

# Jury in Sirhan Case Ends First Day of Study

Buzzer System Arranged  
to Permit Communication  
With Judge in Courtroom

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The jury in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial completed its first full day of deliberation Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a system was set up so the jury can communicate with the courtroom. Three sounds of the buzzer from the ninth-floor jury room to the eighth-floor courtroom will signify the end of deliberation. Two buzzes would indicate that the jury wished to be brought into the courtroom to have portions of testimony read.

The Sheriff's Department is maintaining the tight security procedures that have been followed throughout the 15-week trial. All persons entering the courtroom are still subjected to a thorough search, since all future open sessions involving the jury, however brief, will also require the presence of the defendant.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker gave the seven-man, five-woman jury four possible verdicts in his instructions Monday: (1) guilty of first-degree murder, (2) guilty of second-degree murder, (3) guilty of manslaughter or (4) acquittal.

## Penalty Not Involved

In this phase of deliberations, the jurors are under orders not to consider any question of what penalty should be imposed on Sirhan for the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. At this point, they are to decide only on the question of guilt or innocence.

If Sirhan is convicted of first-degree murder, a penalty phase of the trial will follow, in which the jury must decide between death in the gas chamber or life imprisonment.

Should the jury return a lesser verdict, Sirhan will be sentenced by the court.

The jury elected Bruce D. Elliott, 28, as its foreman late Monday before retiring for the day. Elliott, who has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering, is a systems analyst for TRW Systems. He lives in Redondo Beach.