

Police Tapes
Played at
Sirhan Trial

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan talked about murders—but not the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy—tape recordings played Thursday at the Pasadena's murder trial in Los Angeles showed.

Sirhan is charged with the murder of Kennedy, who was gunned down shortly after midnight June 5 at the Ambassador Hotel.

The tapes were made by police over about a seven-hour period after the shooting.

When informed of his constitutional rights to remain silent, the 24-year-old Sirhan replied: "This is basic American jurisprudence, no?"

The tapes were introduced into the trial by the prosecution during the cross-examination of Dr. Martin M. Schorr, a San Diego clinical psychologist who told the court that in his opinion Sirhan is psychotic with paranoid and schizoid tendencies.

Slightly Bored

As the tapes were being played for the jury of eight men and four women, Sirhan sat qui-

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etly, as though he were slightly bored. At one point he rested his head on his hands and appeared to nap.

Many times he asked questions of policemen. And when they asked him the same questions he would say, "I asked you first."

He gave his name only as John Doe, declaring: "I think I shall remain incognito." At one time, Lt. William C. Jordan left the interrogation room and, on his return, asked Sirhan if the police could call him Robert Gene Gendros.

"Sure, sure, if that's my new name, fine," Sirhan replied.

He talked about the stock market, the background of his captors, about the medical costs of childbirth, health insurance, the Boston strangler and a Los Angeles murder. (KIRSCHE)

The defense claims Sirhan blacked out and was not aware of any shooting until nearly seven hours later.

The tapes also revealed that Sirhan was worried about his appearance when he was told he would be arraigned that morning. The jail clothing—blue denims and a blue shirt—were too large for his small, 115-pound frame.

Sirhan, when he was arraigned before Municipal Judge Joan Dempsey Kline, still refused to give his name. His identity was not known until several hours later when he was identified by two of his brothers who said they recognized their brother in a newspaper photo.

Some recordings still remained to be heard when court was recessed Thursday until Monday, when cross-examination of Dr. Schorr will be continued.