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# Sirhan Not as Sick as Painted, Witness Claims

## Jurors Struggle With Psychiatric Terms as USC Expert Testifies

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Like students in a classroom, jurors in Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's murder trial struggled Monday with the language of psychiatry as a 10th and final expert witness testified that Robert F. Kennedy's killer is not as sick as he has been painted.

Dr. Leonard B. Olinger, instructor in abnormal psychology at USC, disagreed with two previous clinical psychologists' diagnosis of Sirhan as a paranoid psychotic with schizophrenic reaction.

Olinger said he believed that Dr. Martin M. Schorr and Dr. O. Roderick Richardson, knowing they were testing the man who killed Kennedy, approached Sirhan with preconceived notions of what they should find, and subsequently interpreted test data in light of their expectations.

After his own analysis of the data only last month, Olinger testified, Sirhan appeared to him to be suffering "pseudo-neurotic schizophrenia"—a form of mental disturbance far less serious and more nearly normal than Schorr and Richardson and six other defense psychologists and psychiatrists diagnosed.

### Affirmative Answers Cited

In disputing Schorr's diagnosis, Olinger said Sirhan was not showing paranoid tendencies but common sense when he gave affirmative answers to these true-false statements:

"I know who is responsible for my trouble."

"I am sure I am being talked about."

"I have been in trouble with the law."

"I have enemies who wish to harm me."

"I tend to be on guard around people who are friendlier than I

expect them to be."

"I feel uneasy indoors."

As Sirhan had been jailed since June 5, Olinger said, his positive answers to all these indicated that he "had good contact with reality" and that his suspicions weren't paranoid but all too true.

### Facial Expressions Vary

However, the effect of Olinger's testimony on the jury, while difficult to determine exactly, was hardly galvanizing. For more than a month they have listened to such psychiatric verbal shorthand as "C-prime response," "small animal movement," "inanimate movement," "large human movement," "pure form response," "large M and small fm," "large F and little c" and "TH column."

It is debatable how efficiently the jurors have been able to translate such arbitrary terms into their meaningful emotional equivalents. But the mere effort has exacted a toll that was apparent Monday as they listened to still more of the same with faces that ranged a gamut of expression from boredom to stupefaction.

Olinger enunciated what he termed the 10 basic precautions to be observed in administering psychological tests—two of which, he made clear, he felt Schorr and

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Richardson had violated.

These were "the law of parsimony, or Occam's Razor"—giving the simplest, most factual interpretation of data—and the "Procrustean Fallacy." This last derives from Greek mythology, in which the robber Procrustes thrust his victims into a bed and then stretched the short ones to fit the bed or lopped off the tall ones at the head or knees.

Ripples of amusement alternated with mutters of confusion in the courtroom as testimony translated into talk of how this or that interpretation was "fitted for a Procrustean bed."

Sirhan, meanwhile, seemed frankly disinter-

ested for most of the day.

Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper began cross-examination by asking Olinger how he had been engaged by the prosecution.

### Agreed to Testify

"I suggested myself to them," Olinger said, disclosing that he phoned Chief Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn Compton last month, shortly after Schorr began testifying, and offered consultation.

Compton told reporters later that Olinger had not wanted to testify, but later agreed after he had examined the defense consultants' test results.

Cooper then asked Olinger whether an instructor or a professor held higher academic rank at USC.

Olinger said professors were of higher rank.

Then Cooper asked Olinger if he was aware that Dr. Georgene Seward of USC and Dr. George DeVos of UC Berkeley—both clinical psychologists and of professional rank—had concurred in Schorr's and Richardson's diagnosis of Sirhan as a paranoid schizophrenic.

Olinger replied that he had not been. w/