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Sirhan Strategy Backfires

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Defense strategy in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial boomeranged badly when an Ambassador Hotel electrician told of a conversation with the admitted killer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy hours before the shooting.

The defense put Hans Peter Bidstrup on the stand late yesterday to testify to Sirhan's allegedly drunken condition the night of June 4, 1968, just before Kennedy was shot.

On cross-examination, it was revealed the young Arab also had sought details of Kennedy's whereabouts and the amount of security surrounding the New York senator.

Less than 24 hours earlier, the jury of eight men and four women had heard the admitted slayer swear that when he went to Ambassador Hotel the night of the California primary election he was unaware that Kennedy's victory party was to be held there.

Bidstrup, who described Sirhan as "half drunk and very talkative," told the court of Judge Herbert V. Walker that Sirhan asked if Kennedy was present in the hotel and if he had any security guards.

The hotel electrician's memory of the events was hazy, but Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard, who drew the admissions from him, produced the text of an interview Bidstrup gave the Federal Bureau of Investigation five days after the shooting.

Bidstrup told an agent:

"This man (Sirhan) asked in what room or on what floor Kennedy was staying, when Kennedy was coming in, or if he was then at the hotel. This man asked about Kennedy's security. I think it had to do with whether or not Kennedy had body guards."

Bidstrup also recalled that Sirhan wanted to know how long Kennedy had been staying at the Ambassador.

"I said," Bidstrup testified, "Mr. Kennedy stayed at the hotel a certain length of time. . . I think there was a question about Sen. Kennedy's security—if there was any security."

Q—What did you say?

A—That I would assume any man of his importance would have some.

The hotel worker's testimony clearly disturbed Sirhan.

He half-rose in his chair and beckoned furiously to Chief Defense Investigator Michael McCowan. They held an obviously agitated conversation.

After this, Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel, tried to question Bidstrup about a statement he gave McCowan. Bidstrup insisted he had no memory of ever talking to the defense investigator.

He told Howard that after the questions about Kennedy's security, Sirhan saw a Los Angeles fire department official on crowd duty at the hotel and "it appeared that Sirhan was a little startled."

Sirhan had testified that his conversation with Bidstrup involved the electrician's work and equipment.

The electrician's testimony was the high point of an otherwise unspectacular day in the trial.

Cable television executive Richard Lubic testified he heard a shouted epithet just before the shot that killed Kennedy was fired.

Lubic said he was standing in the pantry off the Ambassador's Embassy Ballroom.

He said there was a shout, "Kennedy—you S.O.B."

Then a shot.

But Lubic did not connect, nor was he asked to connect, Sirhan with the shouted epithet.

Two men, Enrique Rabago of Buean Park and Humphrey Cordero, testified they talked with Sirhan outside Dr. Max Rafferty's Republican Primary victory party, also held in the Ambassador.

Cordero said Sirhan was drinking, but did not appear drunk. Sirhan has sworn he was drunk at that party.

Cordero, a New Yorker of Latin descent, brought laughter to the court as he told how he mistook Sirhan for a compatriot and later had hurried to the FBI when he realized whom his chance meeting had been with.

"I didn't want to get mixed up in any plots that this guy was seen talking to a Puerto Rican," he announced in a thick Bronx accent. Even the usually sober-visaged Judge Walker abandoned any attempt at controlling his laughter.

Cordero and Rabago said Sirhan used an epithet in describing Kennedy.

Gonzolo Cetina, Ambassador waiter, testified he talked briefly with Sirhan in the hotel and then saw him later in the ballroom pantry just before Kennedy was shot.

In early testimony yesterday,

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Sirhan's attorneys attempted to show that the young Arab's personality changed following his fall from a horse in September, 1966. Sirhan, working as an exercise boy at Granja Vista del Rio Ranch, near Corona, was thrown from a horse he was exercising in dense fog and fell on his head.

Mr. and Mrs. John Strathmann, who have known the defendant since the three were students at Pasadena City College, said he became "morose and depressed" after the fall.

Famed Los Angeles artist Millard Sheets, who was present at the ranch the day Sirhan fell and was first to reach him, said when he first saw the fallen exercise boy he thought him "very seriously hurt. . .perhaps dead." Sirhan quickly recovered, he added.

Mrs. Strathmann said that she dated Sirhan's interest in the occult from the time of his injury.

She testified that she, too, is interested in spiritualism and had been impressed when Sirhan told her:

"He once brought forth a guardian angel. . .But it vanished."

John Weidner, former employer of Sirhan's testified to his quick temper.

That temper manifested itself when Sirhan became angry and quit his job, Weidner said.

Weidner's wife, Naomi, told of Sirhan's intense dislike of Jews and the reasons he gave her for it.

Q — Did you have a discussion of the political situation in the Middle East?

A — I remember at that time Sol (Sirhan's nickname) turning to me. . .He said "Don't you think the Jews can be cruel?" It startled me. I turned to him. I had never seen him so excited.

Q — How did you judge his excitement?

A — By his tone. Then he said, "I am going to tell you something I have never even told my parents. . .When I was in Jerusalem I saw an Israeli soldier cut off the breasts of an Arab woman."

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Witness Says Sirhan Asked About Kennedy Security Guard



RICHARD LUBIC
He heard Kennedy vilified

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



Herald-Examiner Photo

HANS BIDSTRUP
Believed Sirhan was drunk

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DEFENSE ATTORNEY GRANT COOPER TALKS OUTSIDE COURTROOM
With Naomi Weidner, a witness, and Yvette Hoppus, interpreter for Arabs at trial

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Mercurial Sirhan

For a time, it seemed that the mercurial defendant was about to crack once again: In one breath, he calmly admitted murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy; in the next, he screamed and writhed as he led the jury down the dark emotional path by which he arrived at the act.

Sirhan B. Sirhan, whose passionate outbursts and erratic behavior has made his stop-and-go trial one of the most delayed in recent years, made it plain that he considers it reasonable for him to bitterly resent being a "man without a country." But he could hardly contain himself on the witness stand as he blamed the "God damn Zionists" in America for this.

His voice rose and he hurtled out of the witness chair as he denounced Israeli Jews and their American supporters for his plight.

Resented Support for Israelis

Sirhan, slight and tousle-haired, clenched and unclenched his hands and sweat beaded his swarthy forehead as he dwelt on his political philosophy, overshadowed on nearly every point by deep resentment toward America's support of the Israeli cause.

"Where is the justice involved?" he demanded. "Where is the love of fighting for the underdog? Israel is not the underdog in the Middle East—the Palestinians are. That burned the hell out of me . . ."

But strangely, Sirhan became noticeably calmer when he spoke of Kennedy himself. Without a quaver in his voice, he said that he once loved Kennedy. "I cared for him very much," he said. "I hoped he'd win the Presidency."

But, he said, this love turned into a violent hatred when Kennedy advocated the sale of U.S. jet fighter planes to Israel.

'Enough Cause to Hate'

"Specifically," said Sirhan in measured tones, "it turned into hate when he said that. Not really hate, because I still liked him. But it was enough for me—enough cause to hate."

"Enough to kill him?" asked Chief Prosecutor Lynn D. Compton.

"I don't know about that," said Sirhan, drawing back.

Sirhan swore that he blundered into the Ambassador, where Kennedy was shot last June 5, without a gun in his pocket, without murder on his mind and in an alcoholic blackout that left him without the slightest recollection of firing the fatal shots.

On the day of the shooting, said Sirhan, he attended several election parties in the Ambassador area without even knowing Kennedy would be present, drinking Tom Collinses ("They taste just like lemonade") and finally deciding, when he went to his car, that he was too intoxicated to drive home.

Chatted With Girl

Sirhan said he must have retrieved his gun from the glove compartment, although he does not remember doing so, and then entered the Ambassador to find some coffee with which to sober up. His last memory, he said, was chatting with a beautiful, dark-haired girl next to a coffee urn.

And his memory did not return, said Sirhan, until he found himself being choked and wrestled to the floor of the Ambassador kitchen while the gun he held continued firing to wound five other persons.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper asked Sirhan if he knew that moments before he had walked up to Kennedy, "pointed a gun to his head, pulled the trigger . . . and he later died."

Sirhan smiled and replied: "So I learned."

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Sirhan's Hope: A Trio of Doctors

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense turns to a panel of criminal psychiatrists today in hopes of sparing the life of the admitted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Grant B. Cooper, Emile Zola Berman and Russell E. Parsons —Sirhan's defense team—say they have no hope of gaining acquittal for the 24-year-old Jordanian emigrant.

But they hope to spare him from death in the gas chamber.

They must accomplish this by convincing Sirhan's jury of eight men and four women that he acted under diminished mental capacity when he shot down the New York senator and presidential aspirant June 5.

The defense of diminished capacity—or diminished responsibility—says in effect that while the defendant in a criminal case is not insane he is also not fully rational. This defense is not recognized in any state other than California.

Under California law there are five possible elements in a defense of diminished capacity. They are rage, fear, obsession, drugs or alcohol.

In the preliminary testimony presented by Sirhan himself as well as friends, former employers and members of his family, including his mother, 56-year-old Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defense has offered the elements of rage, drunkenness and obsession.

It is now up to the psychiatrists to refine this raw data of basic testimony for the jury.

The battery of defense mentalists is headed by Dr. Bernard Diamond. He is a Berkeley criminologist and one of the nation's foremost criminal psychiatrists.

He has worked with Sirhan for months and with Dr. Seymour Pollack, psychiatrist for the prosecution, has placed Sirhan under hypnosis.

In an hypnotic state Sirhan reportedly can recall his admitted slaying of Kennedy.

Consciously, he swears, he remembers nothing.

Dr. Diamond, Dr. Pollack, and other psychiatrists will reconstruct Sirhan's memory for the jury.

Dr. Martin Shorr of San Diego will aid Pollack and Diamond. Shorr, a psychologist who has testified in more than 100 murder cases, sought to fathom the inner workings of the mind of Jack Ruby — the man who killed Lee Harvey Oswald, slayer of President John F. Kennedy.

Over the weekend, Dr. Shorr indicated that in the days he had observed Sirhan in the witness box he had gained an insight hitherto denied him.

"What I will say may surprise you," he said. "My conclusions have surprised me. Please don't ask me any more questions."

Sirhan, according to his attorneys, has not only been hypnotized, but has undergone other tests including the Rorschach, or inkblot test.

The inkblot test is a psychological measuring device in which the subject is shown a series of free-form illustrations which resemble ink blots and is asked to describe his instantaneous response to each of the blots. Both normal and "abnormal" responses to the diametrics are usually highly sexual in content.

The psychiatrist defense is aimed at showing that Sirhan is not mentally balanced.

Basis of the defense plea is that Sirhan cannot be condemned to death for a crime for which he is not fully responsible, and his defenders are convinced this is the only thing that can save his life.

Sirhan, his lawyers admit, despises the defense of diminished capacity. He has indicated on three occasions he would rather die than live as a marked diminished capacitant.

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Sirhan a Schizophrenic, Paranoiac, Trial Told

Psychologist Says His Erratic Scores on Tests Show High Intellect, Extreme Maladjustment

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

A clinical psychologist described the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy Monday as a paranoid personality—who felt he was right and everyone else was wrong—and a schizophrenic guided by inner beliefs that didn't match the realities of the outside world.

Dr. Martin M. Schorr testified that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, after a battery of psychological tests, yielded erratic scores that indicated high intelligence, severe maladjustment and psychosis.

Schorr, affiliated with the hospital of UC San Diego, said Sirhan scored "better than the average American" on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale test of verbal skills. There, said Schorr, Sirhan revealed a verbal intelligence quotient of 109, ranking higher than 75% of the population.

But balancing it off, he said, was a nonverbal intelligence quotient of only 82, better than only 10% of the population, and yielding a "spuriously low" IQ of 98. The average is from 90 to 100.

Explains His Reasoning

Schorr said the unusually wide "scatter" of achievement in the various tests led him to suspect either brain damage or psychosis as the cause of Sirhan's low non-verbal scores, which included such tests as digital ability, picture completion, similarity recognition, relationship identification and mathematical skills.

But because digital ability was among the higher of the low scores, Schorr said, he concluded that Sirhan was not a victim of brain damage.

Under questioning by defense attorney Emile Zola Berman, Schorr said Sirhan's identification of pictures in the Rorschach "in-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.

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Schorr said this was a "typically paranoid reaction—to convince me how right he is and wrong everyone else is." Such unanswered true-false statements were: "Something is wrong with my mind. Someone is trying to control my mind. People are saying insulting or vulgar things about me," Schorr said.

Likened to 'Roadrunner'

Schorr said this test showed Sirhan as more paranoid than 95 out of any 100 people one might choose at random off the street. It also showed him as highly hypomanic, which Schorr described as "apt to be very aggressive, restless, on the go, in state of flux . . . sort of like a roadrunner, if you want an image. Something was driving this man."

Schorr said the test also showed that Sirhan was making an unusually strong attempt to answer truthfully on the tests, but without realizing that the tests sought not what the person thinks the testers might want him to tell, but what lies behind a person's psychological defenses.

Schorr pointed out that Sirhan, rather than seeing pictures only in the colored ink, sometimes found recognizable shapes in the white spaces.

The general pattern of the Rorschach test, Schorr said, 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.

"If society pushes (a person like this)" Schorr said, "he's going to explode . . . He is unaware of this tendency because of his paranoid defenses which tell him he is right and others are wrong," Schorr added.

Schorr said Sirhan failed to answer certain significant questions on still another test—the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory —which indicated that Sirhan "was anxious to convince me how normal and sane he is."

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said the indi- psychosis on ...ts—particular- ...range of highs ...—were "consis- ...schizophrenia," ...described as a ...er between the ...ater reality."

...with two reali- ...r said, adding ...the two reali- ...pend fairly well, ...thy, but that ...inner reality ...overm more and ...'s behavior, to ...one is behav- ...schizophrenic

...said Sirhan's ...ularly showed ...y for him to ... "disorganized, ...and fragmented" ...ts. Some of the ...tests, in which ...limit was im- ...ded unusually ..., which Schorr ...also consistent ...anoid personali-

He said Sirhan "deterio- rates under stress" and shows a "regressive" pattern in his non-verbal abilities, which was "not the true picture of Sirhan." The non-stress test scores remained relatively high, he said, which additionally indicated a psychotic reaction to stress.

Sirhan, who exploded two weeks ago when his junior high school IQ tests were revealed at only 89, was more pleased with the results revealed in court Monday.

Additional police protection for Mrs. Mary Sirhan and two brothers of the defendant, Adel and Munir, was ordered briefly last week, it was disclosed Monday, after reported telephone threats by the eldest Sirhan brother, Sharif, 37.

Pasadena police established a 24-hour guard on the Sirhan home for one day, but then resumed the normal security arrangement of one patrol car in the immediate vicinity. Mrs. Sirhan also has a "hot-line" telephone to the Pasadena police department—an arrangement set up shortly after Sirhan's arrest last June.

A spokesman close to the defense team said they have received numerous threats from the elder brother, who has been estranged from the family for eight months, but that previous threats had been disregarded. The latest alleged threat was made to a secretary of defense attorney Grant B. Cooper. She reportedly was frightened by the call, and the matter was referred to Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker. He demanded that the threats cease for the duration of the trial.

Police emphasized that no charges have been filed nor arrests made.

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Doctor: 'Sirhan Not Out Of Mind'

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Psychiatric testimony in defense of accused murderer Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was on record in court today, conflicting sharply with claims of one of his defense lawyers that he is "mentally ill."

The young Arab, on trial for the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has no "psychotic responses" and "is not a raving maniac," according to Dr. Martin M. Schorr, San Diego clinical psychologist who testified for Sirhan yesterday.

Dr. Schorr also said his examination turned up no evidence of brain damage in the Jordanian immigrant.

But despite this, Sirhan is far from normal, according to Dr. Schorr.

"He has paranoid tendencies and is severely and markedly disabled.

"His unchecked emotions are dangerously high. If society pushes him too much, he will explode. He has no awareness of this."

Dr. Schorr said he made his evaluation of Sirhan on the basis of study of the young Arab's responses to the Rorschach or ink blot test. The psychologist described the test as a "mental X-ray."

In his opening remarks to the jury of eight men and four women who will decide Sirhan's fate, Emile Zola Berman, one of the defense lawyers said:

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

Sirhan's admitted killing of Kennedy, according to Berman, was "totally a product of a sick, obsessed mind and personality."

The psychiatric testimony, Berman claimed, "conclusively shows that because of mental illness and emotional disorder, Sirhan did not have the mental capacity to have the mental states that are the essential elements of murder ..."

Dr. Schorr said he found Sirhan to be "not mentally deficient."

Sirhan, he said, has a bright mind. "He is a rigid, highly perfectionistic guy ...

"This man has lost control. Whatever he feels inside he is going to act out without any concern for the consequences. This does not mean he is out of his mind ...

"He has a keen sense of justice ... But it comes from his private world."

Dr. Shorr's testimony continued today. He is one of six psychologists and psychiatrists who will testify on Sirhan's behalf. The next will be psychologist Dr. O. Roderick Richardson, according to Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel.

Dr. Schorr said that his evaluation of Sirhan was based on analysis of two days of tests he administered to the young Arab in the isolation cell in the Hall of Justice where he has been held since June.

In addition to the inkblot test, Dr. Schorr gave Sirhan an intelligence test and a personality profile.

The personality profile, least sensitive of all the battery of tests, first disclosed paranoid tendencies in Sirhan, Schorr said. He said that it also disclosed schizophrenic tendencies.

But, he quickly added, "I do not diagnose it as schizophrenia ..."

Asked for definitions of paranoia and schizophrenia, Dr. Schorr said most people think of the latter as split personality. Schizophrenia, he said, means "mental illness where the individual no longer responds to the world of reality ... when his inner reality becomes more important than social reality."

In the sense he used the term, Dr. Schorr said, paranoia referred to a personality "which protects itself from the demands of society by behaving ... behind a facade of sanity."

"It (paranoia) says 'There's nothing wrong with me.'"

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'Sirhan Wanted To Be Caught'

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

In the dark recesses of his mind, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan harbored hope of being caught when he fatally shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel last June 5.

This was the theory of Dr. Martin M. Schorr yesterday as the clinical psychologist wound up his second day of testimony on the young Arab's behalf. He returned to the stand this morning.

Schorr put forth his idea during rigorous cross-examination by Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard.

Howard bored in on the University-San Diego County Hospital psychologist after Dr. Schorr had testified that Sirhan lacked the "mental capacity to premeditate (Kennedy's shooting) or to reflect upon the gravity of the contemplated act of murder June 5, 1968."

Q — What would be the act of a normal man who had committed political assassination and was glad of it?

A — The act of a man who would never write it down in a book, never tell anyone about it, never advertise it ... never kill anybody in the hope of being caught.

Q — Of being caught?

A — He (the normal man) wouldn't go into a crowded room and shoot anybody ...

Dr. Schorr, to Howard's obvious astonishment, then proceeded to contrast Sirhan's shooting of Sen. Robert Kennedy with Lee Harvey Oswald's assassination of President John Kennedy.

Implying that Oswald was normal, Dr. Schorr contrasted Sirhan's shooting of the New York senator in a crowded room from which there was little or no hope of escape with a killer who "would stand with a high-powered rifle and shoot ... from an armory far above the street ... then try to disappear into a theatre or a drugstore ..."

Dr. Schorr's claim that Sirhan lacked the mental capacity to premeditate Kennedy's murder was followed by a second claim that the young Arab also lacked the mental capacity "to comprehend his duty to govern" his impulses to kill.

Emile Zola Berman, one of the defense counsel, then asked the psychologist if Sirhan had "the mental capacity to act with malice aforethought?"

Dr. Schorr replied with an emphatic, "No."

Sirhan, Dr. Schorr insisted, is now—and was the day he admittedly shot Kennedy—in a "paranoid state."

He hears inner voices and acts in accordance with them instead of social reality. He has his own concept of right and wrong. He believes he is above the law, above the judge who is trying his case, above the lawyers who represent him.

Sirhan is in a dissociative state, Dr. Schorr said. He added:

"The dissociative state individual normally will remember the chain of events, leading up to an event, but not the event itself. He will show memory gaps in his telling of the story ... This is the case with Sirhan ...

"His alleged blackout dates back to getting in his car to leave ... adding to the building blocks of this concept of diminished capacity is this man's complete lack of awareness of what has been happening ... even after he was picked up (by the police)."

Q — (By Howard) You said this dissociative state happens under stress. Mr. Sirhan has now left the car ... too drunk to drive ... Where is the stress there?

A — I don't know. But I can hypothesize ... There was a gun in the back seat ...

Q — When he finishes the thought that he will go back to the hotel—are there any signs of stress?

A — In my opinion the triggering of stress may have begun when he saw the gun in the car. The stress came not from one thing, but from many things.

Q — But there was some stress?

A — Yes. The stress elements are very subtle ... suited to this man's peculiar concepts. They are not the normal kinds of stress ... He is responding to some minor detail in human experience ... He dissociates.

Explaining the role of the gun in Sirhan's dissociation, Dr. Schorr continued:

"The gun symbolized the giving to himself of an aggressive personality that he basically does not possess, the need of this individual to be treated like a man, to act like a man ... (a symbol) of his need to be in charge of his own destiny, not be castrated as he allegedly was by his father with the beatings ..."

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Sirhan has two personalities, Dr. Schorr believes. He is a "Dr. Jekyll an Mr. Hyde," the psychologist told the jury of eight men and four women, employing a cliche of psychiatric testimony. One of these personalities is that of a "law abiding individual . . . his aggressions in check."

The second is his violent personality.

Sirhan's antipathy for Zionists is part of his violent nature, Schorr told Howard. He equates them with Nazis.

Q — Did you find hate between Sirhan and the Jews?

A — No. May I qualify that. He makes a difference between the Jews who take on the role of persecutors and persecute Arabs. He does not talk about Jews who are friendly . . . But the persecutors — he equates these persons as Nazis. He feels the same as Jewish refugees in Dachau would about Nazis in World War II Germany.

Q — In Sirhan's testimony he was talking about the (Arab-Israeli) war and seeing soldiers on the Suez Canal. He said, "I got so burned up . . . If I could have done it, I would have blasted them." Did he see the Israeli soldiers as persecutors?

A — Oh, yes.

Q — Where you convinced he hated Jews?

A — I feel that in my opinion he equates persecutors and Jews who are engaged in this persecution. I don't know that he means all Jews. I don't think he does.

Sirhan has testified he was drunk the night he shot Kennedy. Pressed by Howard about the effect of alcohol on Sirhan's mental state that night, Schorr said he made his diagnosis on the basis of test results and independently of the fact of possible drunkenness.

"The issue of intoxication," he said, "made no contribution to my determination that this man was a paranoid-psychotic with tendencies toward paranoid-schizophrenia that may have dissociative reaction under stress."

Additional clinical facts including Sirhan's drinking, he said, "did nothing to shake my original opinion. Alcohol never helps anybody under stress."

Dr. Schorr testified that he made his analysis of Sirhan on the basis of a battery of psychological tests including the Rorschach or inkblot test, which he called the "mental X-ray," and the Thematic Apperception Test. In the latter, the subject is asked to look at a series of pictures and tell a story about each.

One of these pictures is blank. Sirhan's story for this?

"This is the figure of that arrogant, self-assured . . . with a smirk on his face . . . Moshe Dayan . . . There is a bullet crashing through his brain at the height of his glory."

Was Sirhan part of this scene?

"Part of the scene? I am the scene. I am the one killing him!"

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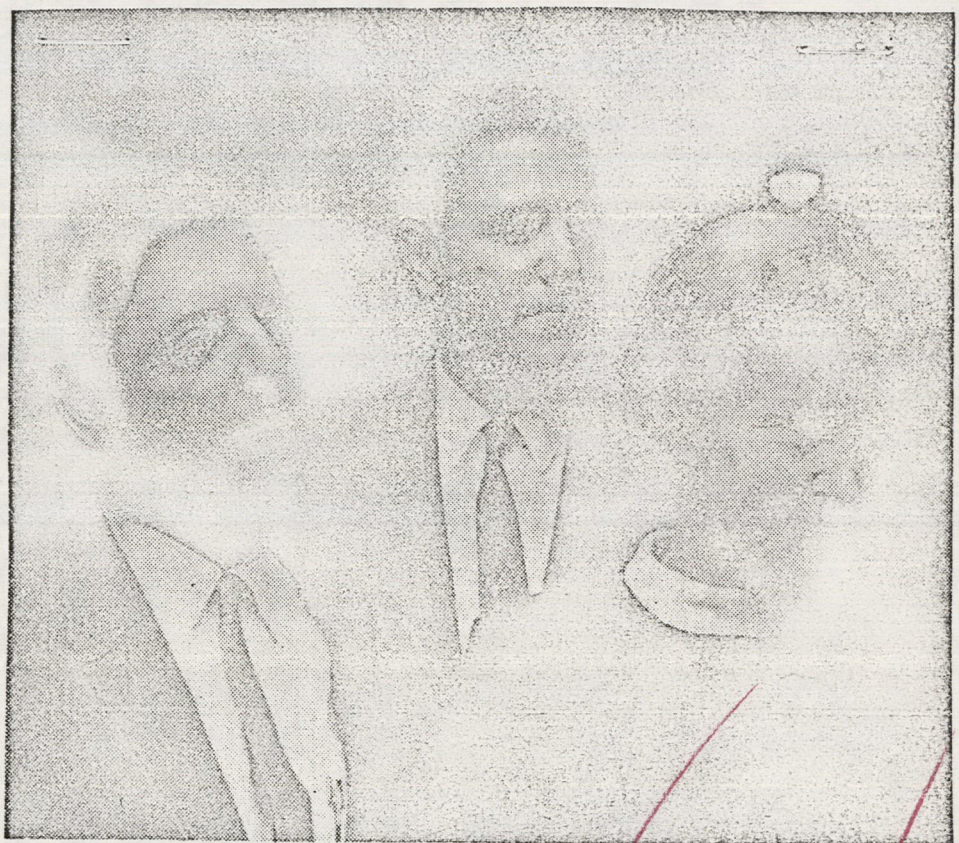

Herald-Examiner Photo

DRS. MARTIN SCHORR, LEFT, O. R. RICHARDSON, MRS. SCHORR
Dr. Schorr completed his second day of testimony in Sirhan trial

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Sirhan Incapable of Premeditation, Psychologist Says

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

A clinical psychologist testified Tuesday that he does not believe Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was capable of mature and meaningful premeditation in the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June.

Dr. Martin N. Schorr of San Diego, in his second day on the stand, described the Palestinian Arab as a paranoid psychotic, incapable of controlling his emotions, ruled by obsessions of his own grandiosity and delusions of persecution.

Dr. Schorr, who administered five psychological tests to Sirhan last 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.

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.

The defense will call four more psychiatric experts to testify that Sirhan suffered from diminished mental capacity and could not premeditate murder — which must be proven for a first-degree conviction.

Characterized by Fantasies

Schorr, describing Sirhan's reactions to the Thematic Apperception Test commonly administered to psychiatric patients, said Sirhan's responses were characterized by homicidal and suicidal fantasies, expressions of loneliness and alienation and dependency on and domination by his mother.

The 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, Schorr said.

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

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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.

In one, Sirhan saw a man who had been slipped a Mickey Finn and "he looks drunk but doesn't drink. I don't like this card," Schorr quoted him as saying.

In another, Sirhan saw "someone standing under a street light . . . he's lonely . . . no hope, no family, no country . . . He thinks of killing himself . . . He reminds me of me . . ."

In still another, Sirhan saw the picture as representing a man who had just concluded a sexual encounter with a woman and was going home to tell his mother.

Schorr said the frequent outcropping of alienation and loneliness in Sirhan's interpretations reflected the defendant's own lack of identity. Schorr described Sirhan as "a Semite, but not a Jew, an Arab, but not a Moslem, a man who has a family, but not a father, a man who immigrated to this country but is not a citizen, a man without identity. There's a quiet desperation about a lot of immigrants," Schorr said.

Characteristic Tantrum

Schorr also characterized a temper tantrum of Sirhan's two weeks ago as consistent with his diagnosis of paranoid psychosis.

That was when Sirhan, on Feb. 28, rose in court to fire his attorneys, change his plea to guilty and demand execution. Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, after a heated exchange with the defendant, denied Sirhan's effort to change his plea and finally told him to sit down and be quiet.

Schorr said the outburst was "highly consistent with the paranoid state." The paranoid, he said, "thinks he knows better than anyone else," and that Sirhan wanted "not only to dismiss his attorneys but also was telling the judge, in effect, that he (Sirhan) is a higher authority. This is part of his grandiosity," which he said is a common symptom in paranoia.

To Sirhan's objection to "having this trial shoved down my throat," Schorr said this was also a typically paranoid view of himself.

Schorr said Sirhan's paranoid psychosis interacts with a schizophrenic tendency which gives rise to

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two personalities, each quite different from the other, and which tend to dissociate under stress.

One, he said, is an unassuming, law-abiding person who keeps his hostilities in check and is quite unaware of the existence of the other personality. That personality Schorr likened to Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Schorr said Sirhan's personality resembled "Silly Putty" because it "constantly changed shape" and that Sirhan used his notebooks as a "sort of escape valve to discharge his hostilities . . . To avoid acting out his hostilities, he has to keep constantly writing, furiously writing . . . He is unaware of the killer in himself . . . but is aware of his own ambivalence."

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard asked Schorr if Sirhan's behavior around the time of the assassination of Kennedy indicated he was thinking rationally and thus was not in a dissociative personality state.

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.

'Mickey Mouse Test'

Howard asked then, "If you had seen (Sirhan) on June 3, could you have predicted the murder of 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 pinpointed 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% 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 the other tests.

Howard also asked Schorr "What would be

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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. Kennedy was surrounded by aides at the time he was shot at near point-blank range.

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 to be castrated, as he allegedly was by his father, through alleged cruelty and beatings."

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WITNESS—Dr. Martin N. Schorr, a clinical psychologist, after testifying in the Sirhan Sirhan trial.
Times photo

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Sirhan Saw Kennedy as 'Replica' of His Hated Father, Expert Says

Psychologist Believes Defendant's Action Was Rooted in Desire to Take Parent's Place "as Heir to the Mother"

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan substituted Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for the father he would have preferred to kill, a clinical psychologist said Wednesday.

Martin M. Schorr, in his third day on the witness stand, testified that Sirhan, "by killing Kennedy, kills his father and takes his father's place as heir to the mother" — suggesting that Sirhan's assassination of Kennedy was rooted in oedipal conflict.

(According to Greek mythology, Oedipus killed his father and then married his own mother.)

Witnesses have testified that Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, used to beat Sirhan. The father abandoned the family in 1957, soon after they immigrated to the United States, and now lives near Jerusalem. Sirhan hasn't seen his father since he was 12.

"He hated his father and feared him," Schorr said of the 24-year-old Palestinian Arab.

This hatred caused Sirhan so much pain, Schorr said, that subconsciously he felt he must repay it.

"The unconscious always demands the ultimate penalty," the psychologist said, and Sirhan chose death.

But feeling it would not be proper to kill his own father, Sirhan instead compromised and chose a "symbolic replica of his father"—Kennedy. And by killing Kennedy, Schorr said, Sirhan "also removes the relationship that stands between him and his most precious possession—his mother's love."

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, objected strenuously when this statement was read for reporters during a recess of the murder trial in the court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

"I don't like this," she said.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard sought in his cross examination of Schorr to cast doubt on the validity of psychological tests administered to Sirhan last November. Howard contended the scoring and interpretation of test results are arbitrary.

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

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

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Claims Two Worlds

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

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.

Kick and Apology

At one point, Sirhan was heard as he kicked a cup of hot chocolate out of officer F. R. Willoughby's hand. As Willoughby went out to clean the chocolate off his uniform, Sirhan told another officer, E. H. Austin, "Later please apologize for me to him, and I trust you."

Later, as Sirhan refused to engage in conversation, Austin said, "Makes no difference to me. I'm only a peon here."

Sirhan answered, "I like your humor, sir."

"I hate to sit here and say nothing," Austin said, trying to strike up a chat. "We're all people, you know. You got a girlfriend? Boyfriend? Friends?"

The prosecution was expected to cite the tapes today as evidence that Sirhan was not in a dissociative trance at the time he was being questioned.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sirhan's Words Return to Haunt

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Words spoken by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan minutes after he admitted the fatal shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel have come back to haunt him at his murder trial in Superior Court here.

Prosecutors in the case continued today to play tape recordings of police interrogation of the young Arab to his jury of eight men and four women. They sought to impeach the testimony of a defense psychiatric witness who claims Sirhan is a paranoid psychotic who was in a state of amnesia when he shot Kennedy — and for hours after the shooting.

Testimony of Dr. Martin M. Schorr, clinical psychologist from University - San Diego County Hospital, was interrupted late yesterday at the request of Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts to permit the jury to hear the tapes.

The tape was made at Rampart Police Station beginning only 25 minutes after Sirhan was taken into custody in a pantry of the Ambassador's Embassy Ballroom June 5.

At that time, Dr. Schorr swore earlier, Sirhan was in a "dissociative state characterized by amnesia."

That state began, according to Schorr, when the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant plucked a gun from the back seat of his car and made his way down New Hampshire Street to the Ambassador where he shot the New York Senator.

Schorr testified, "By killing Kennedy," an episode that Sirhan says now he cannot remember, "Sirhan kills his father ... He hated his father and feared him ... his mother fails him ... There is pain ... the pain has to be death. This becomes a wish to kill his father ....

"He looks for a substitute and finds a symbol ..... for his father in Kennedy and kills him ....."

But the tape recording of interrogation of Sirhan by police told that when he was taken to Rampart station he was alert and aware of his legal rights to have counsel and remain silent.

He recalled the badge number of a police officer to whom he complained of injuries incurred during his capture at the Ambassador. He used polysyllabic phrases in verbally jousting with Lieut. (then Sgt.) W. C. Jordan, Rampart detective commander, about his rights.

He kicked a cup containing hot chocolate from Police Officer Fred Willoughby's hand when the officer refused to share it with him.

Besides Willoughby and Jordan, Sgts. E. H. Austin and J. S. Locker participated in the questioning of Sirhan at Rampart.

Following this session, which lasted 35 minutes, the young Arab was taken to police headquarters.

A partial text of the tape recording:

JORDAN—What is your name, Sir? No comment? All right. I have to advise you that you have a right to remain silent; that if you give up the right to remain silent, anything you say can be used against you in a court of law; you have a right to an attorney and have an attorney present during any questioning; and if you desire this and cannot afford one, one will be appointed for you without charge before any questioning. Do you understand your rights?

SIRHAN—Is this of the—what the officers told me in the car?

JORDAN—I have no idea, sir, at this point what you were told.

SIRHAN—Would you please repeat it?

JORDAN—Right. You have a right to remain silent. If you give up this right to remain silent, anything you say—

SIRHAN—Thank you.

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JORDAN—. . . can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have a right to speak to an attorney and to have one present during any questioning; and if you desire—

JORDAN—OK, I'm sorry. I think we finished up that—

SIRHAN — Start again.

JORDAN — OK, you have a right to remain silent. If you give up this right, anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have a right to speak with an attorney, and to have one present during any questioning. And if you desire this and cannot afford one, one will be appointed at no cost to you before questioning. Now do you understand what your rights are? You have a right to say nothing. You have a right to see an attorney. You have a right to have an attorney present if you wish during this interrogation.

"If you can't afford one, one would be provided for you at no extra cost. Do you understand this? I mean, these are your rights. Do you have any questions regarding these rights? Now you're — you're shaking your head. You do understand me?

SIRHAN — Your name again, Sir?

JORDAN — Pardon?

SIRHAN — Your name.

JORDAN — My name is Sgt. Jordan, J-O-R-D-A-N. I'm night watch commander at Rampart Detectives which is where you are at the present time. Now, is this all your property here? I mean, is there any outside? I don't want it to get lost. You don't know? All right, now, would you tell me what your name is?

SIRHAN — I want to abide by the first admonishment, sir, to the right of keeping silence.

JORDAN — Do you wish to remain silent? In other words, now, I'm not violating your right. In other words, you can remain silent, period. By this you not only wish to remain silent as to any part of this case, but you do not wish to identify yourself? Is that correct?

SIRHAN—(Unintelligible answer.)

JORDAN — All right, Sir, that is your privilege. This has nothing to do with the case. I want to see that — I want to count this in front of you so that you're satisfied that this is the right amount; is that all right with you?

SIRHAN — Are you saying this, sir, under the authority of the first admonishment that you gave of keeping silence, does keeping silence involved in—

JORDAN — Well . . .

SIRHAN —. . . in this processing?

JORDAN —. . .Sorry, what happened?

SIRHAN — I had — I had mentioned it to Officer 3909.

JORDAN — Sorry, what was that?

SIRHAN — I don't know his name, sir.

JORDAN — Well, no — I mean you mentioned — you mentioned what?

SIRHAN — Mentioned to him my ankle and my knee . . . my knee.

JORDAN — OK, I'm very sorry. You understand I was checking you. I know you have been checked, but I'm checking you for weapons only. I'll be as gentle as possible, OK? You're clean. O.K. Sorry, I know you're clean, but I'll be as gentle as possible.

"If I get in an area that's uncomfortable, you tell me. OK, you can be seated. What happened to your leg? Where's—is there a uniformed officer here? Would you guys stay with him?

WILLOUGHBY — Yes, sir.

AUSTIN — You bet.

JORDAN — Keep close watch on him, please?

AUSTIN — Uh huh.

WILLOUGHBY — Sure, one inside and one out the door?

JORDAN — No, I would just as soon both of them . . .

WILLOUGHBY — OK.

JORDAN — . . . inside there.

WILLOUGHBY — Do you want to smoke?

AUSTIN — I got lots of smokes.

WILLOUGHBY — All rightee.

AUSTIN — How long have you been in here? You don't want to say?

WILLOUGHBY — Do you speak English?

JORDAN—No, go head. Can you hold there?

WILLOUGHBY — Do you want a drink?

AUSTIN — No, thanks.

JORDAN — OK, now, I won't — I won't move it.

SIRHAN — Don't move it now.

JORDAN — I won't. OK, that's fine. Watch your foot. We'll just leave that off for awhile, huh? I think it would be better than trying to slip it back on. OK, watch him real close.

WILLOUGHBY — We'll keep an eye on him.

JORDAN — I know you will. I kind a . . .

SIRHAN — These are tight.

WILLOUGHBY — What happened to your leg?

SIRHAN — I'm thirsty.

WILLOUGHBY — Well, we're not going to give you any of this.

SIRHAN — It's hot that way.

WILLOUGHBY — Yeah, it's hot. I guess they'll give you some in a minute.

(At this point, Sirhan, the officers have testified, kicked the cup of hot chocolate out of the officer's hand spilling it on Willoughby and himself.)

AUSTIN — That's enough, pal.

WILLOUGHBY — Yeah.

AUSTIN — Yeah.

WILLOUGHBY — I guess we need a rag, don't we?

AUSTIN — Uh huh. Kind of

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

made a mess. Keep it cool. Do you want to get a rag then? Go ahead and I'll — just go to the head right outside there.

WILLOUGHBY — Right.

AUSTIN — You're not going to prove nothing that way.

SIRHAN—Later please apologize for me to him, and I trust you.

AUSTIN — I will.

WILLOUGHBY — Yeah, that chocolate's sticky. They're out of towels.

AUSTIN — Are they?

WILLOUGHBY — In that one head there they are.

AUSTIN — Here, let me stick it on the floor.

WILLOUGHBY — Oh, I'll go see if I can get another one.

AUSTIN — That's all right. There's a big spot right here.

WILLOUGHBY — It will dry.

AUSTIN — Did you get the worst?

AUSTIN — It's going to be a long night.

WILLOUGHBY — Yeah, you said it.

AUSTIN — I've got some here.

WILLOUGHBY — Thanks.

SIRHAN—May I smoke?

AUSTIN — Fire in the wall sure sounds hot, doesn't it?

VOICE — What color are his eyes?

WILLOUGHBY— Brown.

VOICE — How much do you think he weighs?

WILLOUGHBY —Oh, 140. How much do you weigh, 140?

VOICE — Five-six.

WILLOUGHBY — Yeah about 5-6, 140.

AUSTIN — How much do you weigh? Huh? How much do you weigh? 140? 150? 130? 120? 110? How tall are you? Makes no difference to me. I'm only a peon here.

SIRHAN —I like your humor, Sir.

AUSTIN — I hate to sit here and say nothing. Are you married? You start a conversation. You married? Do you have a family? You say something, then, anything. I'm sure you've already been told about your rights; is that right? Have you? Well, you can say yes or no. Then say something that doesn't pertain to them. We're all people, you know. You got a girl friend? Boyfriend? Friends? Did the detective tell you that you have the right to remain silent? Did he? . . .Do you speak English?

WILLOUGHBY — Silent Sam.

AUSTIN — What do you speak? What happened to your leg? What happened to your leg? You won't even tell me that. Why? What happened to your leg?

WILLOUGHBY —Yeah, he's just trying to be sociable with you. Can't you talk? Huh? We're going to be in here for a long time. You just as well be sociable. Hell, we're just trying to get along.

AUSTIN — Say yes or no if you understand.

WILLOUGHBY — Sure.

AUSTIN —We're not participants of voodoo, because we can't outstare each other.

JORDAN — OK, fellows. Thank you very much.

WILLOUGHBY — OK.

JORDAN — OK, did you get your shoe on? . . .

SIRHAN —Will you please get my pants fastened for me?

JORDAN — Take a breath.

SIRHAN—Jack 'em up. Jack 'em up.

Sirhan evidenced almost complete disinterest during the playing of the tape. He listened briefly and then reached for a psychology book lying on the table before him.

Losing interest in the book, he conferred for several minutes with Grant B. Cooper, his chief defense counsel, over a legal paper, the nature of which Cooper declined to disclose.

This conference finished, the young Arab returned to desultory study of the book alternated with perusal of legal papers on the defense table.

The scene and drama in the Sirhan tapes will shift later today. On tap are a long series of interviews of the defendant made at police headquarters. Reportedly the young Arab talked much more freely there, although he never discussed his case.

Jordan testifed earlier that at headquarters he found Sirhan one of the most highly intelligent men he had ever interviewed.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tapes Reveal Sirhan as Animated After Arrest

Prosecution Claims Recordings Prove That Accused Slayer Was Fully Self-Possessed

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Early in the morning last June 5, Robert F. Kennedy lay dying with a bullet in the brain. Half a mile away, his assailant chattered animatedly—at times almost gaily—about a wide range of topics, but not about the shooting, tape recordings disclose.

The prosecution in the murder case against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan continued Thursday 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.

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

First Impressions

Playing of the tapes revealed Sirhan at first as uncommunicative, subdued and nearly inaudible as police and district attorney's investigators sought to learn his name.

But by 3:15 a.m., three hours after the shooting, Sirhan was engaging in earnest discussions and humorous banter with officers—still without revealing 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.

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.

Turns Questions

At the Ramparts Division of the Los Angeles Police Department and later at downtown headquarters, Sirhan persistently turned questions back on his questioners as he asked their views on the nature of justice, truth and falsehood.

Sirhan also revealed 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. Repeatedly Sirhan told Jordan he was "a good man" and that he trusted the policeman's sincerity.

Sirhan debated with Howard, Jordan and district attorney's investigator George W. Murphy 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.

'Putting Us On'

At one point Jordan told Sirhan: "I think you've been putting us on a bit here . . . You're very sharp."

Sirhan said, "Well, if you mean that as a compliment . . ."

Jordan answered, "I mean that as a com-

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pliment. I've got no reason to say otherwise."

"Well, I should thank you, sir," said Sirhan.

Sirhan was known only as John Doe until mid-morning of June 5, and in the hours before he was identified, much banter was exchanged over his choice of a pseudonym.

Worries About Garb

Howard suggested at one point that Rudolph Valentino was a more exotic name than John Doe, to which Sirhan answered, "I think Humphrey is very exotic, myself."

About 4 a.m., Sirhan began to fret about the baggy jail garb he was wearing, and Jordan told him not to worry. "Actually, you look very presentable compared to when I first saw you. You're clean, you're neat, your eyes are clear . . ."

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.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker recessed the trial until Monday morning, to allow defense attorneys Grant B. Cooper and Emile Zola Berman to attend a bar association meeting in Houston.

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Prosecutor Questions Sirhan Tests

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Verbal dueling between a defense psychologist and the prosecutor quarterbacking the state's case continued today at the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial.

Dr. Martin M. Schorr, University-San Diego County Hospital clinical psychologist, took the witness box for the fifth day. Dr. Schorr believes the admitted slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is a psychotic, who was in a dissociative state characterized by "spotty" amnesia when he fatally shot Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel last June 5.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John Howard not only disputes Dr. Schorr's conclusions, he has made it clear in his cross examination that he suspects the psychologist may have perverted the scoring of some of the tests he used on Sirhan in reaching his diagnosis.

Citing a letter Schorr wrote to defense lawyer Russell E. Parsons months before he was retained on Sirhan's behalf, Howard, last week, sought an admission from the San Diego clinician that he had made up his mind that the young Arab was a paranoid before he examined him. Schorr denied this.

Central to Dr. Schorr's findings is his reading of Rorschach (ink-blot) tests given Sirhan in his isolation cell on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice Nov. 25 and 26, 1968. In the Rorschach test the subject is shown a series of free-form drawings resembling ink blots and is asked what he sees in each.

Howard has made a study of Rorschach testing and for several days has pressed Schorr on why he scored certain responses the way he did. Burden of the prosecutor's cross-examination is that an incorrect scoring of even one or two responses could throw the whole test off. Dr. Schorr takes the position that Howard is overly simplistic in his approach to the test, and lacks the technical knowledge to criticize the findings.

Dr. Schorr will be followed on the stand by another defense psychologist, Dr. O. Roderick Richardson. He also administered the Rorschach test to Sirhan, and Howard has hinted strongly that Dr. Richardson's findings and those of Schorr do not jibe.

In an acrimonious exchange between the two, which drew the rebuke of Judge Herbert V. Walker, presiding over the trial, Dr. Schorr bluntly disavowed any responsibility for Dr. Richardson's conclusions. Defense spokesmen deny there is any large area of disagreement between the two clinical psychologists.

Grant B. Cooper, chief defense counsel, forecasts that psychological testimony offered in Sirhan's behalf will consume most of this week and at least part, if not all, of next.

Other defense psychologists and psychiatrists on the defense witness list include Dr. George Abbe, Metropolitan State Hospital; Dr. Eric Marcus, court-appointed psychiatrist for Sirhan, and Dr. Bernard Diamond, famed forensic alienist from Berkeley.

Dr. Sheldon Pollack, prosecution psychiatrist, and Dr. Marcus Crahan, USC-County Medical Center alienist, have also examined Sirhan. Defense sources insist their findings agree with the defense team's.

Cooper will call the two if the prosecution does not.

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Psychologist's Credibility Probed

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was almost a forgotten man at his own murder trial as a subsidiary trial shaped up over the credibility of clinical psychologist Martin M. Schorr. After learning last Friday that many of Dr. Schorr's statements about the slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy were almost verbatim quotes from another man's book, the prosecution began introducing relevant portions of the book—"Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist" by Dr. James A. Brussel—into evidence. Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard indicated that portions of the book not admitted into evidence will then be brought out in continued cross-examination of Dr. Schorr. The latter testified that Sirhan shot Kennedy last June as a "symbolic replica" of his own father. Schorr's analysis of Sirhan was found to be an almost identical match to Brussel's hypothetical analysis of a New York killer more than a decade ago.

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Probers Claim Plots in Kennedy, King Deaths

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—A new group investigating American political assassinations suggested Monday that conspirators — some of them possibly the same persons—were behind the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King.

The conspiracy allegations — some new and some old—were made at a press conference by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

The committee, declining to reveal the source of its finances, charged that the government was deliberately withholding facts about the assassinations for fear the American public was not prepared to accept them.

Bernard Fensterwald Jr., executive director of the committee, whose directors include New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, said one purpose in holding the press conference was "to get our names before the public" to help raise funds.

Fensterwald, former counsel to the Senate judiciary subcommittee on administrative practices and procedures, said the new committee has raised "a relatively small sum"—enough to run a two-man office here.

He said the committee "ultimately hopes to force the federal government into the thorough and honest inquiry which it has avoided" since the death of President Kennedy.

Fensterwald stepped down as the senate subcommittee's counsel last Jan. 1 after the chairman, Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), lost his bid for reelection.

Other directors are: Fred Cook, Englewood, N.J., freelance writer and critic of the FBI; John Henry Faulk, Austin, Tex., humorist and writer; Paris Flammonde, New York author of "The Kennedy Conspiracy;" Richard Popkin, a philosophy professor at UC-San Diego; Lloyd Tupling, Washington representative for the Sierra Club; Richard Sprague, a self-employed Hartsdale, N.Y., management consultant; and William Turner, former FBI agent and a writer for Ramparts magazine.

Index

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I-7 Los Angeles Times
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Expert's Testimony On Sirhan Assailed

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's murder trial jurors were expected to hear passages from a book on criminal psychiatry today as the state sought to prove a defense psychologist pre-judged Sirhan's mental condition and used the book as a source for part of his testimony.

Until now, the eight men and four women jurors have been excluded from court sessions while defense and prosecution attorneys argued over the admissibility of passages from the book "A Case Book of a Crime Psychiatrist" by Dr. James A. Brussel of New York.

The controversy grew from testimony by Dr. Martin Schorr who examined, Sirhan and has described him as a paranoid in defense efforts to prove Sirhan's limited mental capacity on the night he killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The prosecution claims Schorr drew part of his testimony from Dr. Brussel's book and that Schorr made his judgment about Sirhan's mental capacity even before examining the admitted assassin.

Sirhan has admitted killing Kennedy, but his attorneys are trying to save him from execution by proving diminished capacity.

On the stand since March 10, Schorr has steadfastly maintained he reached no conclusion about Sirhan's mental state before examining him in November.

Chief prosecutor Lynn D. Compton said evidence would be presented showing Schorr's testimony paralleled two chapters from the Brussel book.

Yesterday's afternoon session was taken up with arguments about admissibility of certain passages in the book which the state alleges Schorr used in his testimony.

Schorr said last week he thought Sirhan—an Arab immigrant who bore a grudge against Kennedy because of the senator's support of Isreal—was a paranoid psychotic with indications of a split personality.

A letter from Schorr to associate defense counsel Russell Parsons was read into the record. It reported Sirhan hated his father and transferred this hatred to Kennedy.

The wording of the letter written in December of last year was similar to Brussel's language in the psychiatrist-author's description of a 1957 murder case in New York.

Associate prosecutor John Howard pressed Schorr on the possibility the psychologist may have pre-judged Sirhan.

Letter from Schorr to Parson, dated July 10—before Schorr interviewed Sirhan—said in part:

"Most murders committed by basically passive nonviolent personalities are psychotic discharges of previously undiagnosed subtle but real schizophrenia."

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

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Sirhan 'Slump' Described

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan celebrated his 25th birthday at his murder trial today, listening to psychologists assess him as a man of diminished mental capacity.

Dr. Orville Roderick Richardson, Los Angeles clinical psychologist, resumed the witness stand today after describing Sirhan, admitted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, as a paranoid-schizophrenic.

Dr. Richardson yesterday told the court of Judge Herbert V. Walker that Sirhan has a "bright-normal to superior intellectual endowment" but that he is in a process of mind deterioration that shows up often as loss of judgment.

The private practitioner of psychology offered conclusions about Sirhan that closely paralleled those made by Dr. Martin M. Schorr, first in a series of psychiatric experts called to testify on Sirhan's behalf. The defense hopes, through the doctors' testimony, to show that Sirhan was of a "diminished capacity" when he shot Kennedy and was unable to plan or carry ou premeditated murder.

Dr. Schorr earlier testified that Sirhan was a paranoid-psychotic with schizophrenic tendencies, incapable of murdering anyone with premeditation and malice.

Dr. Richardson, following Dr. Schorr to the stand, said Sirhan "appeared to be in somewhat worse shape when Dr. Schorr tested him than when I tested him."

Dr. Richardson's tests of the defendant were made July 20, 1968, about six weeks after Kennedy was slain at the Ambassador Hotel. Dr. Schorr examined Sirhan Nov. 25-26, 1968.

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

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

Dr. Richardson, arriving at generally the same conclusions as Dr. Schorr, emphasized that he made his evaluation on the basis of "content and sequence analysis" or what the answers said rather than on the quantitative or statistical results used by Dr. Schorr.

Earlier yesterday, Dr. Schorr, concluding six days of testimony, admitted under cross-examination that he copied several passages used in his report on Sirhan from "A Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist" by Dr. James A. Brussel.

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

The borrowed phrasing, he said, was used only to illustrate his findings from testing Sirhan and in no way influenced his evaluation of the defendant. He said he knew nothing about the cases Dr. Brussel was describing, but liked the way the author described paranoid characteristics.

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

Among passages read to the court showing similarity and often identical sentences and paragraphs in Brussel's book and Dr. Schorrs report was one in which the psychologist said Sirhan shot Kennedy as a substitute for his father. Sirhan, the report indicated, suffered from an Oedipus complex and that his mother "failed" him.

"Where had Mrs. Sirhan failed the boy?" Howard asked.

"The mother constantly protected him . . . and she still does now," said Dr. Schorr in a long explanation. "But no mother in the world could protect a paranoid with this developing mechanism from everything.

"I indexed it (her 'failure') at the moment when this whole hour's discourse about Kennedy came up on a TV show. Sirhan allegedly exploded into a rage and this time the mother couldn't protect him. She was trying to calm him down but this didn't help.

"Finding the man (Kennedy), he does what he wanted to do to his father when the father deserted his own land 10 years earlier."

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother, and his brother, Adel, said they didn't expect to be allowed to bring a birthday gift to Sirhan.

"Hey, you will be an old man tomorrow," Adel teased his brother across the courtroom rail yesterday during a break in proceedings.

Sirhan, who generally ignored Dr. Schorr's testimony but smiled attentively during Dr. Richardson's comments,

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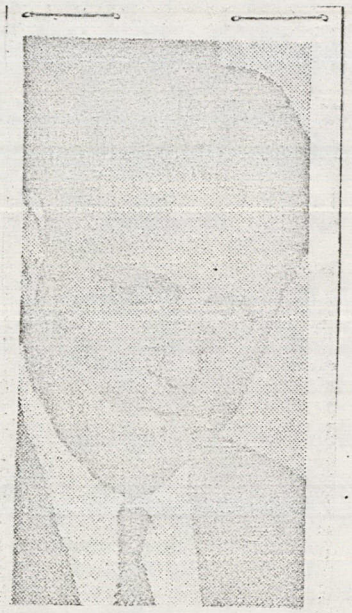

—Herald-Examiner Photo

DR. O. R. RICHARDSON
Defense psychologist

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Experts: Tests Show Sirhan Mentally Ill

By MYRNA OLIVER
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Defense counsel for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan today added more experts to its list of psychiatrists to verify their evaluation of tests which they claim show Sirhan to be mentally ill.

Prosecution has questioned defense evaluation of the mental tests of the admitted assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Resuming witness stand today was Dr. O. Roderick Richardson, Los Angeles clinical psychiatrist, who yesterday warded off an attempt by Asst. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, on cross-examination, to discredit defense interpretations of Sirhan's psychological test results.

Dr. Richardson is second in the growing list of experts the defense intends to call to prove that Sirhan lacked the mental capacity to plot the murder of Kennedy.

Sirhan's defenders had originally said they would ask three psychologists and three psychiatrists to testify about the defendant's mental difficulties. Dr. Martin M. Schorr, clinical psychologist from San Diego, preceded Dr. Richardson to the stand.

Chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper said yesterday, however, he will call four more psychologists and the three psychiatrists.

Two psychologists expected to testify today, he said, will merely verify Dr. Richardson's evaluations of test results. The doctors, Dr. Stephen D. Howard and Dr. William Crain, San Fernando Child Guidance Clinic, were asked to evaluate Dr. Richardson's raw test data separately as a cross-check on his work.

Prosecuting attorneys kept Dr. Schorr on the stand for three days, taking potshots at his interpretation of Sirhan's answers to Rorschach ink blot, Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, Thematic Apperception Test and other examinations.

Both Dr. Schorr and Dr. Richardson have said Sirhan is a paranoid-schizophrenic who is incapable of maturely premeditating murder or of having malice, two elements in first degree murder.

In questioning both Dr. Schorr and Dr. Richardson, the prosecutors have tried to get each psychologist to criticize the other's conclusions. Neither doctor has discredited the other, claiming that slightly different handling of test results is explained by their use of different but equally acceptable scoring systems.

Dr. Richardson further pointed out that Sirhan deteriorated in his mental capacity from the time he tested him July 20 until Dr. Schorr tested him Nov. 25-26, 1968. This deterioration, he said, explains slightly different results for the same tests given four months apart.

Yesterday, Dr. Richardson testified that Sirhan's deterioration has been going on for several years and that he was probably "in better shape" immediately after the assassination of Kennedy than at the time he tested him.

"Prior to the assassination, Mr. Sirhan was in a gathering paranoic rage," he told the jury of eight men and four women.

"The assassination serves as a release of a lot of pent up paranoid feeling. That helped him gain equilibrium temporarily," he added. "At this time, he would be better than after three months in jail. The longer he is isolated, the more it would deepen his psychosis."

Asked by Fitts if imprisonment would not cause Sirhan to give "abnormal" answers to test problems even though he was actually "normal," Dr. Richardson insisted:

"Everyone who goes to prison doesn't look psychotic on the Rorschach. . .He evidenced pathology of long standing schizophrenia."

Dr. Richardson, who spent three hours testing Sirhan in his cell. . .as though he were showtility or suspicion toward him, which Fitts indicated might have influenced Sirhan's responses to the psychologist and his tests.

"He ushered me into his cell. . .as though he were showing me to his home," he

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said, "and excusing the fact that we would have to be observed, apologizing for the lack of privacy, for not offering me something. I thought it showed certain courteousness and gentility. . . .but it is not necessarily unusual behavior for the paranoid."

Fitts also sought to show that Sirhan's psychotic response of disapproval to a Thematic Apperception Test picture showing a girl carrying books with an older couple merely reflected his ethnic background. Sirhan said he didn't like the picture because a man should have the books rather than the girl.

Fitts' implication that Sirhan's answer stemmed from his Arab culture in which, he said, men are educated but not women touched off a minor courtroom disruption.

Arab defense lawyer Issa Nakhleh leaped up from the defense table shouting, "Not so, not so." Arabs, he insisted, are educating their women as well as men.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, who presides over the trial, called Cooper into his chambers when court recessed to admonish him to keep his associate quiet.

Cooper told reporters later that Nakhleh, who has remained in Los Angeles to help quiet the volatile Sirhan and speaks often with him in Arabic about his defense strategy, planned to leave the city Saturday. The decision has nothing to do with the incident.

Sirhan sat calmly and attentively through Dr. Richardson's testimony, yesterday quietly observing his 25th birthday.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, his mother, and two of his brothers, Adel and Munir, were in court but were not permitted to see Sirhan privately or to give him birthday gifts.

"We were told we could see him," she said, "but now we don't get to see him. They don't tell us why. They just say, 'Not today.'

"It's sad."

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Sirhan's Mental Illness Severe, Witness Says

Psychologist Describes Suspect's Condition as Approaching Incurability

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Clinical psychologist O. Roderick Richardson described Sirhan Bishara Sirhan Wednesday as a paranoid schizophrenic whose mental illness was "about as severe as you can get without being unchangeable."

Dr. Richardson testified that when he administered psychological tests to Sirhan last July, the accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was then "getting worse. He was a very ill person who was descending further into mental illness." Richardson also said he felt Sirhan had been acutely ill "for a year or two" before the June 5 slaying.

But Sirhan had not then passed the point of no return, Richardson said. He was close to being incurable, but still capable of either improvement or regression.

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

Scoring Method Differs

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

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

He said Sirhan showed signs of delusions of omnipotence and grandeur and wishes to associate himself with symbols of prestige and status. Sirhan also felt himself the victim of unidentified influences, Richardson testified.

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

He said the Palestinian Arab defendant regards himself "as a soldier or representative of his nation" and as such, goes beyond what normal, healthy people would regard as their duty to uphold the laws of this country.

Because of this concept of himself, Sirhan could not meaningfully and maturely premeditate murder, Richardson testified.

Anxiety Shown

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

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

Throughout Richardson's testimony, Sirhan sat calmly at the defense table, rummaging delightedly through more than a dozen birthday cards or telegrams. He became 25 Wednesday, and his mother, Mary, and brothers, Adel and Munir, each sent him two cards apiece. Members of his defense team also sent him cards, and Sirhan told one, "Thank you for remembering, sir."

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Premeditation of Sirhan Termed Not Meaningful

Psychologist, Psychiatrist Agree He Planned Slaying but Not in Mature Sense

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

A clinical psychologist and a psychiatrist both testified Thursday that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan premeditated the killing of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, but not in the "mature and meaningful" way that must be proved to justify a death sentence for first-degree murder.

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

Psychiatrist Eric H. Marcus conceded that Sirhan was capable of planning the slaying, forming an intent to commit murder and harboring malice aforethought. But, Marcus added, such plans arose from Sirhan's paranoid view of himself as "a savior of society," and in this context could not constitute mature and meaningful premeditation.

Trial Moves Along Fast

Sirhan's murder trial, now in its 11th week, moved forward rapidly Thursday as Richardson, testifying for the third day, was excused and followed on the stand by two more clinical psychologists, both of whom were excused with little or no cross-examination.

Dr. Stephen J. Howard and Dr. William Crain testified that they examined the raw data from five psychological tests Richardson administered to Sirhan and, evaluating the tests independently, reached the same diagnosis as Richardson: that Sirhan is a paranoid schizophrenic and was in a state of diminished mental capacity when he shot Kennedy.

It was with the testimony of Marcus that it was revealed for the first time in open court that the prosecution's psychiatric consultant, Dr. Seymour Pollack, also considers Sirhan a paranoid schizophrenic.

Mental Illness and Crime

But, Marcus testified, Pollack also maintains that there is no relationship between Sirhan's mental illness and the crime.

Marcus said he found Sirhan suffering from delusions of persecution, particularly political persecution, and said "I fail to see the logic" of contending there is no relationship between Sirhan's delusions and his "committing a crime directly related" to his political views.

Marcus also admitted, under questioning by defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, that he and all other psychological and psychiatric experts in the case, including Pollack, had met on Feb. 2 in Cooper's office to compare their findings.

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

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

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The defense went on with its original plea and the prosecution was committed to try the case and attempt to dilute the effect of psychiatric testimony that is corroborated by its own experts.

In cross-examination of Richardson, Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts asked if Sirhan might have slain Kennedy because he wanted to be regarded as a hero to the Palestinian Arab cause.

'Not Grandstanding'

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

Marcus testified that Sirhan's mental illness apparently became noticeable only after he was thrown from a horse in September, 1966. Sirhan, who had ambitions to become a jockey, quit his job as an exercise boy at a Corona race horse ranch soon after the fall.

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

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Sirhan Trial Pace Picks Up Tempo

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy moved toward a speedy climax today with the defense calling its star psychiatric witness—Berkeley criminologist Dr. Bernard Diamond.

Dr. Diamond is on tap for this afternoon's session of the trail. He will follow Dr. Eric Marcus, West Los Angeles psychiatrist appointed for Sirhan by Superior Court Judge Arthur Allercon at the time of the young Arab's indictment in June of last year.

Explaining the defense strategy switch, which saw it sharply reduce the number of witnesses it will call, chief defense lawyer Grant B. Cooper said:

"We might as well wind it up. We're in good shape so why prolong it."

Cooper foresaw that the defense could conclude its case by the end of next week. Only 24 hours earlier he had forecast a timetable which would have lasted at least two weeks. One psychiatrist, Dr. George Abbe of Norwalk State Hospital, who had been scheduled to testify yesterday, will not be called at all, said Cooper.

An anthropologist, Dr. George deVoost, a psychologist, Dr. Georgiana Seward of University of Southern California, and chief defense investigator Michael McCowan will be the last witnesses called, according to Cooper.

The defense also apparently has abandoned its plans to call a prosecution psychiatrist—Dr. Sheldon Pollack. Earlier, Ron Allen, another defense investigator had claimed Pollack would be called by Sirhan's attorneys because his evaluation of the defendant agreed with those of defense alienists.

However, some question of this arose yesterday. During Cooper's examination of Dr. Marcus, it was brought out that while Dr. Pollack does agree that the young Arab defendant is mentally ill, he also contends that Sirhan's illness bears no

(Continued on Page A-6, Col. 1)

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Doctors Disagree on Sirhan

(Continued from Page A-1)

relation to his admitted slaying of Sen. Kennedy last June 5. Dr. Marcus testified he disagrees with this conclusion.

As Dr. Marcus sees Sirhan, "he started to show signs of mental illness at the very latest at the time following his horse accident."

In 1966 Sirhan, working as an exercise boy at Granja Vista del Rio Ranch, outside Corona, suffered a head injury when he was thrown from a horse. He suffered no brain damage, however, according to Dr. Marcus.

"His adjustment and mental state have deteriorated since then in a slow and insidious way."

The psychiatrist said he had made a detailed study of diaries Sirhan kept in which he wrote of his plans to kill Kennedy. Of these Dr. Marcus said:

"In his notebooks some of the erratic, irrational ramblings are typical of diaries and letters that insane people have written who have threatened the president, or who are now hospitalized or incarcerated at Atascadero.

"I have a package of letters of (written by) insane murderers at Atascadero. Sirhan's writings are quite similar, particularly to the threatening letters written to presidents."

Claiming he had made a study of assassinations, Dr. Marcus differentiated between "political assassinations" and "assasinations of politicians."

He classified Sirhan's killing of Kennedy as the latter and said:

"These are lone events by isolated individuals who are almost always found to be very seriously mentally ill. This is true of each one since the threatened assassination of Andrew Jackson. Letters threatening the president are written by these individuals."

Dr. Marcus defined "political assassination" as those carried out by groups. . . "the activity of several people committed to assassination. The best example is the attempted assassination by Puerto Ricans of President Truman."

Dr. Marcus insisted that Sirhan is "mentally ill" but avoided putting a label on the illness. He explained that "as a psychiatrist" he avoided specific terms for mental illness.

The defense has claimed that Sirhan's killing of Kennedy came in part from his feelings of intense Arab nationalism. But Dr. Marcus testified that tests had shown that Sirhan thought as an American, not an Arab. He said these conclusions agreed with those of Dr. deVoost.

Continuing his description of the defendant, Dr. Marcus said:

"A person such as Sirhan has two personalities existing in him at the same time—a sick personality and a healthy personality. These are not in watertight compartments. One may take over, or the other, or both at the same time.

"A lot depends on how much stress the person is under at the time. That is where we get the word schizophrenia which means divided or two."

Sirhan's mental illness "goes way back," Dr. Marcus maintained. "The fall from the horse was the last straw—at that point he went downhill."

Dr. Marcus differentiated Sirhan's condition from that of a man who sometimes acts in a disordered way because of anger or neurosis. In cases such as Sirhan's, he said, it is "as if the brain were a telephone switchboard and the wires were crossed . . . not a disturbance of mood or temper, but a disturbance with the way you can think."

Dr. Marcus' testimony followed that of three clinical psychologists called by the defense yesterday.

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$350,000 Suit Names Sirhan

Mrs. Elizabeth Young Evans, 43, has filed a $351,000 Superior Court damage suit against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charging that she was shot during Sirhan's assassination attack on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in June.

Mrs. Evans, who lives at 16032 Placerita Canyon Road, Saugus, also named 50 "John Does" in her complaint, charging she was shot in the head by a stray bullet during the Ambassador Hotel fracas.

The 50 Does include "unknown" persons who may have conspired with Sirhan in the fatal shooting. Also named as Doe defendants are the manufacturers and sellers of the pistol used in the assassination.

The lawsuit, filed by attorney Daniel F. Smith, claims the manufacturers and sellers are liable for damages because they "took no care to prevent the weapon from reaching dangerous persons such as Sirhan."

Mrs. Evans' suit is the second filed by a bystander to the assassination.

Irwin Stroll, 17, of 6039 Horner St., Los Angeles, filed a $1 million assault and battery claim against Sirhan Feb. 3. Stroll, a Kennedy campaign worker, said he was shot in the leg during the attack. "——»

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Sirhan 'Drawn Like a Magnet' To RFK, Says Noted Criminologist

By MYRNA OLIVER
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was "drawn like a magnet" to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, whom he admittedly shot to death June 5, a noted criminologist has testified.

Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, associate dean of the School of Criminology at University of California at Berkeley, said yesterday at Sirhan's murder trial that after eight examination sessions with the Arab defendant he diagnosed him as mentally ill and suffering from schizophrenia.

Defense attorneys have paraded six psychiatric experts before the jury of eight men and four women in an attempt to prove that Sirhan was of diminished mental capacity and incapable of committing premeditated murder.

Dr. Diamond, a full professor in law, medicine and criminology, said Sirhan told him on their first meeting:

"To Kennedy I was drawn like a magnet. I loved him. I hated him."

He said Sirhan "frequently expressed a great love for Kennedy."

The criminologist said he came to accept the contradictory conversation as typical of Sirhan.

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

"The story he related to me on the initial interview is essentially the story which he told on the witness stand," he said, with the same "conspicuous omission" of events of the shooting or memory of writing in diaries that he wanted to assassinate Kennedy.

Sirhan testified and told the psychiatrist that he went to Wilshire Boulevard June 4 in search of a "Jew parade" he had read about in a Los Angeles newspaper, not realizing he was a day early for the event.

Sirhan said he became angrier and angrier when he did not find the parade.

"In my opinion he showed what was a very characteristic response of Sirhan," said the doctor, "that when things are not exactly as he has anticipated or planned, he gets confused. He gets angry."

The doctor said Sirhan told him he had no memory of the shooting but did remember being taken to the police station and being questioned by officers. In his court testimony, Sirhan said he remembered little about the police interview.

Dr. Diamond said he asked Sirhan why he had been unwilling to give the officers his name. "He gave me the kind of answer I have come to expect of Sirhan: 'It would be held against me. The officer told me it would.' "

Sirhan had asked officers to repeat his constitutional rights including that he had the right to remain silent.

Dr. Diamond said Sirhan recognized the writing in the notebooks as his own but did not remember doing the writing.

Asked by defense counsel Emile Zola Berman if he believed Sirhan, Dr. Diamond said:

"I would prefer to say he had no recognition that the notebooks were his, that there was no meaningful association in his mind, so that the letters, the words, the sentences, the threats existed as isolated entities. No connection was made between them. He couldn't tell me whether he agreed with them or not."

One diary notation had said: "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated by June 5."

In his initial interview with Sirhan Dec. 23, 1968, Dr. Diamond said he picked up "quite subtle evidence of his mental illness."

He said Sirhan suffered from schizophrenia, or a dual personality, although he showed none of the "gross and obvious signs such as delusions . . . peculiar mannerisms . . . violence . . . babbling."

Four psychologists and one other psychiatrist, Dr. Eric H. Marcus, have testified that Sirhan suffers from paranoia and schizophrenia and lacks the mental capacity to "maturely and meaningfully" premeditate murder.

Earlier yesterday, Dr. Marcus, under incisive cross-examination by Assistant District Attorney David N. Fitts, admitted Sirhan did have the capacity to premeditate and to have malice but only when it did not involve his areas of obsession such as the Arab Israeli conflict.

Sirhan, however, he said, "had the capability to form the specific intent to kill and specifically to kill Senator Kennedy."

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Sirhan could plot assassination, Dr. Marcus said, but not do it "maturely and meaningfully," two necessary elements of first-degree murder.

The defendant "quite possibly" lied to the court and to him about not knowing the events of the shooting, Dr. Marcus testified.

He said if Sirhan had been suffering from any type of amnesia, he would have—coming out of it in the police station—demanded to know where he was and why he was there. Sirhan never asked the reason he was being held, according to police officers' testimony.

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Alcohol Turned Sirhan Into 'Beast', Court Told

Psychiatrist Testifies That Defendant Had to Be Restrained After Drinking for Tests

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

A psychiatrist said Friday that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was deliberately made drunk in his cell last year for medical tests, but had to be physically restrained because the alcohol turned him into "a wild beast."

Dr. Eric H. Marcus said Sirhan was given six ounces of gin in Tom Collinses, downing four in 18 minutes, "and you might say he went berserk."

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

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

Marcus said Sirhan was very polite when sober, but when drunk yelled "Get that bastard out of here" as Marcus, a Jew, started to enter the cell. But later, Marcus said, Sirhan mistook him for a brother and "asked me to take him home." Marcus said he had the impression Sirhan thought he was at the Ambassador and wanted to be driven home.

Appeared Nervous, Agitated

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

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

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

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

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

It was also brought out Friday for the first time that Sirhan may have begun vaguely planning an assassination as early as 1962 or 1963, when he was a junior or senior at John Muir High School in Pasadena.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper offered into evidence two of Sirhan's high school history texts.

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In the first, where the assassination of William McKinley is described as the third slaying of a U.S. president, Sirhan wrote in the margin: "Many more will come."

In the second book, a European history text, Sirhan underlined passages describing the 1914 assassination of Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand—the act which triggered World War I. It was the only underlining in the entire text.

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

"You don't believe it, do you?" asked Fitts.

Marcus paused thoughtfully, then said, "Yes, I believe it."

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

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The second of five persons shot with Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in the Ambassador last June filed suit in Superior court against Sirhan B. Sirhan. Mrs. Elizabeth Young Evans, 43, of 16032 Placerita Canyon Road, Saugus, asked $351,500 damages, charging she suffered a head wound, shock, pain and mental anguish during the shooting.

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Diamond: Sirhan Mind Numbed

By JOHN DOUGLAS
Herald-Examiner Staff Writer

Criminologist Bernard L. Diamond takes the witness box today in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial to tell the jury of eight men and four women that Sirhan was self-hypnotized when he shot Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Diamond, professor of law, criminology and medicine at the University of California at Berkeley and one of the nation's most distinguished psychiatrists, is expected to tell the Sirhan jury that the defendant mesmerized himself peering at mirrors in the Ambassador Hotel before he gunned down the Presidential aspirant early June 5, 1968.

Defense counsel have said they will offer the excuse of self-hypnosis, and the prosecution is openly concerned about the effect the new defense theory will have on the jury.

Friday, chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper laid the groundwork for the self-hypnosis defense when he put his top investigator, Michael McCowan, on the stand to detail for the jury the number and positions of floor and ceiling mirrors in the Venetian and Embassy Rooms of the Ambassador. It is in these two rooms that Sirhan spent his time prior to his admitted killing of Kennedy.

McCowan, in his testimony, also positioned the chandeliers in the two rooms. He positioned the overhead lights in relation to the mirrors. He pointed out that while the chandeliers are electrically illuminated, the bulbs in them are "candle-like."

Earlier testimony in the case indicated that Sirhan, in his delving into the occult, did weird experiments in which he believed that he caused candlelight to change color by psychic power.

Dr. Diamond spent 25 hours examining Sirhan in his insulated jail cell in the Hall of Justice.

Reportedly, part of this examination involved placing the defendant under hypnosis.

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Sirhan's Reenactment of Slaying Described

Psychiatrist Tells How Suspect Recalled Night of Assassination While Under Hypnosis

BY DAVE SMITH
Times Staff Writer

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's own memory of the killing of Robert F. Kennedy came vividly to life Monday for the first time in public, as psychiatrist Bernard L. Diamond revealed Sirhan's reenactment of the slaying under hypnosis.

The courtroom was spellbound as Dr. Diamond described Sirhan's drunken, circuitous route to a meeting Diamond said Sirhan never expected.

Diamond said he put Sirhan under hypnosis last Jan. 26 for the second of six times and then took him step by step through the night of last June 4 and 5.

Both the Palestinian Arab defendant and newsmen who listened to Sirhan's testimony of amnesia about the killing sat in an electric silence as Diamond's narrative went back 10 months:

Just past midnight on June 5, Sirhan was standing, drunk and confused, in the pantry of the Ambassador when Sen. Kennedy and his followers burst through the far door — "rushing at me," Sirhan thought.

Sudden Change of Mind

Suddenly Sirhan thought he'd like to shake hands with Sen. Kennedy, who in seconds was almost upon him, almost in physical contact.

Instead, Sirhan whipped a pistol from his belt, shouted "You son of a bitch!" and shot Sen. Kennedy almost point-blank in the head.

As Sirhan shouted these words in his hypnotic reliving of the scene, both Diamond and Dr. Seymour Pollack jumped, startled. Sirhan's face was contorted with a violent rage, Diamond said.

Then Sirhan was silent for a few moments when suddenly he began to choke. "He was gasping for breath and actually turned a little blue," said Diamond. "I became fearful myself."

But then Sirhan dropped into a deep hypnotic sleep, and after he had rested and was awakened, he had no recollection whatever of the scene he had just enacted, Diamond said.

Post-Hypnosis Fails

Diamond, a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who is also a full professor of law, criminology and psychiatry at UC Berkeley, said that despite his post-hypnotic suggestion to Sirhan that his amnesia would be wiped out after hypnosis, Sirhan still cannot remember the killing except when in hypnotic trance.

The hypnotic trance is a psychiatric reproduction of the dissociative state the defense contends Sirhan was suffering when he killed Sen. Kennedy.

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Diamond testified that what a subject says under hypnosis may not be the truth but a remembered fantasy about what happens during an alleged period of amnesia.

A person is also capable of deliberate lies under hypnosis, Diamond said, but not of concealing things he doesn't know the importance of. Hypnosis overcomes unconscious resistance and evasions, he said.

The psychiatrist's diagnosis of Sirhan as a paranoid schizophrenic agrees with the opinion of five previous defense psychiatrists or psychologists who said it was perfectly consistent with Sirhan's paranoia that after hypnosis Sirhan became suspicious that "somebody had done something to him."

Sirhan Denied It Worked

Diamond said Sirhan at first denied that hypnosis had worked and bragged privately to defense investigator Michael McCowan that he had tricked Diamond while in a feigned trance.

To prove hypnosis didn't work on him Sirhan told McCowan he would raise the middle finger of one hand in an obscene gesture, to prove he wasn't "under."

Tipped off, Diamond said he watched the next time and saw Sirhan making an effort to give McCowan his little signal "but under hypnosis, he couldn't budge it."

Another time, Diamond said, he gave Sirhan the post-hypnotic suggestion that his arm would be paralyzed after he came around. Sirhan didn't notice this, he said, until he reached for a cigaret and became alarmed when he couldn't move his arm or feel anything.

Restores Use of Arm

Diamond said he restored the use of his arm by putting him back under and removing the suggestion.

Diamond said that Sirhan, under hypnosis, denied that anyone put him up to shooting Sen. Kennedy, paid him for it, advised him about how to do it or knew in advance that he would.

"Were you the only person involved,?" Diamond asked.

"Yes," said Sirhan.

"Why did you shoot Sen. Kennedy?" Diamond asked.

"The bombers," Sirhan replied.

On the witness stand, Sirhan said earlier that his former love for Sen. Kennedy turned to hate when he learned that Sen. Kennedy advocated giving 50 jet bombers to Israel after the six-day Arab-Israeli war of June, 1967.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Diamond testified that the first time he hypnotized Sirhan, he was surprised at Sirhan's reaction.

He asked Sirhan what he hoped to do for his Arab people and how he felt about the Jews, and to each question, he said, Sirhan would break into convulsive rage, fists clenched, arms rigid, face contorted, sobbing hysterically with tears running down his face.

Diamond said that Sirhan normally appeared to him as supercilious, smart-alecky and profane, but that under hypnosis and questioned about Arabs or Jews, he showed "his first real emotional depth." He reacted that way, Diamond said, only to those two questions.

Tells of Night's Events

For the hours leading up to the shooting of Sen. Kennedy, Diamond said, Sirhan filled in this picture under hypnosis:

After having four Tom Collinses at various political victory parties at the Ambassador June 4, Sirhan went back to his car to go home, but felt "dizzy, drunk, sickish-tired." He opened the car door, saw his pistol on the back seat and thought, "The Jews will steal my gun." He tucked his gun under his belt and returned to the hotel for some coffee to sober up on.

He wandered around the hotel until he found a coffee bar in an alcove between the Embassy Room, where Sen. Kennedy was speaking, and the Colonial Room, where the senator headed after his speech.

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

He had several cups of coffee with a girl—described as brunette and beautiful — and Diamond said Sirhan "was absolutely consistent in denying that there was any thought of doing anything with his gun."

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

The psychiatrist cited one previously undisclosed family scene which, he said, contributed heavily to Sirhan's mental deterioration. In the summer of 1957, Sirhan's father, Bishara, and brother, Adel, were digging an irrigation ditch around a tree, while Sirhan skipped around in the mud.

After warning Sirhan to stop, Bishara started to beat the boy but was stopped by Adel. Bishara, Diamond said, stormed into the house and told his wife, Mary, that she must choose between him or the children, because he demanded to be master of his house. She chose the children, Diamond said, whereupon Bishara took the family savings, returned to Jordan and has not been in touch with his family since.

Diamond said he once considered using sodium pentathol—"truth serum"—on Sirhan instead of hypnosis.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker, it was learned, ruled this out after learning that in rare cases a subject could die from its effects. Judge Walker felt that the death of Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab, from a dosage of sodium pentathol administered by Jewish doctors — Diamond, psychologist Eric Marcus and psychiatrist Seymour Pollack — would create endless political controversy.

Diamond said that under hypnosis Feb. 1 he also had Sirhan write down answers to questions, and that in this disassociated state the writing "astonished" him because it was extremely similar to his notebook writing.

He said Sirhan was in a very light trance when he began, but soon "flipped automatically into a hypnotic state," and then wrote pages of repetitious words and phrases, including "Robert Kennedy is

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going to die," over and over.

Asked who killed Sen. Kennedy, Sirhan wrote, "I don't know." Asked if Kennedy were dead, he wrote, "No, no, no, no . . ." Asked if he were alive, Sirhan wrote, "Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes . . ." Diamond said this represented Sirhan's subconscious wish.

Sirhan admitted under hypnosis that he was doing "crazy writing," said he was doing it for "practice" in "mind control." Sirhan said he was hypnotized by "the mirror, my mirror, my mirror," when he wrote in his notebooks in his room, and said he was taught by "AMORC."

The letters stand for the Ancient and Mystical Order of the Rosae Crucis, or Rosicrucians, to which Sirhan belonged.

Diamond said he was puzzled by Sirhan's deep sleep and reluctance to talk during hypnosis until he learned from Sirhan himself that he had undergone self-hypnosis many times without realizing it.

Diamond capped his testimony with a comprehensive summary of his view of Sirhan's emotional deterioration:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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