

Testimony on Sirhan Echoes Earlier Book

Psychologist's Report Parallels Remarks Psychiatrist Made About Crime in N.Y.

A peculiar similarity of phrase between a clinical psychologist's description of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan and a crime psychiatrist's evaluation of a New York killer became the focus of speculation Friday in Sirhan's recessed murder trial.

The parallel language was noted between the testimony of Dr. Martin M. Schorr of San Diego County Hospital and Dr. James A. Brussel's "Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist," published last October.

The similarities were spotted by an unidentified New York woman who read Schorr's testimony in Thursday's New York Times and telephoned that newspaper to point out the similarity of Schorr's statements to paragraphs from Brussel's book.

Similarities Tld

The New York Times published a story Friday describing the similarities.

Schorr, who left Los Angeles during the three-day recess in the Sirhan trial but who resumes the witness stand Monday, reportedly denied plagiarizing statements from Brussel's book, but he admitted he had read it before Sirhan's trial began.

He was quoted by a New York Times reporter as saying:

"You use pretty much the same language when you talk about cases . . . I read this book quite thoroughly last year. When I see a phrase that fits in with my thinking, subconsciously and sometimes consciously it becomes part of my language."

Clinical Evaluation

Schorr, who adminis-

tered five psychological tests to Sirhan last Nov. 25 and 26, after the book was published, later wrote a clinical evaluation of Sirhan to defense attorney Russell B. Parsons.

Only two paragraphs of Schorr's evaluation thus far have been admitted into evidence. But all 10 sentences in those paragraphs are strikingly similar—in vocabulary, phrase order and sentence order—to 10 sentences from Brussel's work.

Schorr, 45, began practice in San Diego County in 1961, began work for San Diego County in 1962 in testing inmates of the county's honor camps, and has appeared more than 100 times as an expert witness in homicide trials, both for the defense and the prosecution.

Brussel, 63, is former assistant commissioner of mental hygiene for the state of New York and has testified and written about celebrated murder cases involving psychotic defendants.

Publisher May Sue

Brussel's publisher, Bernard Geis, reportedly told newsmen he is thinking "very carefully" of suing Schorr for plagiarism.

Brussel's material was a hypothetical description of the killer in a 1957 case in Queens Village, N.Y.

Dr. Schorr's statements: "Essentially, the more he (Sirhan) railed and stormed, the more the mother protected Sirhan from his father and the more he withdrew into her protection.

"He hated his father and

feared him. He would never consciously entertain the idea of doing away with him. But somewhere along the line, the protecting mother fails her son.

'Repaid With Pain'

"She, whom he loved, never kept her pledge, and now his pain had to be repaid with pain. Since the unconscious always demands maximum penalties, the pain has to be death.

"Sirhan's prime problem becomes a conflict between instinctual demands for his father's death and the realization that killing his father is not socially acceptable.

"The only real solution is to look for a compromise. He does. He finds a symbolic replica of his father in the form of Kennedy, kills him and also reverses the relationship that stands between him and his most precious possession—his mother's love."

Dr. Brussel's book read: "And the more he stormed, the more the

mother protected her boy and the more he withdrew into her protecting arms.

"The boy hated his father, yes—and, more important, feared him. Therefore, he would never entertain the idea of doing away with the man . . . Then, somewhere along the line, the protecting mother may have 'failed' her boy.

"She whom he loved never kept her pledge, and he began to feel that she really didn't love him. Pain had to be repaid with pain, and since the unconscious always demands the maximum, the pain had to be death.

Prime Problem

"Now his prime problem was the conflict between instinctual demand for her death and the realization, through his conscience, that killing one's mother is not socially acceptable.

"The only solution was to look for a compromise. He did. He found a symbolic replica of his mother, killed her, and took valuables that stood for her most precious possession—the thing she denied him her love."