

Sirhan Trial Due to Start Today but Defense May Request Delay

BY DAVE SMITH
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The trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was scheduled to begin in Superior Court at 9:30 a.m. today, seven months and one day after Sen. Kennedy's death, but late Monday the possibility arose that the defense might seek a fourth postponement.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper, involved in a federal grand jury investigation growing out of the Friars Club card-cheating case, said he felt it might be in Sirhan's best interests that another postponement be granted.

Cooper has refused to answer grand jury questions on how he came to possess unauthorized transcripts in the Friars Club case.

The attorney indicated late Monday that he felt it might prejudice the 24-year-old Jordanian's right to a fair trial if the case were to go on while the federal grand jury's investigation is under way.

No Indication of Barrier

There was no indication there would be any barrier to Cooper's appearance for this morning's session of the Sirhan trial before Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

But Cooper is scheduled to appear in federal court at 1 p.m. today, one hour before the scheduled afternoon session of the Sirhan trial, to either answer the federal grand jury's questions—which he has said he will refuse to do—or show cause why he should not be held in contempt.

Another lawyer for Sirhan; Rus-

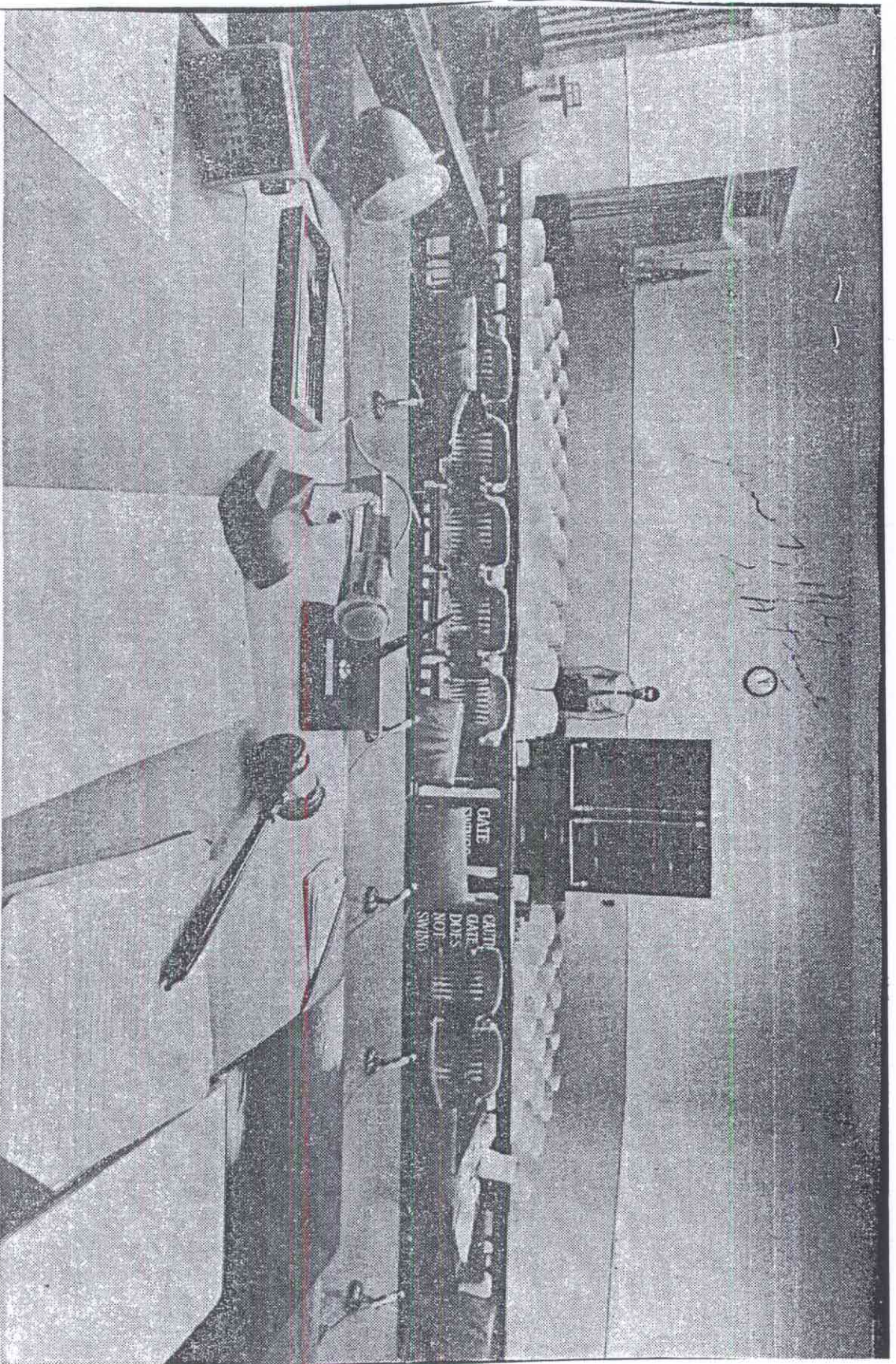
sell E. Parsons, has previously indicated that he would not be willing to proceed without Cooper and the latter cannot be taken off the case except at Sirhan's request. Cooper could, however, withdraw voluntarily.

Sirhan Administered Test

Parsons said Monday that Sirhan had been administered a chromosome test for the so-called XYY syndrome about a month ago.

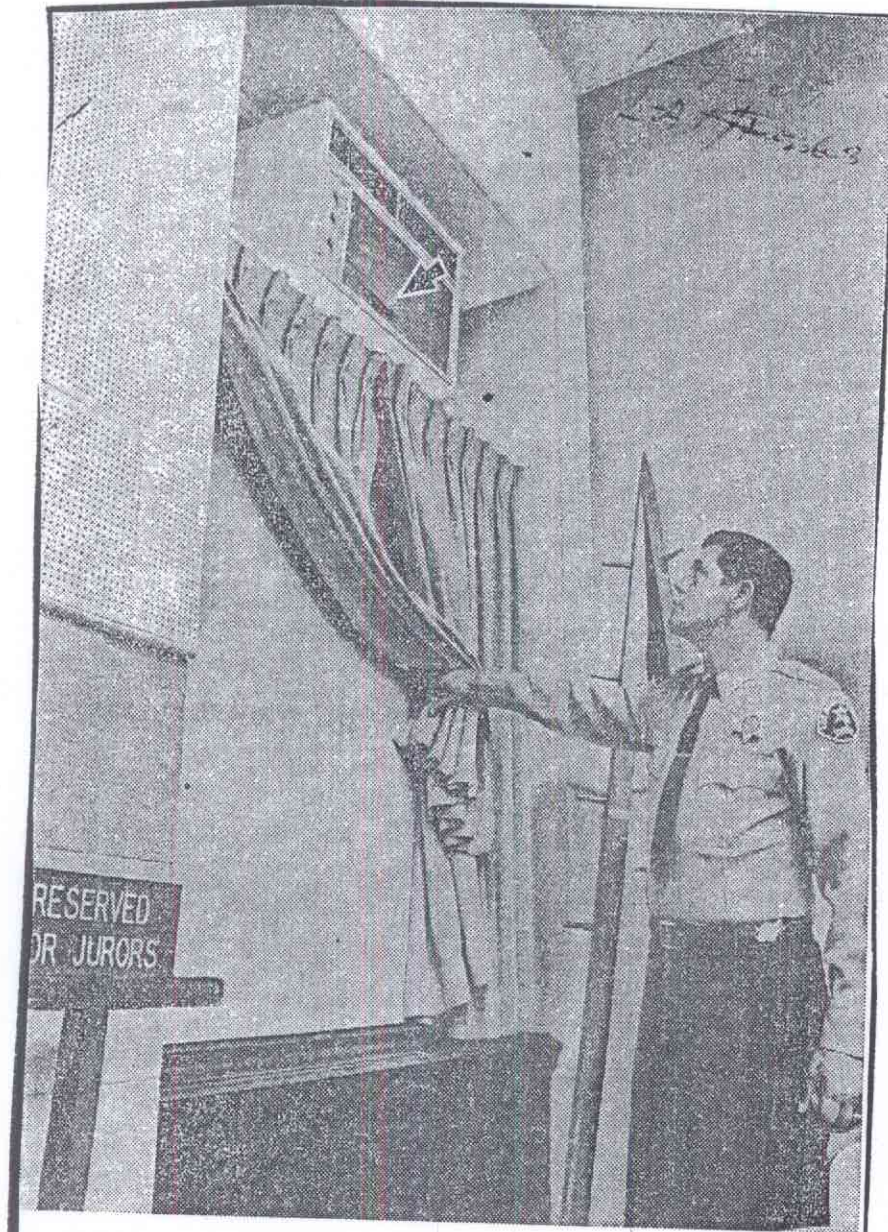
(The XYY syndrome, in which each cell of a person's body contains an extra Y, or male, chromosome, is thought by some psychiatrists to indicate a tendency toward violent behavior.)

Parsons said he did not know the results of the test on Sirhan, and thus could not say whether it would be entered in evidence.



AS JUDGE WILL SEE IT—View from bench of courtroom on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice where Sirhan Bishara Sirhan goes on trial today in the slaying of Robert F. Kennedy. Presiding over the

closely guarded trial will be Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker. Just in front of bench with row of microphones is counsel table at which prosecution and defense attorneys—and Sirhan—will sit.



PROTECTIVE MEASURE—Dep. Sheriff George Psareas inspects quarter-inch thick steel-plated window in courtroom. Just above it in an air conditioning unit is closed-circuit television camera, arrow, that will carry Sirhan trial proceedings to newsmen in auxiliary courtroom on fourth floor. The camera, however, will not show the jury.