

# TOP PSYCHOLOGIST WHO TESTED SIRHAN CALLS DOCTORS' TESTIMONY.... '...The Psychiatric Blunder of the 20th Century...'

A prominent California psychologist hotly challenges the psychiatric testimony given at Sirhan Sirhan's murder trial. He brands it "the psychiatric blunder of the 20th Century."

This statement by Dr. Eduard Simson is just one of the many conflicting aspects of the investigation of the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Dr. Simson, of Monterey, a psychologist for 17 years with thoroughgoing professional credentials, evaluated Sirhan while the doctor was in charge of San Quentin prison's psychological testing program.

In a recent affidavit made available to TATTLER, Dr. Simson wrote:

"During the summer of 1969, I interviewed and tested extensively and repeatedly during approximately 20 weekly visits one particular inmate on Death Row, Sirhan Sirhan."

After the doctor's visits with Sirhan were terminated, Sirhan sent word to Dr. Simson through his family that he wanted the psychologist to review the psychiatric testimony given at the trial.

After talking to ballistics expert William W. Harper, who contends two gunmen were involved in the assassination, Dr. Simson agreed to review the murder trial testimony.

"I AM APPALLED," Dr. Simson said, "at the conduct of the mental health professionals involved in this case."

He said he and Dr. David G. Schmidt, the San Quentin prison chief psychiatrist, concurred that the findings sworn to during Sirhan's trial were utterly at odds with their own, more leisurely examination.

"Nowhere in Sirhan's test responses was I able to find evidence that he is a 'paranoid schizophrenic' or 'psychotic,' as testified by the doctors at the trial," Dr. Simson stressed.

He accused other doctors of "bias and errors" in "IQ" testing of Sirhan.

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Dr. Eduard Simson, a psychologist for 17 years, examined Sirhan in 20 weekly visits while he was imprisoned in San Quentin.

'Sirhan is not and never has been a paranoid schizophrenic,' the noted physician said, contrary to testimony at the trial.

Simson's tests showed Sirhan scored a verbal IQ of 129 (very superior), a performance IQ of 119 (bright and normal) and a full-scale IQ of 127 (superior). Doctors at Sirhan's trial testified that Sirhan had a verbal IQ of 109 (average), a performance IQ of 82 (dull to normal) and a full scale IQ of 98 (average).

Dr. Simson is convinced that Sirhan performed below his true intelligence in the first tests because as an Arab, he distrusted and did not want to cooperate with Jewish doctors.

Simson said other doctors erred because of the widespread preconception that Sirhan killed Kennedy.



"HAD THEY KNOWN the ballistics evidence strongly contradicts Sirhan having killed Robert F. Kennedy, their approach to interpreting Sirhan's test responses and spontaneous behavior would have been different," he observed.

The court psychiatrists and psychologists could never "unlock" Sirhan's mind because he did not trust them, Dr. Simson found.

"I was well on my way to accomplishing this task, but could not complete it because my visits with Sirhan were abruptly terminated by San Quentin's associate warden James Park," said Dr. Simson.

The psychiatric-psychological court team, Dr. Simson said, pooled their efforts to prove Sirhan was guilty and insane: A paranoid schizophrenic.

"Subsequent studies I have done in a more neutral, trusting relationship at San Quentin clearly point out the simple truth: Sirhan is not and was never a paranoid schizophrenic."

SIRHAN IS THE CENTER of a drama, "the true center of which probably still lies very much concealed and unknown to the general public," Dr. Simson said.

"Was he merely a double, a stand-in, sent there to draw attention?" Dr. Simson asked.

"Was he at the scene to replace someone else? Did he actually kill Robert Kennedy? Whatever the full truth of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination might be, it still remains locked in Sirhan's mind and in other, still-anonymous minds."

Entries in notebooks found in Sirhan's home indicated his guilt in the assassination.

But Dr. Simson said Sirhan denies having written these entries.

"I strongly suspect the notebooks are a forgery, for the thinking reflected in them is foreign to the Sirhan I carefully studied," Dr. Simon concluded.