

Sirhan a Schizophrenic, Paranoiac, Trial Told

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

BY DAVE SMITH
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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.

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."

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.

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Schorr said the indications of psychosis, on Sirhan's tests—particularly the wide range of highs and lows—were "consistent with schizophrenia," which he described as a "discrepancy between the inner and outer reality."

"We live with two realities," Schorr said, adding that when the two realities correspond fairly well, one is healthy, but that when the inner reality begins to govern more and more of one's behavior, to that degree one is behaving in a schizophrenic manner.

Schorr said Sirhan's tests particularly showed a tendency for him to become "disorganized, confused and fragmented" under stress. Some of the non-verbal tests, in which a time limit was imposed, yielded unusually low scores, which Schorr said was also consistent with a paranoid personality.

He said Sirhan "deteriorates 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 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.