

**SIRHAN**

## Trial Delay Motion Denied

Continued From Page A-1  
sell Parsons, has said he would not be willing to proceed without Cooper.

Cooper has said that because of the lawyer-client relationship he would refuse to answer grand jury questions on how he came to possess secret transcripts in the Friars' Club card cheating case. His client was one of five convicted of cheating club members.

Defense motions and jury selection are expected to take two weeks and presentation of evidence by both sides two months or more. There are indications that more than 200 witnesses will be called.

Sirhan, a Jordanian who came to this country as a boy with his family, is accused of shooting Kennedy on June 5 in a kitchen corridor of the Ambassador Hotel as the New Yorker left a victory celebration following California's Democratic presidential primary.

Five bystanders were wounded, and Sirhan also is charged with five counts of assault with intent to commit murder.

The trial is being held in a

tiny armor-plated eighth-floor courtroom in the gray-stone, 43-year-old Hall of Justice. Windows have been covered with 1/4-inch sheets of steel. Sirhan, arrested at the shooting scene, is being held in a heavily guarded cell on the 13th floor.

Parsons, a veteran Los Angeles defense lawyer, told newsmen yesterday one tactic he and the two other attorneys for Sirhan may use is to have Sirhan testify. He refused to elaborate.

Judge Walker, 69, decreed the death penalty 21 years ago for Caryl Chessman, convicted kidnap-rape who died in the gas chamber in 1960 after 12 years of appeals.

At a preliminary hearing, Sirhan pleaded not guilty but did not enter a separate plea

of not guilty by reason of insanity. This is permissible under California law.





—United Press International

Sirhan Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brother, Munir, at court today.



—Associated Press

Sirhan appears for trial.



# Trial of Sirhan Will Open Tomorrow

By DOUGLAS E. KNEELAND  
Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 5—Seven months ago today Senator Robert F. Kennedy was shot and fatally wounded in a dingy serving pantry amid the quiet, salmon-pink stucco elegance of the Ambassador Hotel here. His alleged assassin is to go on trial Tuesday.

The 42-year-old New York Democrat, who died about 25 hours later from a .22-caliber bullet wound in the brain, had been leaving the hotel's Embassy Room, where he had flashed his familiar grin and acknowledged to hundreds of cheering followers his victory in the June 4 Democratic primary over Senator Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota.

The California primary was the final and in most assessments the most critical of the series of contests he had entered in his attempt to wrest his party's Presidential nomination from Senator McCarthy and Vice President Humphrey.

With his death at the most hope-filled moment of his struggle to gain the office from which an assassin's bullet not quite five years before had removed his brother, John F. Kennedy, politics lost

its bright edge for countless thousands of Americans.

How much his absence contributed to the Republicans' nomination of Richard M. Nixon, to the divisive party bitterness and bloody street scenes of the Democratic convention in Chicago, and to the acknowledged public apathy toward much of the subsequent campaign between Mr. Nixon and Mr. Humphrey, will be debated for years.

As Mr. Kennedy lay dying on the harsh cement floor after midnight June 5, 1968, a half-dozen of his friends and others in the crowded serving pantry fell upon and held Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, a diminutive 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant from whose hand they had the

a just-emptied eight-shot subsonosed .22-caliber Iver Johnson Cadette Model revolver.

A few minutes later, when the police hustled Sirhan

through the shocked and threatening crowd, other Kennedy men shouted, "Keep him alive! We want him alive!" Even at that moment, the memory persisted of the dark days of Dallas in November, 1963, and the doubts and rumors that have haunted the world since Jack Ruby killed Lee Harvey Oswald.

So for seven months Sirhan has been kept alive, isolated, guarded day and night, in a six-by-eight foot windowless cell on the 13th floor of the 15-story Hall of Justice, a 43-year-old, somber, gray, misfit of a building among its modern neighbors in the Los Angeles Civic Center.

## Taken on Elevator

And on Tuesday, shortly before 9:30 A.M., Sirhan is scheduled to be taken on an elevator and then down a hidden flight of stairs to Superior Court Department 107 on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice to be tried for the first-degree murder of Senator Kennedy and on five counts of assault, with intent to kill five other persons wounded as eight shots rang out in the Ambassador's serving pantry.

While a court ban on pretrial publicity has effectively silenced prospective witnesses and attorneys for the prosecution and the defense and apparently diminished public speculation, the opening of the trial is expected to bring a new wave of interest as many Americans attempt to weigh or purge their own guilt in the violent phenomena that have plagued the nation these last few years.

For if Sirhan goes to trial as planned, he will be the first of the accused in the three assassinations that have unnerved the country in the last five years to have reached that point. Oswald was shot down in the Dallas Jail. James Earl Ray, charged with the April murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is still awaiting trial in Memphis.

But even as attorneys for both sides made last-minute preparations, and the massive security forces that will be on duty at the Hall of Justice went through final rehearsals of their roles, some doubts were arising as to whether the Sirhan trial would go ahead on schedule.

The doubts came from a Federal grand jury investigation of the actions in another case of Sirhan's chief defense counsel, Grant B. Cooper, 65-year-old former president of the Los Angeles County Bar Association.

## Unauthorized Transcripts

Mr. Cooper, who once served in the District Attorney's office and is considered one of the outstanding criminal defense lawyers in California, admitted to the grand jury Friday that he had had in his possession during his defense of a client in the Friars Club case, a major card-cheating trial here, unauthorized transcripts of four Federal grand jury witnesses. He also admitted that he had lied in court about the source of an unauthorized transcript found in his possession during the trial.

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The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
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The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
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United States District Judge Francis C. Whelan has ordered Mr. Cooper to appear for a further hearing tomorrow, the eve of the scheduled beginning of the Sirhan trial.

What action, if any, might be taken against Mr. Cooper, and what effect it might have on his defense of Sirhan, was unclear this weekend. And no one involved who could be reached was willing to speculate on the possible results.

The unofficial word at the Hall of Justice, however, has been that Judge Herbert V. Walker, who will preside at the twice-postponed Sirhan trial, has shown little inclination to allow any further delay. But the unanswered question that was being asked among the interested parties this weekend was what would happen if Mr. Cooper should decide for any reason that he should withdraw from the case.

Although Sirhan has two other court-appointed attorneys, Russell B. Parsons, 69, of Los Angeles, and Emilie Zola Berman, 55, a widely known New York trial lawyer, Mr. Cooper has been expected to lead the defense.

#### Curb on Statements

Because of the curb on pre-trial statements by attorneys and prospective witnesses, there has been little to show what course the Sirhan defense will follow when the trial gets under way.

On Aug. 2, Sirhan pleaded not guilty to the charges. At that time, Mr. Parsons said he had not "seen any evidence yet that he had any malice." The prosecution is required to prove "malice aforethought" to obtain a conviction for first-degree murder.

Mr. Parsons explained then that the not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues—if he is the man, why did he do it?"

Neither did Sirhan enter a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

This seemed to many legal observers here to set the stage for an attempt by the defense to prove "diminished responsibility," the precedent for which has been established by several decisions in California over the last 20 years that recognized a person may be legally sane yet

defense might try to show that Sirhan, who came to this country in 1957 from Jordan with his family after an impoverished childhood, uprooted by the Palestine War in 1948, the later product of a broken home, was incapable of a "mature" consideration of his actions.

#### Nationalist Feelings

Many of those who knew him have told of his strong Arab nationalist feelings, of his hatred of Israel, of his conviction that Senator Kennedy favored Israel over the Arab nations.

Shortly after Sirhan's arrest, Mayor Samuel W. Yorty caused a stir in court circles by disclosing that one of two notebooks reputedly kept by Sirhan said that Senator Kennedy had to be killed "by June 5," which was the first anniversary of the six-day Israeli-Arab war in 1967.

His attorneys could argue that these feelings and events diminished the "responsibility" or "capacity" of Sirhan, who has been examined by defense psychiatrists while in jail.

Meanwhile, the prosecution, which will be handled by Lynn D. Compton, chief deputy district attorney, and John E. Howard and David N. Fitts, deputy district attorneys, has said it will seek the death penalty for Sirhan.

The murder charge carries a possible death sentence or life imprisonment, with a possibility of release in as little as seven years. A jury that finds

a ~~murder~~ defendant guilty then goes through a second proceeding to set the penalty. A death penalty can be reduced by the presiding judge.

The 69-year-old Judge Walker, who will preside, imposed the death sentence on Caryl Chessman, the abductor whose long battle against execution ended in the death chamber in 1960. He also presided in the prosecution in 1957 of Confidential magazine for scandal-mongering.

If the trial opens as scheduled on Tuesday, most Hall of Justice observers are predict-

ing that it will last at least two, and perhaps three, months. The first three weeks, possibly more, are expected to be consumed in choosing a jury.

Judge Walker has a reputation here for preferring a firm schedule of courtroom days without late or Saturday sessions. He has already indicated that court will be conducted from 9:30 A.M. to noon, with a two-hour luncheon recess, and from 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

One reason given for the 9:30 A.M. starting time and the long luncheon recess is that

everyone who enters the 75-seat courtroom will be thoroughly searched each time.

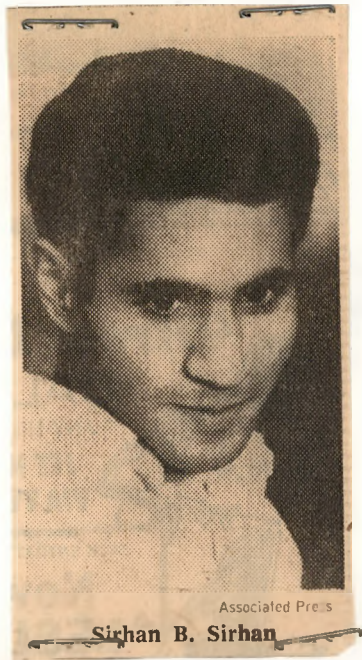
Among the strict security precautions, steel plates have been used to cover the eighth-floor courtroom's windows and heavy doors with peepholes have been installed in corridors leading to the area.

Only 37 of the more than 100 newsmen who have been accredited for the trial will have seats in the courtroom. The remainder will be used by witnesses, security personnel, members of the Sirhan family and 11 to 15 members of the general public.

not fully responsible for his actions

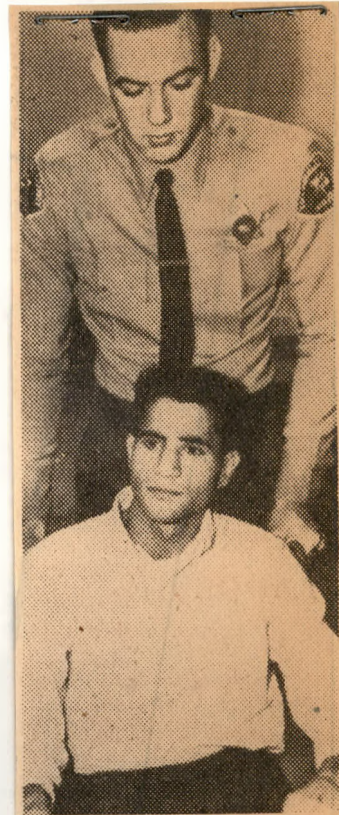
With such an approach, the





Associated Press

**Sirhan B. Sirhan**



Associated Press

**A guard wheeling Sirhan B. Sirhan back to his cell after a hearing held last June. Sirhan was in a wheelchair as a result of a sprained ankle he had suffered in a scuffle before his arrest.**

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

By Phil Hanna

Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

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

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

The 60-year-old Walker whose best-remembered decision came in the Confidential Magazine criminal libel case 10 years ago, will be a familiar name in most households as every courtroom move will be examined closely around the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He was deputy corporation commissioner for 15 years following graduation from

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He might have had a career in motion pictures.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Recalling the Scene That Night

It was approximately 12:30 a.m. the morning of June 5, 1968.

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

At the Cinderella hour, Sen.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shots rang out.

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

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

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

## The Other Victims

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

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

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

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

William Weisel, 38, network newsman for ABC-TV, of Washington, D.C., wounded in the abdomen.

Irwin Stoll, 17, of 6800 Border St., shot in the leg.

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

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

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





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

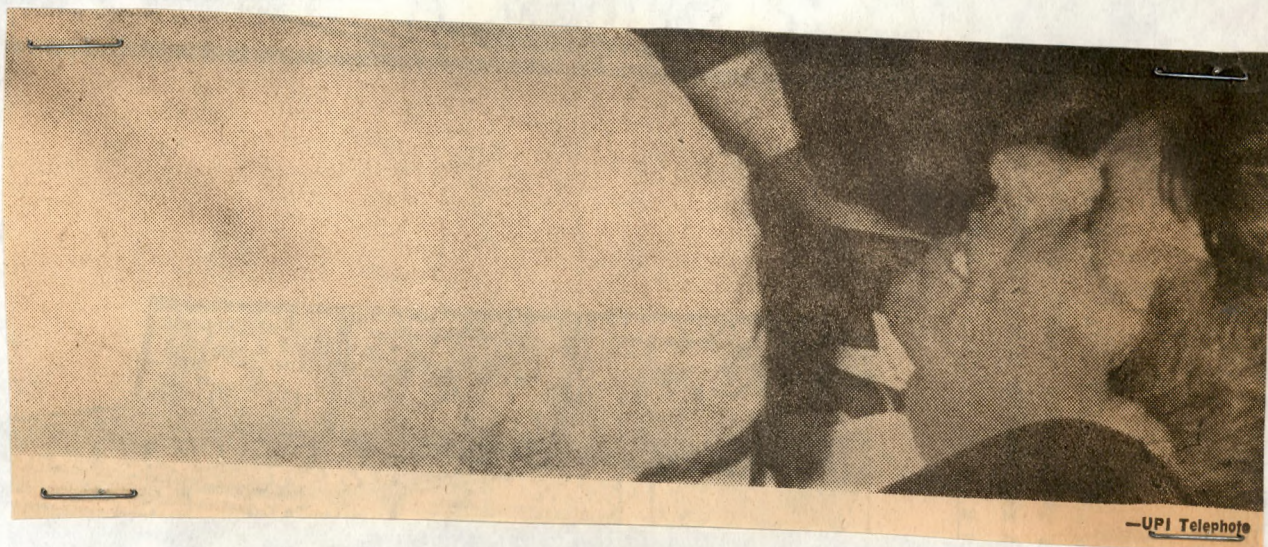




**Sen. Robert F. Kennedy  
lies clutching  
a rosary  
shortly after  
he was shot  
early on June 5  
of last year.  
He succumbed  
early the  
next day.**

—UPI Telephoto





—UPI Telephoto

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





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

—UPI Telephoto



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

## Life Background Told by Those Closest to Him

BY ROBERT C. TOTH  
and DAVE SMITH

Times Staff Writers

In Arabic the name Sirhan means "wanderer."

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

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

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

### Sirhan's Early Traumas

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

Sirhan was born March 19, 1914, in Jerusalem's Russian Hospital.

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

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

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

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

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But one more question: why did he leave his family in America in 1957? "I came back because of my mother. She is 90," said Bishara, waving toward the village. But she does not live in the village, nor with Bishara; she lives next door, with a brother Bishara has not spoken to since 1963, and Bishara and his mother do not speak either.

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

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

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

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

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

### 'A Very Secretive Family'

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### A Sickly, Nervous Boy

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### Father Seen as 'Odd'

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

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

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

#### Made Acceptable Grades

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

But it was in a spirit of fun,

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

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

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

But another acquaintance does recall one incident involving Bishara.

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

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

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

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

#### **Father Stayed in East**

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

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

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

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

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

The Sirhans were no more warmly received elsewhere.

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

#### Family Without Father

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

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

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

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

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

#### All Appear Introverted

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

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

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

Then there were the sporadic visits to the Syrian Orthodox Cathedral.

Then she took up the First Baptist Church in Pasadena, even enrolling Sirhan, her brightest and most devout child, in the Sunday school and group of young teens. But here, as in Jerusalem years before, the serious young Sirhan was offended by the conduct of his peers. He complained about the other youngsters' frivolity; they held hands and giggled, while he felt that church was a place for praying and reading the Bible.

They remained with the Baptists for a few years, and in late June, 1960, this church sponsored the entry into the United States of Sharif and Saidallah, by then in their late 20s.

The older brothers, long accustomed to living away from the family, soon took quarters by themselves, Saidallah in an apartment nearby, Sharif in Highland Park.

#### Uses Nickname

Sirhan, meanwhile, now known by his mother's nickname of "Sol," was a student, first at Longfellow Elementary School for sixth grade, where a friend now recalls, "He was a very hard worker after school—sold papers, swept out a coffee shop nearby. My parents tried often to have me behave like him, he was so polite."

But even so, Sirhan was different from his schoolmates. Scholastically he was behind the American school system, although two years older than his classmates. This, in addition to his small size, dark skin and accented English made him an easy target for youngsters' gibes.

By the time he moved on to Eliot Junior High School, his pattern of social conduct was unalterably fixed, never to change significantly in the years ahead. A friend at that time recalls him only as a "loner who stayed to himself a lot." When they were graduated from junior high, Sirhan signed the friend's yearbook in Arabic; the friend couldn't translate Sirhan's message, but the point was, it was distinctive, something only Sirhan could do.

#### Situation Improves

Outwardly, things were going well for the Sirhans in the early 1960s. Sirhan was doing well in his studies, getting "A" and "B" grades without visible effort and working after school. Ayda was an accountant, Saidallah worked occasionally as a house painter, and Adel, despite resistance from Mary, got a night job at the Fez. Sharif was an accountant for the California Baptist Convention, and Mary found a \$195-a-month job as housekeeper for the nursery school in Pasadena's Westminster Presbyterian Church. The family bought the house they had been renting, and though their payments were sometimes late, they managed to hang onto it.

But behind the facade the Sirhans had erected against the world, things were not so smooth. Pasadena police were becoming acquainted with the Sirhan brothers.

Least seriously involved with the police was Saidallah, now 36, who in 1966 was convicted in Pasadena Municipal Court of being drunk in a public place. He also is said to have accumulated a number of traffic violations, in sufficient number that in June of 1968—only two days after the Kennedy assassination—his scheduled naturalization as a U.S. citizen was cancelled indefinitely and his traffic record was cited as meriting further investigation.

The youngest son, Munir, now 21, had progressively failing eyesight, a worry to him and his family. One day in 1963, when he was 15, he sneaked away in Saidallah's car and promptly smashed into a telephone pole because he could not see well enough to drive.

Three years later, in May, 1966 Munir was arrested in Flagstaff, Ariz., and pleaded guilty to a vagrancy charge. He couldn't meet bail and served 15 days in jail.

The next month, he was arrested and charged with

possession and sale of marijuana to an undercover narcotics agent. In October he was convicted and sentenced to five years' probation — one year to be served in jail — but early in 1967 the conviction was set aside since he was a juvenile at the time. Deportation proceedings against Munir were dropped in mid-1968, after his appeal on grounds that his was a juvenile offense.

Most seriously involved with the police was the eldest, Sharif, now 37. In May, 1963, Sharif was in an auto accident and suffered whiplash injuries to his back, neck and head. His supervisor in the Baptist accounting office, George Matas, said Sharif seemed to "withdraw from the group and from society. He complained of headaches, said his eyes hurt. His work deteriorated. We finally had to let him go."

The family was so embittered at Sharif's dismissal that they quit the Baptist church. That was in December. That same month, Sharif was arrested and charged with attempted murder after a romance which went on the rocks.

One Dec. 18, Sharif was arrested while in the act of sawing through the hydraulic brake lines of his girl friend's car. He was convicted of tampering with the auto and placed on one year's probation.

Ayda, meanwhile, in a surprisingly independent move for an Arab daughter, had gone off alone to Palm Springs, to work in a date shop run by a man named Mennell. Mary was closest to Ayda and opposed the move, but Ayda, in her mid-20s, was apparently possessed of

**"His children did not speak in the house. They were afraid of the father."**

some of Mary's own strength and determination.

She married Mennell, several years her senior, in 1961, and when she revealed the marriage to her family, a bitter scene ensued. Sharif, the eldest male, beat his wilful sister with a shoe, and Ayda fled.

Ayda later died of leukemia, and Sharif, a friend said, was so overcome with remorse that "he cried like a baby."

Throughout this period of the family's life, Sirhan was the least outgoing but most promising of the sons. It was Sirhan who would put the family on the map, everyone agreed: he was serious-minded, religious, polite, devoted to his mother, absorbed in books. One neighbor recalls he thought he might go into dentistry. Another felt he was better suited to a more intellectual pursuit — teaching, perhaps, or religious work.

It is a curious facet of Sirhan's personality that by that time—insofar as it is recalled by his acquaintances—he had a peculiar facility for showing only certain sides of his nature to certain groups of people —and never very much to anyone. The recollections different persons have



about Sirhan are strangely flat and one-dimensional, dissimilar in content but strikingly similar in their lack of emotional force.

The heart-to-heart talks normal to adolescents apparently were not for him. With some family friends, for instance, he never discussed politics, yet with school friends he rarely discussed anything else.

His grades at John Muir High School were good and classmates remember him as very smart, very quiet, inclined to be somewhat competitive and given to discouragement when bested.

One of his better friends was Curtis Townsend, a Negro who lived not far away.

"He was a smart boy," says Townsend. "He caught on quick. We ran around with an interracial group, and we used to have contests to see who could get the highest grades on tests. He got discouraged if he didn't win."

Townsend also recalls how "a kid teased him because he often showed up at school with mixed pairs of socks—each of a different color—and Sirhan told him to lay off. He'd speak up if he was crossed. But it was funny, he was always doing something like that, maybe out of absentmindedness. Like in sports, for instance, kids made fun of him because he'd show up for sports, him with his 30-inch waist in 36 trousers. He'd just look funny."

Sirhan used to talk of going back to Jordan someday, Townsend says, and "he gave me the impression that when he got back to Jordan he'd be somebody big—a prince or something. He used to talk about going back to help his people."

Throughout his entire time in high school, Townsend says, he cannot recall a single girl Sirhan ever dated or expressed an interest in, with one possible exception. However, this girl, when interviewed, said she not only never had dated Sirhan but could not recall him at all.

#### Mideast History

A girl in Sirhan's history class recalls that that was one of his better subjects and that he often used to come to class early or stay late to talk to the history teacher, Darwin Russell. Sirhan's card at the Pasadena Public Library bears out this observation; almost all of the books he checked out dealt with the Middle East.

William Spaniard, now in Saigon, recalls that Sirhan was "a taciturn individual who didn't say very much: friendly, really pleasant, but hard to get to know. He was brilliant. He was studying Russian when everyone else was barely getting by in Spanish and English."

Swedish foreign exchange student Christian Ek—now in Stockholm—says Sirhan "dreamed of being something big in Jordan after his studies in the United States. He was a calm, well-mannered boy, nothing evil about him." But Robert Chase, now of Glendale, remembers him as "so quiet and such a weirdie that at assemblies he wouldn't stand for the National Anthem."

Still another classmate, now in Mexico City, says Sirhan was "always so shy you hardly knew he was there. He sat in the back

of the class, never saying much of anything."

When Sirhan did say anything, others recall, it was almost always on the subject of politics, civil rights or, most often, the Middle East. Then, they say, he would become impassioned and make bitterly anti-Zionist statements.

Because of his lack of stature, Sirhan was not good at sports and disliked physical education classes, so he switched to R.O.T.C. He also was a member of the junior and senior class councils at John Muir, and is remembered by John McGrain, president of the council, as a likable fellow who seemed left out.

In the fall of 1963, Sirhan went on to Pasadena City College, a two-year institution that fell short of his dream of a college career. His grades continued to be above average.

His social life continued to be almost non-existent, consisting mainly of occasional cups of coffee with students at a hamburger place across from the campus.

Occasionally Adel, now 30, would take Sirhan with him to the Fez, where Sirhan would play the tamboura, a kind of drum. But these visits were infrequent, since Sirhan didn't date and his mother disapproved of nightclubs.

There were only two fleeting encounters with girls at this period. At PCC he became interested in a girl named Gwendolyn Gum and phoned her a few times for dates, but she was always busy. At one school carnival he sought to impress Gwendolyn, who was running a booth, by buying \$10 worth of votes from her at a penny a vote. Nothing happened. She never dated him.

#### Names in Diary

On another occasion, when he and others were in Newport Beach, Sirhan bought a soft drink for a girl named Peggy Ostercamp. That was the extent of his outward involvement with her.

Inwardly, Sirhan evidently fantasied these encounters as hopeful signs. He was in the habit of keeping an informal diary, and both girls' names are written in it, with names of other people Sirhan either wished or imagined were his friends.

From his late teens into college, he also attended meetings of the Organization of Arab Students, a loosely organized group whose status fluctuated from burgeoning to defunct, largely in response to the changing enthusiasms of its student membership. The group in Pasadena now is disbanded.

Sam Farraj, a Jordanian—now a medical lab technician living in Arcadia—has known the Sirhan family for many years. He knew Saidallah in Jerusalem and was once a close friend of Sharif. Sirhan, Adel and Sharif used to attend OAS meetings, Farraj says, and he recalls that Sirhan was an ardent nationalist, extremely anti-Zionist but not, he stresses, anti-Jewish.

At some point in late 1964 or early 1965, Sirhan's dreams of education and a profession began to fade and his studies took a sharp turn for the worse. By the end of his second year at PCC he was flunking every subject, and on the advice of a teacher, he dropped out of school. Once the fairest hope of his family, he now was not even qualified to continue his education at an upper division university.

What triggered this precipitous change in the grades that had always meant so much to him is not known. During this time Ayda's illness was wasting her life, and in March of 1965 she died. Perhaps the loss of his strong-willed, self-sufficient sister was more than he could withstand. But perhaps not, for emotional bonds among the Sirhan family were never the subject of outside discussion. From this time on, however, Sirhan was no longer the serious, scholarly boy.

For a while he worked at filling stations, but then another plan came to him. He had long been fond of horse racing, often spending afternoons at Santa Anita, where he would bet freely, sometimes losing every nickel, sometimes winning heavily.

So he decided to become a jockey. He had always been poor in sports, but as a jockey his lack of size would be an advantage. Perhaps it crossed his mind that successful jockeys were not made to feel unmanly, however small they were.

As a first step, Sirhan got a state license as an exercise boy and a "hot walker"—one who walks horses around to cool them down after a workout. He took a job at the Granja Vista del Rio ranch near Corona in the summer of 1966. But in September he fell from a horse and landed on his head.

Sirhan was "generally banged up" from the fall, one doctor said, and was hospitalized overnight for observation. At that time,



no major injury was noted, but Sirhan soon complained of impaired eyesight and insisted upon further treatment.

An ophthalmologist examined Sirhan in November and December, after Sirhan had complained of pain and blurred vision, but tests showed nothing wrong with Sirhan's eyes. When the doctor refused to write a letter confirming the alleged eye injury, he said Sirhan threatened him.

In July of 1967, no longer at the ranch, Sirhan filed a disability claim for workmen's compensation. The insurance firm, rather than dispute the claim, settled out of court for \$2,000. In February, 1968, after paying medical and legal fees, Sirhan had a nest egg of \$1,700—and no further hope of being a jockey.

Sirhan's fall is reminiscent of Sharif's 1963 auto accident, in light of the fact that Mary has since said Sirhan's behavior changed after the fall. "He didn't seem to be hurt too bad, I mean physically," she said. "But he changed

**"He was a clever boy — very quick — but unstable and very unhappy ..."**

somehow. After that accident, we seemed not so close any more. I couldn't even get through to him when we talked."

Whether or not Sirhan incurred some barely detectable but nonetheless affective brain damage is the subject of much speculation today. A defense attorney has indicated this possibility will be exhaustively probed.

For several months after leaving the ranch, Sirhan didn't work. Finally Mary appealed on his behalf to John Weidner, owner of a Pasadena health food shop, and in late 1967 Weidner gave Sirhan a job as stock and delivery boy at \$2 an hour.

Weidner found his new employe bright, pleasant and witty, eager to please and so honest that he soon trusted Sirhan to make bank deposits.

But he also found him quick to resent what he construed as criticism of his work. "He was a proud man with a good opinion of himself," says Weidner, adding that Sirhan visibly resented authority.

Weidner's wife, Naomi, adds "He had a lot of pride, a lot of arrogance. We were always careful how we gave him an an phy and somehow became order. If you gave him an an phy he didn't like he became very resentful."

Weidner, a Dutch World War II veteran who worked in the underground saving Jews from the Nazis, took a more than routine interest in the nationalistic young immigrant, and when business was slow he would lead Sirhan into conversation.

"I think he was a man of revolt," says Weidner. "He was a kind of anarchist against society, against law and order, against those who possess. Against those who have more than he has and are more successful in life." He says that when they discussed civil rights and racial disorder, Sirhan would say, "In America, freedom does not exist. I agree with the violence."

#### **Atheistic Views**

Sirhan also expressed dislike for wealthy people, said Weidner, and "a real hatred for Jews. He said the Jewish people were rich and had taken his country, so he was very angry against them."

When Weidner said Sirhan should try to forgive injustice, Sirhan answered, "I would like to be like you but I cannot."

And once, in a discussion of religion, Sirhan told Weidner, "There is no God. You see in Israel what happens to the Arab. There is no God. How can you have a God?"

Sirhan at this point had begun to explore theosophy and somehow became attracted to the Rosicrucian

ans, or Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis, which sells mail-order courses which purport to help one unlock the psychic powers of the mind. He also corresponded with a mystically inclined man in Napa—whose identity and whereabouts are presently unknown—who confided to some theosophist friends after the Kennedy assassination that the tone of Sirhan's letters had caused him to be fearful months before that Sirhan's mental health was perhaps endangered as a result of uninformed dabbling with mystical concepts.

Mysticism aside, Sirhan evidently had not repudiated conventional religion as thoroughly as his brash arguments with Weidner would indicate. In his jail cell he still prays to the Christian God with his mother.

Adding fuel to his arguments with Weidner was the still-recent six-day war in which Israel so humiliated her Arab adversaries. Sirhan often

"I saw him walking barefoot. He said it was because his father had beat him . . . and that he took a piece of iron, heated it on the stove and put it on the boy's heel . . ."

equated the Jews' victory with the Nazis' treatment of Jews and demanded: "You think the Jews can't be cruel, too?"

Mrs. Weidner also talked with Sirhan, and she recalls one particularly memorable story. "I'm going to tell you something I've never told anyone, not even my parents," she quotes Sirhan as saying. "When I was small, I saw an Israeli soldier cut off the breasts of an Arab woman."

#### No Evidence

There is no evidence that he ever did tell this story, or any other, to anyone else. It is also interesting to note that of the several atrocities Bishara said his son witnessed, this one was not among them.

In March, 1968, a month after getting his disability claim, Sirhan and the Weidners fell out. There was a dispute about some order Weidner gave him. Sirhan insisted he had been called a liar. Weidner insisted he meant no such thing and attempted to patch it up, even going to Sirhan's home to talk it over. Sirhan was adamant and quit his job.

Soon after, he filed a claim for severance before the Labor Relations Board, but he lost the claim.

Meanwhile, he was still the model neighbor youth, dropping in on Mrs. Olive Blakeslee for games of Chinese checkers, talking with Mrs. Martin Pulite about how to plant a garden for his mother, or visiting with Linda Massri, a longtime family friend, about religion, psychology and books.

"We used to talk about Freud," says Mrs. Massri, herself American-born but of Syrian parentage. "We'd talk about the psychological motivations for people's actions, and Sirhan would say that God was in a person's mind."



She was especially close to Sirhan, she says. "He was like a little brother to me... I don't know where the reports of Sirhan's violent hatred toward the Israelis came from. He never discussed such feelings with me as long as I knew him. I could see all the nice things in his character. He was especially good to his mother; he was always with her. He was a well-educated and well-behaved boy, an intellectual."

And neither did Sirhan ever discuss his father with Mrs. Massri, she says, but after the assassination she wondered at some length about his feelings toward Bishara. On the day of the shooting, a badly shaken Saidallah came to see her, she says, and told her, "My father was a second Hitler."

#### Failed in Hopes

As the summer of 1968 drew near, Sirhan had little to look forward to. He had failed to achieve his hopes through education, his dream of becoming a jockey had turned into a bitter joke, and even jobs that he had felt beneath him had fallen by the wayside.

All he had left was the remainder of his disability claim, which he had given to his mother for safekeeping, and for which he had to argue every time he wanted money, because she feared he would waste it.

He puttered around the house, read the newspapers regularly, followed the continuing ferment in the Middle East and was interested in the accelerating political campaign here. In late April the two interests converged, in a political column in which Sen. Kennedy was criticized for his support of the Israeli cause. Sirhan cut out the column and put it in his wallet.

#### The Fatal Day

He also jotted down his own political thoughts, we are told, in a couple of stenographic notebooks—anti-Israeli, pro-Arab thoughts—and sometime about the middle of May, the notation that Kennedy must die before June 5.

On the morning of Tuesday, June 4—election day—Sirhan lounged around the house for most of the morning. He was at home when his mother left for work at 8 a.m. and he was still there around noon.

By early afternoon he was at the pistol range of the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club, where he practiced rapid firing of several hundred rounds until about 5 p.m.

#### Met Acquaintance

Then he drifted over to Bob's Big Boy hamburger stand, next to PCC, where he met a casual acquaintance, also an Arab, named Gaymoard Mistri. After talking for a while they walked over to the PCC cafeteria, where they met three more of Sirhan's slight acquaintances, Abdul Jabra Malki, Marouf Badran and Anour Saigh.

None of the four knew Sirhan well enough to sense his real frame of mind—for no one had ever known him well—but he seemed, they said, to be in a good mood. They chatted desultorily about nothing special until about 7:15, when the others had to excuse themselves and go to evening classes.

Sirhan waved a casual good night and strolled off into the early evening toward his car.

The polls would be closing soon, the voting would be over. All but his. It was time he was getting to the Ambassador.

Last spring, about the time the leaves were budding, a man decided to test that recurrent, highest promise of the American dream. He decided to run for President.

Robert Francis Kennedy was fortune's darling, some said. Son of one of America's wealthiest families, influential senator, brother to a martyred President and, as the martyr took on the lineaments of folk-hero, heir to an incomparably rich political legacy of goodwill and sympathy. He was the new exponent of the legendary Kennedy mystique, idealism's new standard-bearer, the new champion of the poor.

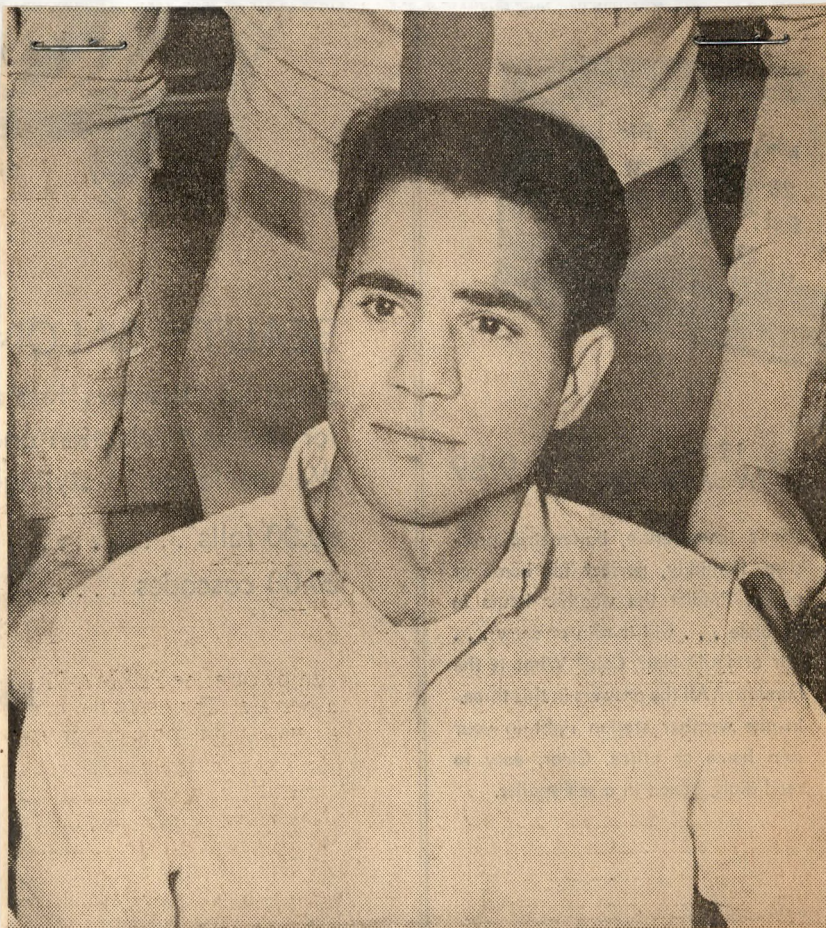
Now it is winter, the world is no newer, and those same leaves have long since fallen on a hillside in Virginia, skittering drily across the grave of Robert Francis Kennedy. Alongside the brother whose dreams he shared and from whose torch he took his fire, Robert Kennedy also faces now the city that was Camelot to both. The season advances, the world rolls, the people have selected another, not Kennedy.

And in the night, when the wind blows across the Potomac River and up the forlorn Arlington hillside of the dead, Robert's grave is lit by the fitful flicker of the eternal flame that burns above John, but shares the light.

One man decided that Robert F. Kennedy should not be President of the United States. The voters who might have elected him were disenfranchised by a gun. Hopes were pinned elsewhere or abandoned, old allegiances forgotten, new ones made—all because of one little man with a .22 pistol.

The assassin's name is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and though he has pleaded innocent, that he shot Kennedy is beyond dispute; he was seized before he finished shooting. What is pertinent, and what the defense will hinge upon, his attorney says, is "Why did he do it? Is he responsible?"

These questions may one day be answered, hopefully at Sirhan's trial which opens Tuesday. It would be socially profitable for us to know.



**HIS NAME MEANS 'WANDERER'**—He was injured in the war between the Arabs and Israelis in 1948, his father says of Sirhan Sirhan, not physically, but "woundings, sufferings in his head and heart."

Times photo





**THE PATRIARCH**—Bishara Sirhan, head of his family, states in his village near Jerusalem that son Sirhan suffered traumatic experiences in Arab-Israeli war in 1948.

(AP) photo





**A MOTHER'S TEARS**—Mrs. Mary Sirhan, weeping in the arms of a neighbor, Mrs. Clarence C. Robinson, believed that her son Sirhan was the most promising of her children. Mrs. Sirhan attempted to keep her family together despite a divorce from her husband.





**AT ARRAIGNMENT**—Sirhan B. Sirhan is taken by officers into court for arraignment hours after the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at Ambassador.

Times photo



# Sirhan Attorney Admits Telling Lie

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 4 (UPI)—A lawyer scheduled to defend Sirhan B. Sirhan on a charge of slaying Sen. Robert F. Kennedy admitted to a Federal grand jury Friday that he lied in court in another case.

Attorney Grant B. Cooper, a member of Sirhan's three-man defense team, spent three hours before a grand jury inquiring into certain aspects of the recent friars Club card cheating trial in which Cooper represented one of the defendants.

The grand jury is studying reports that Cooper obtained access to transcripts of secret grand jury hearings that preceded the Friars Club trial. The transcripts had not been made public, and were not supposed to be available to defense attorneys.

The matter came to light when a transcript of testimony given the grand jury by com-

dian Phil Silvers was found on a counsel table near Cooper in July during the Friars Club trial.

In conferences with U.S. District Court Judge William P. Gray at the time Cooper reportedly told the trial judge he found the Silvers transcript on a table in the court room.

"I didn't tell the truth," Cooper said Friday, "because it would have pointed a finger at my client."

Cooper declined to reveal where he got the transcripts, pleading the privacy of the lawyer-client relationship. He will appear in court again Monday on the issue.

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The Washington Post  
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The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
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62-587-A  
NOT RECORDED

46 JAN 10 1969

Date JAN 5 1969

53 JAN 16 1969

# Sirhan Defense Hinges On His Mental Capacity

By Ralph Dighton  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan goes to trial Tuesday on a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and a quirk in California law could save him from the gas chamber if he is found guilty.

The quirk is a hair-splitting technicality, reinforced by several decisions since 1949 but little known outside California, which recognizes a person may be legally sane yet still not fully responsible for his actions.

A number of legal and psychiatric authorities believe the 24-year-old Jordanian's counsel might use a defense known as "diminished responsibility" to seek a verdict short of first-degree murder and a lesser penalty than death.

Presentation of evidence by both sides is expected to take two months or longer. There are indications that more than 200 witnesses will be called.

Some are expected to say that Sirhan waited in a kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel early last June 5 as Kennedy announced to a gathering of his supporters that he had won the California Democratic presidential primary.

Then, the prosecution will attempt to show, Sirhan began blazing away with a small-caliber pistol as Kennedy and others passed by.

Kennedy and five bystanders were wounded. The Senator died later in a hospital.

The setting of the trial is

Superior Court Department 107, an eighth-floor courtroom in the gray stone Hall of Justice.

Quarter-inch steel plates have been placed inside the courtroom's four windows—a precaution taken also for pre-trial hearings on the 13th floor, where Sirhan is held under heavy guard.

Quarantining the courtroom's 75 spectator seats will be a hand-picked squad of sheriff's officers, witness and newsmen. Although 114 reporters have been given credentials to cover the trial, there will be space in the courtroom for only 37. The others will observe by closed circuit television in a room four floors below.

Also seated in the courtroom will be Sirhan's mother, Mary, and brothers Adel, 29, and Munir, 21, of suburban Pasadena.

The cast charged with seeking justice for Sirhan will include:

- The presiding jurist, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, 69, a bushy-browed dean of the Los Angeles criminal bench.

- The three prosecutors, led by Lynn "Buck" Comp-ton, 46, pipe-puffing, one-time UCLA football player who won a Silver Star medal when he jumped into France with the 101st Airborne Division at Normandy. He is the county's chief deputy district attorney.

- Three for the defense, led by Russell B. Parsons,

69-year-old, bespectacled lawyer who has tried 5000 cases in nearly 50 years' practice. Parsons is proudest of his role in the 1954 Charles Cahan case, in which the California Supreme Court ruled that evidence illegally obtained cannot be used against a defendant in a criminal case.

The likelihood that Sirhan's attorneys may use the "diminished responsibility" defense arises from the fact that the position has several times won a reduced sentence or even acquittal. In most states, a defendant must be found either sane or insane; in California, he can be held partially insane.

Interviews with lawyers and psychiatrists show these avenues are open for Sirhan:

- The defense may offer

evidence that the act was not premeditated, which would make it second-degree murder punishable by five years to life in prison.

- The defense may try to prove that Sirhan's mental capacity was diminished to a point where he was not capable of malice. This would be manslaughter, punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Diminished responsibility has been claimed in several cases when the defense could not establish legal insanity but could show the person was influenced by rage, fear, obsession, drugs or even alcohol.

Sirhan pleaded not guilty last Aug. 2.

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The Washington Post \_\_\_\_\_  
Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_  
The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_  
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People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

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Legal authorities pointed out that the plea of innocence did not necessarily mean Sirhan was denying he killed Kennedy. Since he is charged with murder with malice aforethought, the "not guilty" plea could have meant simply that he was denying malice.

Parsons, at a news conference following the plea, said:

"I haven't seen any evidence yet that he had any malice."

He also said the not guilty plea "permits us to show the what and why—what are the real issues — if he is the man, why did he do it?"

Parsons himself thus seemed to set the stage for a diminished-capacity defense—which need not be declared prior to the trial.

Paul Caruso, a Los Angeles defense attorney not involved in the Sirhan case, says: "The basic question is not whether Sirhan killed, but if he did, why did he do it? It could be that he wasn't killing a man, but killing a symbol. Kennedy had urged military aid for Israel, a country Sirhan hated. Is it murder to kill a symbol? To me, this betrays an obsession which could diminish his mental capacity."

Caruso, in an interview, cited a 1964 case in which a young woman took a pistol to a meeting with a brother-in-law who was her lover. She testified she had no intent to kill, only to force him to listen to her plea that he give up other

women. The brother-in-law moved on her menacingly and she fired five quick shots, wounding him severely. The man recovered. The woman was placed on probation.

"The defense showed that she was in a state of diminished capacity through terror," Caruso said, "because she kept on firing when it was no longer necessary. You will recall that Sirhan is accused of doing much the same thing. Sen. Kennedy was struck by three bullets and five other persons were wounded.

"The more bizarre the case, the more unreasonable the act, the better are the chances of a diminished-capacity defense."

Dr. Seymour Pollock of the University of Southern California has been retained by the prosecution to observe Sirhan, but any conclusions he may have reached have not been disclosed.

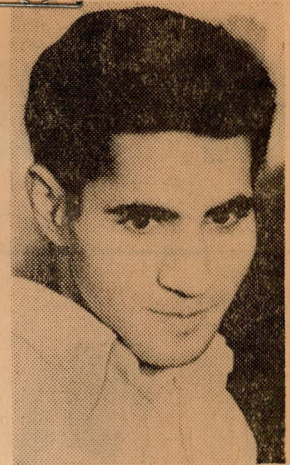
The concept of diminished responsibility has been developing in California law since 1949, when the State Supreme Court ruled a trial judge erred in barring psychiatric testimony even though the defendant did not plead insanity.

Since then, testimony by psychiatrists has been a major factor in reducing the verdict in several cases.

Dr. John M. Suarez, assistant professor of psychiatry at UCLA, said in an interview that the defense of diminished capacity has developed because California courts became dissatisfied with the inflexibility of the rule followed in most states—that a person is either same or insane, with no shades or gray in between.

He said he is not fully in agreement with the practice, however, because the psychiatrist is frequently put in the position of judging the degree of guilt.

Attorney Caruso said of the Sirhan case: "It looks like a hard one to defend, but it's actually a defense lawyer's dream. Defense counsel can't lose stature—anything short of the gas chamber is a victory."



**SIRHAN B. SIRHAN**

... trial opens Tuesday



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 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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UPI-31

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A LAWYER SCHEDULED TO DEFEND SIRHAN B. SIRHAN ON A CHARGE OF SLAYING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY ADMITTED TO A FEDERAL GRAND JURY FRIDAY THAT HE LIED IN COURT IN ANOTHER CASE. SIRHAN GOES INTO COURT TUESDAY IN ONE OF THE MOST PUBLICIZED TRIALS OF ALL TIME.

ATTORNEY GRANT B. COOPER, A MEMBER OF SIRHAN'S THREE-MAN DEFENSE TEAM, SPENT THREE HOURS BEFORE A GRAND JURY INQUIRING INTO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE RECENT FRIAR'S CLUB CARD CHEATING TRIAL.

COOPER DEFENDED MAURICE H. FRIEDMAN, A LAS VEGAS, NEV., HOTEL AND CASINO DEVELOPER. FRIEDMAN AND FOUR OTHER DEFENDANTS WERE FOUND GUILTY OF CHEATING WEALTHY BUSINESSMEN AND SHOW PEOPLE OF AN ESTIMATED \$400,000 IN CROOKED CARD GAMES AT THE PLUSH STAGE CLUB IN BEVERLY HILLS.

THE GRAND JURY IS STUDYING REPORTS THAT COOPER OBTAINED ACCESS TO TRANSCRIPTS OF SECRET GRAND JURY HEARINGS THAT PRECEDED THE FRIARS CLUB TRIAL. THE TRANSCRIPTS HAD NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC, AND WERE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE AVAILABLE TO DEFENSE ATTORNEYS.

THE MATTER CAME TO LIGHT WHEN A TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY GIVEN THE GRAND JURY BY COMEDIAN PHIL SILVERS WAS FOUND ON A COUNSEL TABLE NEAR COOPER IN JULY DURING THE FRIARS CLUB TRIAL.

IN CONFERENCES WITH U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE WILLIAM P. GRAY AT THE TIME COOPER REPORTEDLY TOLD THE TRIAL JUDGE HE FOUND THE SILVERS TRANSCRIPT ON A TABLE IN THE COURT ROOM.

"I DIDN'T TELL THE TRUTH," COOPER SAID FRIDAY, "BECAUSE IT WOULD HAVE POINTED A FINGER AT MY CLIENT."

THE ATTORNEY SAID HE SHOULD HAVE CLAIMED LAWYER-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AT THAT TIME, AND ADDED: "I DIDN'T THINK FAST ENOUGH."

COOPER TOLD THE GRAND JURY FRIDAY HE READ TRANSCRIPTS OF FOUR GRAND JURY WITNESSES BEFORE THEY WERE FURNISHED OFFICIALLY BY THE GOVERNMENT.

"HAD I BEEN ABLE TO GET COPIES OF OTHERS I WOULD HAVE READ THEM," COOPER TESTIFIED. "AS A MATTER OF FACT I TRIED TO GET THEM BUT I COULDN'T."

COOPER DECLINED TO REVEAL WHERE HE GOT THE TRANSCRIPTS, PLEADING THE PRIVACY OF THE LAWYER-CLIENT RELATIONSHIP.

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NOT RECORDED

46 JAN 10 1969  
WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

59 JAN 21 1969

ORIGINAL FILED IN 106-3200-9

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Stolen and Forged Check May Have Been Cashed by Sirhan

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

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

2-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

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

Character:

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Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

62-587-A  
NOT RECORDED  
170 JAN 10 1969

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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

II-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

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or

Classification: LA-56-156

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated



Around the Nation **A-10**

# Sirhan Trial Delayed to Assist New Lawyer

**LOS ANGELES**—The trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has been postponed until Jan. 7.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker granted the postponement to permit a new member of the defense team, attorney Grant B. Cooper, to study the case. Cooper, a veteran criminal lawyer here, has just finished another case. The Sirhan trial had been scheduled to start on Dec. 9.

The trial will be held in a steel-plated courtroom with closed-circuit television for reporters. There will not be any public television.

## Ohio City Cited

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare says it has found apparent violations of the school desegregation provisions of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in the Middletown, Ohio, school system.

The law provides for a suspension of Federal aid to school districts practicing discrimination. A letter was sent to Middletown school officials asking for a reply about the apparent violations.

In Union, N.J., HEW has given the Board of Education until Dec. 14 to integrate one of its elementary schools. This action is the Government's first major edict on school desegregation north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

Other investigations are being made of reported violations in four other districts — Toledo, Ohio; McKeesport, Pa.; Waterbury, Conn., and Ferndale, Mich.

## Mafia Figure Held

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced the arrest of Russel L. Bufalino, one of the top Mafia figures in Pennsylvania, on charges of conspiring to transport \$25,000 worth of television sets in interstate commerce. It was the second arrest of a top Mafia figure in as many weeks. Last week, Stefano Magaddino, head of the Mafia in Western New York and Ontario, Canada, was arrested with five others on charges of interstate book-making.

The 64-year-old Bufalino has close ties with the Magaddino organization and at one time lived in Buffalo. Two of the men charged with him yesterday are from Buffalo. They are Salvatore Todaro, a 46-year-old dress manufacturer, and John Charles Sacco Jr., 41, who is now in the New York state prison at Attica.

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Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

## Panthers Arrested

**JERSEY CITY**—Three men identified as members of the Black Panther Party were arrested on charges stemming from a hit-and-run machine gun attack on a police precinct station last Friday night.

**Arrested were** Isaiah Rowley, 24, Charles Hicks, 36, and Victor Perez, 19. Rowley said he was the New Jersey minister of defense for the Panthers.

Police said the attack on the station was in retaliation for arrest earlier of seven members of the Panthers. No one was injured.

The Washington Post **A-10**  
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  
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The New Leader  
The Wall Street Journal  
The National Observer  
People's World  
Examiner (Washington)

Date **DEC 6 1968**

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**184 JAN 9 1969**

**51 JAN 15 1969**

1025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



United Press International

Prominent criminal lawyer, Grant B. Cooper, left, gets acquainted with Sirhan B. Sirhan in a Los Angeles jail. Cooper

and Russel E. Parsons, right, the other member of the defense team, won a delay of the Jordanian's trial until Jan. 7.



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SIRHAN 12/6 NX  
BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WILL SPEND THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS IN A JAIL CELL, NOT IN A COURTROOM FIGHTING FOR HIS LIFE.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER THURSDAY OVERRULED A PROSECUTION OBJECTION AND POSTPONED THE START OF SIRHAN'S TRIAL FOR THE THIRD TIME AT THE REQUEST OF THE DEFENSE.

THE TRIAL IS NOW SET TO BEGIN JAN. 7 IN A STEEL-PLATED COURTROOM WITH CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CARRYING THE PROCEEDINGS TO AN OVERFLOW CROWD OF NEWSMEN FOUR FLOORS BELOW.

WALKER ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT BECAUSE HE INTENDS TO HAVE THE JURY LOCKED UP DURING THE TRIAL, ESTIMATED TO LAST ABOUT TWO MONTHS, HE MAY ALLOW JURORS' WIVES AND HUSBANDS TO VISIT THEM DURING WEEKENDS.

THE REASON FOR THE LATEST POSTPONEMENT WAS TO ALLOW GRANT B. COOPER, SIRHAN'S CHIEF DEFENDER, SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE HIS CASE. ALTHOUGH COOPER WAS HIRED BY SIRHAN SHORTLY AFTER THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN WAS ARRESTED JUNE 5 FOR FATALLY WOUNDING KENNEDY AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL, THE LAWYER'S ROLE IN THE CASE WAS KEPT SECRET BECAUSE HE WAS INVOLVED IN ANOTHER TRIAL.

AT THURSDAY'S 15-MINUTE COURT SESSION, THE PROSECUTION ARGUED IT WAS READY TO GO TO TRIAL ON MONDAY AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS HAVE OBJECTED TO EACH CONTINUANCE, FEARING A CLAIM COULD LATER BE RAISED THAT SIRHAN'S RIGHT TO A SPEEDY TRIAL WAS VIOLATED.

COOPER INDICATED AT A NEWS CONFERENCE THERE IS "NO PROBABILITY" THAT SIRHAN'S STRAIGHT PLEA OF INNOCENT WILL BE MODIFIED TO INNOCENT BY REASON OF INSANITY. THE DEFENDANT'S "MENTAL CONDITION" HOWEVER, WILL BE A MAJOR FACTOR IN SEEKING TO AVOID THE MAXIMUM PENALTY OF DEATH IN THE GAS CHAMBER.

COOPER SAID HE FEELS IT WILL BE "A DIFFICULT JOB" TO SELECT A JURY. HE SAID IT REMAINED TO BE SEEN IF THE PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE CASE WOULD MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPANEL AN IMPARTIAL JURY IN LOS ANGELES.

ASKED WHETHER HE MIGHT SEEK A CHANGE OF VENUE, COOPER REPLIED, "WHERE TO?"

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184 JAN 9 1969

57 JAN 13 1969



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

## END OF FRIARS TRIAL FREES HIM

# Grant Cooper to Join in Defending Sirhan

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Cooper said Monday that he

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

hung juries or reduced charges.

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

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

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

I-3 Los Angeles Times  
 Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/3/68  
 Edition: Home  
 Author:  
 Editor: Nick B. Williams  
 Title: Kensalt

Character:  
 or  
 Classification: LA 56-156  
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles  
☐ Being Investigated

62-587-9  
 NOT RECORDED  
 184 JAN 9 1969



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

**Around the Nation** A-15

# Sirhan Names Chief Lawyer

LOS ANGELES — Sirhan B. Sirhan, the man accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, has chosen Grant Cooper, one of the leading criminal attorneys on the West Coast, as his chief defender at the murder trial.

Cooper is a former president of the Los Angeles Bar Association. As a defense attorney, he twice won a hung jury for Dr. Bernard Finch in the Finch-Tregoff murder trials.

Cooper agreed to take the case as a "duty." He was selected shortly after Sirhan was arrested in June, but his role has been kept a secret because he was defending a man in the Friars Club card-cheating case. He did not want his role in the Sirhan case known because he feared it might work against his client in the Friars Club trial.

Russell E. Parsons, a veteran appeals lawyer who has been Sirhan's attorney of record, will continue on the case, but Cooper will be the chief attorney.

## Army Rejects Rudd

NEWARK, N.J.—Mark Rudd, leader of the student revolt at Columbia University last spring, was tentatively rejected for military service after a pre-induction physical.

Maj. Clement St. Martin of the Army Administration Center here, said he could not disclose the ailment doctors found in examining the 21-year-old student leader. He said Rudd could be ordered back for another examination in 30 days.

Rudd has said he will go into the Army if he is drafted, but he pledged he would "fight like hell

against the Army, from within the Army." He is the son of a retired Army officer.

## Friars Club Trial

LOS ANGELES — Five men were convicted of cheating Hollywood celebrities and wealthy businessmen of more than \$400,000 in rigged gin rummy games at the Friars Club.

The defendants were Maurice Friedman, a Las Vegas investor; Benjamin Teitelbaum, co-owner of a Los Angeles card parlor; T. Warner Richardson, a former Las Vegas casino operator; Manuel Rickey Jacobs, a professional gambler, and Johnny Rosselli, a former labor racketeer.

U. S. District Judge William P. Gray set sentencing for Jan. 20.

Among the victims of the rigged games were singer Tony Martin, shoe magnate Harry Karl, who is married to actress Debbie Reynolds, and comedians Phil Silvers and Zeppo Marx.

## 3d Namer Released

NEW YORK—The third member of a Yemeni immigrant family accused of plotting to kill President-elect Nixon was freed on \$25,000 bond.

The last to be released on bond was 21-year-old Hussein Namer. His father, Ahmed, 43, and his brother, Abdo, were released in \$25,000 bond each last month.

From staff reports and news dispatches

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

9-30-68

Kensal T

The Washington Post A-15  
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 Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date DEC 3 1968

DEC 59

62-587-A-

NOT RECORDED

133 DEC 9 1968

56 DEC 12 1968





Associated Press

Mark Rudd, 21, a leader last spring of the Columbia University student revolt, reports for a pre-induction physical at

Irvington, N.J. He was accompanied by his father, Jacob, a retired Army officer. Rudd was tentatively rejected for service.



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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*Kensalt*

UPI-98

(SIRHAN)

LOS ANGELES--A HEARING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK TO CONSIDER POSTPONEMENT OF THE TRIAL OF SIRHAN B. SIRHAN, ACCUSED OF THE MURDER OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, UNTIL AFTER THE FIRST OF THE YEAR, SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER DISCLOSED TODAY.

THE TRIAL OF THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO START DEC. 9.

WALKER ALSO REVEALED THAT THE PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE WILL BE ASKED AT THE HEARING IF THEY HAVE OBJECTION TO PLACING A HIDDEN TELEVISION CAMERA IN THE COURTROOM TO TRANSMIT THE TRIAL BY CLOSED CIRCUIT TO AN AUXILIARY COURT ROOM TO BE USED BY THE PRESS.

WALKER SAID MORE THAN 100 NEWSMEN HAD ASKED FOR CREDENTIALS TO COVER THE TRIAL BUT THAT THERE WERE ONLY 35 SEATS FOR THE NEWS MEDIA IN THE EIGHTH FLOOR COURTROOM OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE ASSIGNED TO THE SIRHAN TRIAL.

DEFENSE ATTORNEY RUSSELL E. PARSONS WAS EXPECTED TO ASK FOR THE CONTINUANCE ON THE GROUNDS THAT ANOTHER ATTORNEY COMING INTO THE CASE -- AND NOT YET IDENTIFIED -- IS STILL TIED UP ON ANOTHER TRIAL AND NEEDS TIME TO FAMILIARIZE HIMSELF WITH THE SIRHAN DEFENSE.

WALKER SAID THE HEARING WOULD BE HELD IN THE NEXT 10 TO 12 DAYS. DIST. ATTY. EVELLE YOUNGER WAS EXPECTED TO OBJECT TO THE DELAY BUT IT WAS GENERALLY EXPECTED THE POSTPONEMENT WOULD BE GRANTED AND THAT SIRHAN WOULD NOT GO TO TRIAL BEFORE JAN. 6.

WALKER SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO THE USE OF THE CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION WHICH WAS WORKED OUT IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CALIFORNIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMITTEE.

11/18--JJ234PES

62-587-A  
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46 JAN 9 1969

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79 JAN 9- 1969



Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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296A HFR

SIRHAN 11/14 HC  
 ADV FOR AMS SUN NOV. 17  
 BY JACK V. FOX

LOS ANGELES (UPI)--THE LAWYER DEFENDING SIRHAN B. SIRHAN  
 CONCEDES THAT AS MANY AS 100 PERSONS SAW HIS CLIENT SHOOT SEN.  
 ROBERT F. KENNEDY OR WERE WITNESS TO HIS CAPTURE.

YET SIRHAN HAS ENTERED A STRAIGHT PLEA OF INNOCENT IN THE MURDER  
 TRIAL SCHEDULED TO START DEC. 9 BUT LIKELY TO BE DELAYED UNTIL AFTER  
 THE TURN OF THE YEAR.

RUSSELL B. PARSONS, THE VETERAN SPECIALIST ON APPEALS IN CRIMINAL  
 CASES, IS ASSEMBLING HIS DEFENSE ON THE "WHY" OF THE ASSASSINATION OF  
 THE BROTHER OF THE LATE PRESIDENT.

THE "WHY" IS CERTAIN TO BE ANSWERED IN PART BY THE "MENTAL  
 MAKEUP" OF THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT. A COURT-APPOINTED  
 PSYCHIATRIST HAS EXAMINED SIRHAN ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS AND HE AND  
 HE AND OTHER SPECIALISTS HAVE MADE TESTS BUT THE INFORMATION HAS BEEN  
 MADE AVAILABLE UNDER LAW ONLY TO THE DEFENSE.

LYNN D. COMPTON, CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, ANTICIPATES  
 THAT SIRHAN'S MENTAL CONDITION WILL BE THE PRIME ARGUMENT OF THE  
 DEFENSE. HE NOTES IT STILL MAY SEEK TO AMEND THE PLEA TO ONE OF NOT  
 GUILTY BY REASON OF INSANITY.

COMPTON BELIEVES IT IS LIKELY AN ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO  
 DEMONSTRATE THAT SIRHAN HAS "DIMINISHED CAPACITY"--NOT SUFFICIENT  
 IMPAIRMENT FOR ACQUITTAL BUT LEADING TO THE ARGUMENT HE WAS INCAPABLE  
 OF PREMEDITATION AND THEREFORE NOT SUBJECT TO THE SUPREME PENALTY  
 OF DEATH IN THE GAS CHAMBER.

ONE PRINCIPAL QUESTION IS WHETHER SIRHAN WILL GO TO THE WITNESS  
 STAND. IT IS ONE THAT PARSONS IS NOT ANSWERING.  
 HE SAYS THAT WILL BE DECIDED WHEN THE TIME COMES.

AN EGYPTIAN JOURNALIST WRITING FOR A CAIRO NEWSPAPER HAS QUOTED  
 A SIRHAN BROTHER AS SAYING THE ACCUSED HAS DECIDED TO MAKE NO  
 STATEMENT WHATSOEVER UNLESS THE TELEVISION NETWORKS ARE ALLOWED TO FILM  
 AND BROADCAST THE ENTIRE TRIAL.

REC-59

62-587-A

NOT RECORDED

133 DEC 9 1968

56 DEC 12 1968

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE  
 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



CONSIDERING THE COURT GAG ON PUBLICITY AND THE SECURITY MEASURES SURROUNDING SIRHAN EVER SINCE HIS SEIZURE IN THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL ON JUNE 6, THIS IS NOT CONSIDERED EVEN A REMOTE POSSIBILITY.

SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER ALREADY HAS ANNOUNCED THE JURY WILL BE LOCKED UP IN HOTEL ROOMS EVERY NIGHT ONCE THE ACTUAL TRIAL BEGINS IN THE EIGHTH FLOOR COURTROOM OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE WHERE SIRHAN IS IMPRISONED ON THE 13TH FLOOR.

THE ROOM IS ONLY 40 FEET SQUARE WITH SEATS IN THE SPECTATOR AREA FOR 75 PERSONS--THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WILL GO TO THE NEWS MEDIA. WALKER HAS DECIDED AGAINST ONE PROPOSAL TO INSERT A BULLET-PROOF GLASS PANEL BETWEEN THE PUBLIC SECTION AND THE AREA TO BE OCCUPIED BY THE DEFENDANT, WITNESSES, JURY, JUDGE AND ATTORNEYS.

IT IS BELIEVED THE TRIAL WILL LAST FOR MONTHS, POSSIBLY INTO THE SPRING. THE PROSECUTION HAS MORE THAN 110 POTENTIAL WITNESSES TO CALL. IT HAS TALKED TO MORE THAN 2,000 PERSONS IN FOLLOWING UP EVERY LEAD NO MATTER HOW FRIVOLOUS.

SUCH METICULOUS PREPARATION OF THE CASE PLUS THE ALTERATIONS MADE IN THE JAIL AND COURTROOMS TO INSURE SECURITY ALREADY HAS COST THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA MORE THAN A QUARTER MILLION DOLLARS.

PARSONS, HIS INVESTIGATOR, MICHAEL MCGOWAN, AND THE PSYCHIATRISTS ARE THE ONLY ONES EXCEPT JAIL PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN PERMITTED IN THE TWO-CELL BLOCK WHERE SIRHAN IS UNDER 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE.

EVEN SIRHAN'S MOTHER, ON HER VISITS, HAS BEEN REQUIRED TO STAY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BARS.

PARSONS SAYS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SIRHAN'S DEFENSE SO FAR HAVE TOTALLED \$105, MOST OF THEM IN SMALL AMOUNTS FROM EUROPE. THE ATTORNEY SAYS HE IS WORKING WITHOUT FEE AND DOES NOT YET KNOW HOW THE OVERALL EXPENSES WILL BE BORNE.

HIS INVESTIGATOR, MCGOWAN, SAYS HIS SMALL STAFF HAS INTERVIEWED AT LEAST 500 PERSONS AND STILL HAS MUCH WORK TO DO.

APPOINTMENT OF A PROMINENT SECOND DEFENSE ATTORNEY TO CONDUCT THE COURTROOM PHASE OF THE TRIAL IS EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED THE END OF THIS MONTH.

ADV FOR AMS SUN NOV 17  
EM722PPS..

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Attempt to Bar Seized Sirhan Papers Defeated

## Motion to Suppress Notes Taken Without Warrant Is Denied

BY RON EINSTOSS  
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan B. Sirhan's lawyer failed Tuesday in his attempt to bar the prosecution from using material seized from the suspect's home on June 5, 10 hours after he allegedly shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker's ruling denying a motion by attorney Russell E. Parsons to suppress the material paves the way for prosecutors to use a notebook found in the defendant's Pasadena home which reportedly contains the written notation:

"Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5, 1968."

A press conference followed the nearly two-hour session in a makeshift courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

At it, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said he and coprosecutors John E. Howard and David N. Fitts would use whichever of those documents (taken from Sirhan's home) they decide are helpful and relevant to the case.

Asked if he felt that the memo relating to the assassination of Sen. Kennedy fell into that category, Compton replied:

"That would be a significant piece of evidence."

### No Warrant Existed

Compton used the same word—significant—to describe Judge Walker's decision and he said he was "happy" the jurist held that police had reasonable cause to search Sirhan's room, although they did not have a warrant.

In making his ruling, Judge Walker passed only on the issue of whether the material was lawfully obtained, not on whether it later will be admitted into evidence if the prosecution attempts to do so.

Some of the items, Compton conceded, might not be relevant or material to the case.

Parsons, though he battled to keep Sirhan's writings out of evidence, did not seem to be unhappy with Judge Walker's decision.

"A very competent judge did not agree with us (that there was an unlawful search and seizure)," he said. "But sometimes when a judge rules against you it becomes helpful."

Parsons explained that "our attention might now be directed to a more careful search and study of why these things were said and done," apparently referring to the writings and the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

The notebooks and other material found in Sirhan's room, he added, "may indicate something" about his client to psychiatrists.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

II-1 Los Angeles Times  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/23/68  
Edition: Home  
Author: Ron Einstross  
Editor: Nick B. Williams  
Title: KENSALT

Character:

or

Classification: LA 56-156  
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

62-587-10  
NOT RECORDED

141 NOV 13 1968



### Emotional Stability Factor

Parsons would not elaborate but it is understood that some of Sirhan's notations might be of the type which would tend to reflect on the 24-year-old defendant's emotional stability.

Parsons said he did not intend to appeal the judge's ruling "because that would delay the trial," which now is set for Dec. 9.

During the hearing on whether Sirhan's belongings were legally seized, Sirhan's older brother, Adel, 30, testified that he gave police permission to search the room of the accused assassin.

Called as a defense witness, Adel said that after telling investigating officers he had nothing to hide, he consented to their request to search his brother's room.

He said he pointed out to them, however, that it was his mother's home, but that he preferred that they not contact her because she didn't know at the time of her son's involvement.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, following her smartly dressed and well-groomed son to the witness stand, adamantly declared that she never gave anyone permission to search the defendant's room.

"I never was asked," she explained.

Mrs. Sirhan also said she did not give Adel permission to allow the search of Sirhan's room in the family home at 696 E. Howard St.

### At Work in School

The woman said she was at work at a church-sponsored nursery school in Pasadena at the time of the 10:30 a.m. search and did not learn of her son's involvement in the case until sometime between noon and 1 p.m. that day—or about 12 hours after the shooting.

The slender defendant

again appeared to enjoy his stay in the courtroom, although at times he showed some nervousness. He smiled frequently and seemed particularly pleased as Parsons cross-examined two prosecution witnesses, both police officers.

During Adel Sirhan's testimony it was revealed that he may have been the one who supplied the positive identification that his brother was the one who shot Sen. Kennedy.

He said a younger brother, Munir, 21, had gone to work the morning of June 5 and saw a picture of Sirhan in the newspaper.

Munir immediately went home and woke up Adel, the witness said, and told him of the picture he had seen. The two of them then went to a newsstand and purchased a paper.

"The picture of the assassin was on the front page . . . it was him (referring to the defendant)," Adel said.

Adel told of going immediately to the Pasadena Police Department and arriving about 9:15 a.m. He said he told officers there that the person in the picture was his brother, Sirhan.

Adel's arrival at the Police Department followed by only one hour Sirhan's arraignment in court where he declined to reveal his identity.

At that time, he said his name was "John Doe."

Adel said he was interviewed by two Los Angeles police officers and an FBI

agent, told them that the assassination suspect was his brother and gave them permission to search Sirhan's room.

Muir testified that he did not give officers permission to search his brother's room.

Sgt. William E. Brandt, testifying as a prosecution witness, said he conducted the search only after obtaining Adel's consent.

He identified all the items taken. He said they later were booked as evidence and then turned over to the FBI.

Sgt. Brandt said the reason the search was made was to uncover any evidence of a possible conspiracy in the shooting of Sen. Kennedy.

"We were interested in evidence of a possible conspiracy and of any other persons who might be involved," he explained.

His partner in the investigation, Dante A. Lodolo, also testified that Adel gave his permission to search Sirhan's room.

As the court session began Tuesday, Compton stipulated that police did not have a search warrant and that at the time of the search Sirhan had not yet identified himself.

Meanwhile, Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger disclosed that he has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a review of the June 7 court order restricting publicity in the case.

At the press conference, Compton said he hopes the highest court will act as quickly as possible on Younger's request.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Rosen ✓  
 Mr. Sullivan ✓  
 Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# L.A. Weekend... Development In The Case of Sirhan

Another development in the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused as the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, coupled with the arrest of a Montreal man charged with the murder of a Hollywood registered nurse, headline the news in Southern California this weekend.

There were also at least two deaths, one on the highway, and one resulting from a knife fight.

Sirhan will return to his armored courtroom Tuesday for pre-trial rulings on suppressing diaries taken from Sirhan's home.

Judge Herbert V. Walker will be asked to suppress from evidence diaries allegedly kept by Sirhan, including the notation that Kennedy must be killed before June 5, anniversary of the six-day Arab-Israeli war. Kennedy was shot early June 5.

Sirhan's attorney, Russell E. Parsons, has asked that the diaries be kept out of the trial on grounds they were improperly taken from Sirhan's home after his arrest.

Mayor Sam Yorty revealed the contents of the diaries in a press conference before Sir-

han was indicted by the Grand Jury June 7.

Judge Walker last week set Dec. 9 as the opening date for selection of a jury to hear the Sirhan trial. He said he would recess the sessions Dec. 23 for the Christmas holidays and resume proceedings Jan. 2.

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

A-2 Herald-Examiner  
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 10/20/68  
 Edition: Night Final  
 Author:  
 Editor: Donald Goodenow  
 Title: KENSALT

Character:

or

Classification: LA 56-156  
 Submitting Office: Los Angeles

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NOT RECORDED

141 NOV 18 1968



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Both Sides Agree Sirhan Was Alone

## Inquiry Indicates No Conspiracy; Judge Postpones Trial Until Dec. 9

BY RON EINSTOSS

Times Staff Writer

Both the prosecution and Sirhan B. Sirhan's own attorney Monday ruled out any conspiracy in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Spokesmen for the prosecution and the defense voiced their parallel views—based on a massive police investigation—just before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker postponed the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant's trial from Nov. 1 to Dec. 9.

During the session before Judge Walker, Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton turned over to the defense 111 statements of prospective witnesses, transcripts of six interviews with Sirhan by investigators and a seven-page report on police handling of Sirhan from the time of his arrest until he was remanded to custody of the sheriff.

### Other Information 'Negative'

Then, at a short time later, Compton advised Judge Walker that:

All the information dealing with the investigation of other possible suspects "is negative and of little value to anyone."

Later, at a press conference, attorney Russell E. Parsons, who is defending Sirhan, supported Compton's statement concerning the absence of a conspiracy when he said:

"We have seen no evidence of a conspiracy."

It marked the first time that the prosecution has given clear indication that it was convinced Sirhan was acting on his own when he allegedly shot Sen. Kennedy and wounded five others at the Ambassador in the early morning of June 5.

Sirhan seemed to enjoy his 58-minute session in court. Sitting in a padded swivel chair, he swung back and forth and from side to side, leaning over from time to time to confer with Parsons.

At Parsons' press conference which followed the adjournment of the court proceedings, however, the attorney said Sirhan is getting increasingly nervous as his trial approaches.

Parsons revealed for the first time Monday that he will be joined by two other lawyers in defending Sirhan. In addition to a previously indicated local attorney, who is now engaged in a federal trial, Parsons said a "prominent" New York lawyer will be coming into the case.

He refused to divulge the name of either attorney, explaining, "it wouldn't be right to do so at this time."

It was learned, however, that the New York lawyer is Emile Zola Berman. He is considered to be one of the best civil trial attorneys in that city.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
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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