

# Sirhan Saw Kennedy as 'Replica' of His Hated Father, Expert Says

Psychologist Believes Defendant's Action Was Rooted in Desire to Take Parent's Place "as Heir to the Mother"

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Sirhan Bishara Sirhan substituted Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for the father he would have preferred to kill, a clinical psychologist said Wednesday.

Martin M. Schorr, in his third day on the witness stand, testified that Sirhan, "by killing Kennedy, kills his father and takes his father's place as heir to the mother" — suggesting that Sirhan's assassination of Kennedy was rooted in oedipal conflict.

(According to Greek mythology, Oedipus killed his father and then married his own mother.)

Witnesses have testified that Sirhan's father, Bishara Sirhan, used to beat Sirhan. The father abandoned the family in 1957, soon after they immigrated to the United States, and now lives near Jerusalem. Sirhan hasn't seen his father since he was 12.

"He hated his father and feared him," Schorr said of the 24-year-old Palestinian Arab.

This hatred caused Sirhan so much pain, Schorr said, that subconsciously he felt he must repay it.

"The unconscious always demands the ultimate penalty," the psychologist said, and Sirhan chose death.

But feeling it would not be proper to kill his own father, Sirhan instead compromised and chose a "symbolic replica of his father"—Kennedy. And by killing Kennedy, Schorr said, Sirhan "also removes the relationship that stands between him and his most precious possession—his mother's love."

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, 55, objected strenuously when this statement was read for reporters during a recess of the murder trial in the court of Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker.

"I don't like this," she said.

Dep. Dist. Atty. John E. Howard sought in his cross examination of Schorr to cast doubt on the validity of psychological tests administered to Sirhan last November. Howard contended the scoring and interpretation of test results are arbitrary.

Schorr, however, defended his scoring of Sirhan's tests and would not concede that interpretations would vary widely from one psychologist to another.

## Claims Two Worlds

Schorr repeated his belief that for several hours before and many hours after killing the New York senator, Sirhan shifted back and forth between the real world and a fantasy world.

The psychologist said Sirhan was unaware he was drifting from one state of consciousness to another, and while he may have wanted to kill Kennedy, he was and still is genuinely unaware that he did.

Dep. Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts began to play tapes of the first interviews between Sirhan and police after his arrest in the early morning of June 5.

In the first tape, made at 12:45 a.m., less than half an hour after Kennedy was shot, Sirhan was advised of his constitutional rights, including the right to remain silent, and did so. He wouldn't give his name, height or weight, and his few-

responses did not bear on the shooting at all.

## Kick and Apology

At one point, Sirhan was heard as he kicked a cup of hot chocolate out of officer F. R. Willoughby's hand. As Willoughby went out to clean the chocolate off his uniform, Sirhan told another officer, E. H. Austin, "Later please apologize for me to him, and I trust you."

Later, as Sirhan refused to engage in conversation, Austin said, "Makes no difference to me. I'm only a peon here."

Sirhan answered, "I like your humor, sir."

"I hate to sit here and say nothing," Austin said, trying to strike up a chat. "We're all people, you know. You got a girlfriend? Boyfriend? Friends?"

The prosecution was expected to cite the tapes today as evidence that Sirhan was not in a dissociative trance at the time he was being questioned.