

Sirhan Jury of 8 Men and 4 Women Selected

5 of Jurors Belong to Minority Groups; Both Sides Satisfied

BY DAVE SMITH
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A jury of eight men and four women, including five minority group members, will try the case against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the Palestinian immigrant accused of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy last June 5.

Agreement between the defense and prosecution came early Friday afternoon, on the last day of the third week of trial.

The defense moved twice during the morning to accept the panel and the prosecution, after the substitution of one more juror and consideration of the panel over the two hour lunch break, acceded on the second motion.

Attorneys for both sides later expressed satisfaction with the jury which includes four Mexican-Americans and one Jew. Possible identification of jurors with the Arab defendant or their antipathy toward him, became an obvious though subtle influence on the selection technique of both sides.

The jury reportedly includes seven Republicans and five Democrats, including one Kennedy supporter.

Questioned on Religion

The sole Jew on the jury—and the only final juror to be questioned in open court about his religious views on the Israeli-Arab controversy—is Benjamin Glick, who with his wife owns a ready-to-wear shop on the city's West Side. Glick said his religious faith would not interfere with his ability to give Sirhan a fair trial.

The Glicks moved to Los Angeles five years ago from New York City.

Other jurors are:

Mrs. Irma O. Martinez, an employe of the Southern California Gas Co. whose husband is a truck driver. Mother of a 5-year-old son, Mrs. Martinez lives in Alhambra.

Alphonso Galindo, a civilian mechanic employed by the Navy in

Long Beach, where he lives.

Gilbert F. Grace, a Department of Water and Power employe who lives in the northeast San Fernando Valley.

George Broomis, also a DWP employe, who lives in El Sereno and is the father of two sons who will be graduated from high school this spring.

Ronald G. Evans, a switchboard installer for Pacific Telephone Co., who lives in Inglewood and has two children.

Susan J. Brumm, a service supervisor for Pacific Telephone, who lives in Alhambra.

Albert N. Frederico, a plumber employed by the City of Los Angeles who lives in San Gabriel.

Mrs. Mary Lou Busby, a mathematics teacher at Downey High

School, married to a history teacher at Glendale High School. A resident of the Highland Park area, Mrs. Busby described herself as a regular reader only of Barron's Weekly financial newspaper and the financial section of the New York Times.

Laurence K. Morgan, a systems analyst for International Business Machines. Married and a father, Morgan is described as deeply religious, and said he chiefly reads religious periodicals.

Bruce D. Elliott, a systems analyst for TRW Systems, Inc. He is a Ph.D. who lives in Redondo Beach.

Nell Bortells, a service representative for Pacific Telephone who lives in Monrovia.

'... A Good Conglomeration'

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper said, "I think we've got people from all walks of life... and that's America. I just don't know what kind of juror I would have looked for in this particular case, but I think we got a good conglomeration."

Another who expressed satisfaction with the jury was Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, mother of the 24-year-old accused slayer.

"They are nice people," said Mrs. Sirhan, "and they stand up and say they are sure of themselves. To consider taking a life you have to be sure of yourself."

"It's up to their conscience. They are nice people. I am satisfied."

Asked if her feelings about the jurors would make the ensuing weeks of trial easier to endure, Mrs. Sirhan paused and said, "Through this, we learn. Before everything, we get our power from God above. I get my

power from Him daily."

Sirhan himself, in an obvious good mood throughout the morning as he whispered and joked with defense investigator Michael McCowan, appeared not to realize what had happened for several minutes after the prosecution accepted the jury.

Then he suddenly appeared tense, laughing quietly one moment, then darting nervous looks about the courtroom as his hands clenched and unclenched.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker

recessed the trial until Wednesday morning and sent the jurors home until Thursday morning with an admonition not to discuss the case with anyone and to be careful of telephone callers who "might try to advise you, as I have already experienced."

Once the trial begins in

Once the trial begins in earnest, jurors will be sequestered in a downtown hotel for the two or three months the trial is expected to last. Their only outside contact will be conjugal visits over the weekends.

Judge Walker ordered attorneys for both sides to

prepare their final arguments for Wednesday on a defense motion to quash the first-degree murder indictment against Sirhan.

Cooper based the motion on a contention that the method of selection of the grand jurors who originally indicted Sirhan is unconstitutional and that the jury does not represent a proper cross-section of the community.

That argument is expected to consume most of Wednesday and perhaps part of Thursday, followed by swearing-in of the 12 regular jurors and then the selection of six alternate jurors. If choosing the alternates progresses at the rate at which the 12 regular jurors were picked, the prosecution could begin presenting its case early the following week.

Attorneys for both the defense and prosecution

have been unusually concerned about the composition of the jury.

Sirhan is a Palestinian Arab immigrant whose shooting of the New York Senator reportedly was inspired partly by violent pro-Arab, anti-Zionist political feelings.

Attorneys for both sides have speculated that Arabs, Jews, Democrats, Republicans, radicals or conservatives of any stripe or people of any ethnic background could feel an emotional involvement in the Sirhan case because of their backgrounds.

Accordingly, the defense exercised peremptory challenges to dismiss some prospective jurors who gave an impression of

rigid opinions or conservative views, while the prosecution dismissed one woman, for example, who expressed left-oriented political views and a Negro man who wore a blue turtleneck sweater and an Egyptian love symbol on a chain around his neck.

Similarly, any person who expressed unshakable opposition to the death penalty was dismissed, despite efforts of the defense to retain these jurors.

But this question arose only twice, and New York attorney Emile Zola Berman of the defense team privately expressed dismay that such opposition occurred so rarely in the questioning of 59 prospective jurors.