

Sirhan Jurors Study Photographs From Kennedy Autopsy

2-25-69
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Color photographs from the coroner's autopsy on Robert F. Kennedy were shown for the first time Monday to hushed jurors at the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

The small courtroom was quiet as the 12 regular and six alternate jurors examined the two photographs silently, with little visible reaction, passed them on and examined the fatal bullet and the senator's shredded coat.

The photographs were introduced as Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts questioned ballistics expert DeWayne Wolfer of the Los Angeles Police Department.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper objected that the photographs were "highly inflammatory and immaterial to the issues in this case," but Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker overruled the objection.

Show Powder Burns

The defense has admitted throughout the trial, now eight weeks old, that Sirhan fired the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy after he won the California Democratic presidential primary last June 4.

The photographs show the right side of Sen. Kennedy's head partially shaved, with the bullet wound behind the right ear and extensive "tattooing"—powder burns and lead and powder particles imbedded in the skin—on and behind the ear.

Wolfer testified that tests showed the fatal wound—a .22-caliber bullet in Sen. Kennedy's brain—was fired from about one inch from the senator's head.

Wolfer also testified that Sen. Kennedy's coat showed five bullet holes—three entry holes and two exit holes. Besides the fatal bullet to the brain, another bullet was found in soft tissue near the sixth cervical vertebra, Wolfer testified.

The coat, cut away from the dying senator's body and later crudely stitched together for ballistics and firing tests, also was admitted into evidence, despite defense objections that it was irrelevant to the case.

Sirhan, normally in obvious good spirits through most of the trial, was markedly subdued and attentive Monday as the autopsy photos were circulated through the jury box.

But he became agitated shortly before adjournment as Fitts, questioning Police Sgt. William E.

Brandt, began leading up to the controversial diaries in which Sirhan is reported to have written "Kennedy must be assassinated before June 5."

Recess Asked

As the three 8½-by-11-inch spiral notebooks were shown to Brandt, Sirhan began whispering urgently to his attorneys. Cooper quickly asked Judge Walker for a recess, saying "our client has requested it."

The judge instead adjourned for the day, about five minutes early. Cooper later told newsmen that

Sirhan didn't want the notebooks admitted into evidence and mistakenly thought they had been accepted into evidence without objection from his defense.

They hadn't, but it is a certainty that they will be, probably today.

The prosecution claims the notebooks show Sirhan's premeditation to murder Sen. Kennedy. And while the defense has moved to suppress those portions of Sirhan's diaries, the defense nonetheless plans to use other portions to support their contention that Sirhan's capacity to plan was diminished by obsessive traits.

Recognized Photo

The defense, in fact, quoted from the notebooks

in its opening statement, citing a so-called "declaration of war against American humanity" by Sirhan last May.

Before the sudden adjournment, Brandt told the jury of being called to the Pasadena police station about 9:30 a.m. on July 5, about nine hours after Sen. Kennedy was shot, to talk to Adel Sirhan, 30.

Adel had recognized his 24-year-old brother from a

newspaper photograph as the man suspected of killing Sen. Kennedy.

Brandt then told of going to the Sirhan home in Pasadena and searching the house for evidence relating to the case. Brandt admitted that he did not have a search warrant, and said he didn't attempt to get one after being given Adel's permission to enter the home.

Decision on Surgery

Testimony was also taken from Dr. Henry M. Cuneo, neurosurgeon at Good Samaritan Hospital

who operated on Sen. Kennedy about three hours after the shooting at the Ambassador.

Cuneo described how, after a tracheotomy, Sen. Kennedy's essential life functions stabilized to the point where a medical team felt he could withstand surgery, and how, after the craniotomy, Sen. Kennedy's condition remained stable for more than 10 hours.

Cuneo said Sen. Kennedy's blood pressure, pulse, cardiac condition and breathing were relatively normal after the surgery—so that he was breathing on his own, without mechanical aid—until the afternoon of June 5, when electroencephalograph monitoring showed that

the brain functions were beginning to fail.

The senator was pronounced dead at 1:44 a.m. on June 6, slightly more than 25 hours after the shooting.