved the Public Defender's Office of the job of defending Sirhan. He signed the legal document assuming Sirhan's defense before Superior Judge Richard Schauer. Parsons said he had accepted the case without fee.

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Deportation Faced by ^{Post} Sirhan Kin ^{A-5}

LOS ANGELES, June 20 (UPI)—The 19-year-old brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is currently fighting a deportation order issued against him after he was convicted of felony narcotics charges, an immigration official disclosed today.

Munir Bishara Sirhan, known as Joe, was arrested June 10, 1966, for possession and sale of marijuana. He was tried as an adult and convicted in Superior Court of both charges on Oct. 13, 1966. On Dec. 1 of that year he was placed on five years probation with the first year to be served in county jail, court records disclosed.

But on May 25, 1967, the trial judge set aside the conviction because Sirhan was a juvenile at the time of the alleged crime and ordered him turned over to juvenile authorities, the record showed.

The deportation order was issued in 1966, but he appealed to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington, which only just now has begun the process of reviewing the appeal, immigration authorities indicated.

The Immigration Department's apparently contending that the decision to treat him as a juvenile should have been made before, not after, the trial.

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The Sun (Baltimore) _____
The Worker _____
The New Leader _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
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Brain Damage Sirhan's Defense?

TOP L.A. LAWYER PARSONS TAKES CASE

Russell E. Parsons, top Los Angeles criminal lawyer who will defend Sirhan B. Sirhan, Sen. Robert Kennedy's alleged killer, has indicated he may argue that Sirhan had suffered from brain damage.

The 74-year-old lawyer said he will have a psychiatrist examine Sirhan "from the tips of his shoes to the top of his head." Sirhan reportedly suffered injuries when he fell from a horse while employed at a race track two years ago. He collected \$2000 on a claim for injuries.

Parsons replaces Wilbur Littlefield of the Public Defender's first court appearance with the Office as Sirhan's counsel. His Jordanian will be June 28, when Sirhan is scheduled to enter a plea to murder indictment.

A. L. Wirin, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, who consulted several times with Sirhan, made the announcement in behalf of Parsons.

"Sirhan Sirhan signed, in my presence, a written retainer agreement retaining Attorney Russell Parsons, a member of the Los Angeles County Criminal Court Bar Association, as his counsel," Wirin said.

Immediately after signing papers dated June 12, Public Defender Richard S. Buckley and Parsons conferred with Sirhan.

"I have been interested in the case all along," Parsons said. "I'm just going to work hard and do the very best I can."

Parsons added that he would serve without fee as a public service.

The defense lawyer is a native of Los Angeles and is nationally known for his trial work. He made legal history in California as the lawyer who got the State Supreme Court to rule that evidence illegally seized by police officers cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

Parsons has had wide experience as both a prosecutor and defense lawyer. He estimates he has tried about 5000 cases.

His first experience in public office was his election as County Attorney of Beaver County, Utah, in 1917. He served two two-year terms. Part of the time he also served as City Attorney for Beaver City.

He subsequently returned to Los Angeles to practice law. In the mid-30s he was one of defense counsel in the notorious case of accused wife-murderer

Robert S. "Rattlesnake" James, eventually convicted, of slaying his wife by rattlesnake poison and drowning. After several years on death row, James' conviction was upheld and he was hanged.

In 1938, Parsons joined the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a top prosecutor assigned to special cases. He was one of the prosecutors of William G. Bonelli, then the "czar" of California's liquor law enforcement and control accused of accepting payoffs. Bonelli was freed by a court-directed verdict of acquittal and subsequently moved to Mexico.

While a prosecutor here, Parsons was the target of two gunmen who fired at him in 1940 on a street near Whittier. One bullet broke a window on the car, and another hit the engine cowling. Parsons was then participating in an inquiry of Communists and subversive elements in Los Angeles.

In 1950 he permitted his name to be entered as "The People's Candidate" in a mayoralty recall election here against then Mayor Fletcher Bowron. The recall failed.

The campaign was a bitter one, with aggravated charges by both factions. In this campaign, a civic group demanded Parsons be investigated for allegedly issuing small checks without sufficient funds many years before. The charges were thoroughly aired, but no official action was taken because of the business nature of the transactions.

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Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
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Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
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Mr. Tavel _____
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Miss Holmes _____
Miss Gandy _____

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