

## Grand Jury Challenged

# Sirhan Testifies to Low Income

*File 4, 1969 State Items*

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, taking the witness stand at his trial on a charge he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said today the most money he earned in any of the four previous years was \$2,212.45.

The slender young Jordanian was poised and spoke clearly during five minutes of testimony about his fi-

nanacial status. He spoke in support of a defense motion to quash the grand jury indictment against him on grounds the jury was unbalanced in makeup.

**HE CONFIRMED** these income figures: 1965, \$984.90; 1966, \$2,212.46; 1967, \$432.96; 1968, \$752.35. The money, he

said, came from jobs in a drive-in, motor service firm, a ranch in nearby Chino, a uonstruction company in nearby Corona and a food store in pasadena.

Sirhan, 24, was neatly dressed in a gray suit, blue tie and shirt, and took the oath with fists clenched. But he seemed relaxed while

speaking. His voice was slightly accented.

The defense earlier presented testimony that the grand jury was mostly composed of college-educated persons in tes professional, sales or managerial classes and included no one who was under 30 or poor.

**UNDER QUESTIONING** by chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper, Sirhan responded almost entirely with "yes" or "yes sir."

Under cross-examination by Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, Sirhan's replies were a bit longer.

Was he going to school during the years cited?

"Yes, in 1964, 1965, 1966—no, just 1964 and 65 at Pasadena City College."

"Did you turn over your

Asked by the prosecutor if any of the federal tax deducted from his paychecks was returned, Sirhan said: "Some of it, yes." Then he thought a bit and added, "almost all of it, sir."

After Sirhan was excused his mother, Mary, 55, was called.

**SHE SPENT** 18 minutes verifying her son's and her earnings over recent years.

After confirming figures read to her by defense attorney Cooper and saying that her two other sons contributed only occasionally to household expenses, she capped her witness stand appearance as she was excused by rising and saying:

"I thank God that he gave me the strength and I thank you nice people also that I never got hungry and have a roof over my head."

**TO REPORTERS**, as court was recessed at midday, she explained that she meant: "I thank the United States."

Cooper read into the record her gross income, takes and net income since 1958. He annual nets were: 1958, \$1,471.40; 1959, \$1,600.35; 1960, \$1,579.11; 1961, \$1,593.71; 1962, \$1,163.69; 1963, \$1,603.58; 1964, approximately the same as 1965 which was \$1,768.76; 1966, \$1,772.56; 1967, \$1,752.69. No figure was given for 1968.

money to your mother?"  
"Part of it."

Asked his age, Sirhan replied: "I'll be 25 next month."

**HE SAID HE** lived at home most of the time during the years in question.

The information about his income was derived by Cooper asking Sirhan if income tax withholding figures were correct, with Sirhan saying "yes."