

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

WEEKLY SUMMARY #40

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 40th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

more --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

more --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

more --

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

more --

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 -- Continuing his testimony today in court,

Sirhan B. Sirhan said he saw Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in person for the first time two nights before he shot and fatally wounded the senator.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He replied, "Yes. So I learned."

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

Added the newspaper report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued the newspaper's account:

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

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

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

"I don't remember,' replied Sirhan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Yes sir," said Sirhan.

"Are you willing to die for it?"

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

Stump also quoted "a leading psychiatrist" as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Continued Stump:

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

WEEKLY SUMMARY #40

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 40th summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

more --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

more --



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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

more --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

He replied, "Yes. So I learned."

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

Added the newspaper report:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued the newspaper's account:

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

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

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

"I don't remember,' replied Sirhan.

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

"Yes sir," said Sirhan.

"Are you willing to die for it?"

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

Stump also quoted "a leading psychiatrist" as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Continued Stump:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\* \* \*

*W-100 25/2*  
*3/25/69*  
*XB*

VIA TELETYPE

MAR 25 1969

ENCIPHERED

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	_____

*[Handwritten signatures and initials over routing slip]*

WASHDC--5--

424PM URGENT 3-25-69 LJF

TO DIRECTOR (62-587)

FROM LOS ANGELES (56-156) PLAINTEXT IP

KENSALT, 00: LOS ANGELES.

REMYTEL, MARCH TWENTY FOUR LAST.

DR. BERNARD L. DIAMOND, M.D. RESUMED STAND TODAY.

DIRECT EXAMINATION LASTED APPROXIMATELY TWENTY MINUTES AND CONSISTED OF REVIEW OF QUALIFICATIONS AND BACKGROUND OF DIAMOND. PROSECUTION REQUESTED RECESS TO STUDY TRANSCRIPT OF DIAMOND'S TESTIMONY AS DIAMOND HAD NOT SUBMITTED REPORT OF HIS EXAMINATION TO PROSECUTION. COURT RECESSED UNTIL NINE THIRTY AM MARCH TWENTY SIX NEXT WHEN CROSS-EXAMINATION OF DIAMOND WILL COMMENCE. PENDING.

*K*

END

NBD WASH

NSM FBI WASH DC

REC 101

*62-587-1150*

17 MAR 26 1969

~~54 APR 2 1969~~

60 APR 4 1969

NEWS RELEASE

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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

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

WEEKLY SUMMARY #41

Re: The assassination of  
Senator Robert F. Kennedy

Note to editors: Because of the widespread interest in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy in Los Angeles on Wednesday, June 5, 1968, and proceedings in court, the Office of Los Angeles County District Attorney Evelle J. Younger is publishing a weekly summary of the case. This is the 41st summary, and others will be for release on subsequent Wednesdays.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Hope of being caught?' Howard asked skeptically.

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

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

Continued the article in the newspaper:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reported the newspaper:

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

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

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

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

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

More --

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reported a Los Angeles newspaper (Times):

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

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

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

\* \* \*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concluded the newspaper article:

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

\* \* \*

more --

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

Continued the article:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Schorr, in discussing the similarity between his report and



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

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

*WJ*

F B I

Date: 3/25/69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-587)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (56-156) (P)  
RE: KENSALT

Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau dated 3/24/69.

RE: WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE FROM  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Attached herewith are two copies of a twelve page weekly summary of information prepared for the benefit of the news media by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. This release is dated 3/19/69 and is being furnished for the information of the Bureau.

2d  
K  
3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
1 - Los Angeles

ENCLOSURE

AOR/bje  
(4)

REC-101

62-587-1151

17 MAR 27 1969

51 APR 3 1969

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_