Sirhan Expert Used Words Like a Book's

3/14/69

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 13—A series of striking similarities were noted today between the language of a psychologist's report on the mental condition of Sirhan B. Sirhan and that of a case study in a book by a New York criminal psychiatrist.

The psychologist in the Sirhan case, Dr. Martin M. Schorr of the San Diego County Hospital, acknowledged that he was familiar with the book, entitled "A Case Book of a Crime Psychiatrist," by Dr. James A. Brussel, former As-

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PURPLE. Look THAT up in your Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary. (Advt.)

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sistant Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for the State of New York. But he denied plagiarizing any part of it.

"I know I read the book," Dr. Schorr said in an interview during the midmorning trial, "but I know it was prior to the trial." Then he added: "You use pretty much the same language when you talk about cases."

Later, at lunch, the psychologist said: "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."

Noted by Newspaper Reader

The similarities were noticed by a reader of The New York Times who saw part of Dr. Schorr's report in today's editions of the newspaper. The reader, a New York resident who asked that she not be identified called The Times and said she had borrowed Dr. Brussel's book from a library yesterday and, after reading it, was struck by the seemingly familiar words when she saw the newspaper account.

In his testimony yesterday, Dr. Schorr, a defense witness, was allowed by the prosecution to read several excerpts from a four-page report that he had prepared on Sirhan after administering a battery of tests to the admitted killer of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The tests, which included the Rorschach ink blot and other standard personality and emotional measuring tests, were given to Sirhan last Nov. 25 and 26 in his jail cell. Dr. Schorr said he wrote his report about a month later.

The book by Dr. Brussel was published in October, 1968, by Bernard Geis Associates.

The portion of Dr. Brussel's book that Dr. Schorr's report resembled was found on pages 81 and 82, where Dr. Brussel was describing from available clues the hypothetical mental state of a murderer who stabbed and killed a Mrs. Mary Nerich in Queens Village on Dec. 23, 1957.

Report Written in Hour

Early this morning, before the trial resumed for the day and before he was told of the similarity in language, dr. Schorr said that his final four-page report had been derived from a nine-page report that he had prepared on Sirhan. He said it had taken him "only about an hour" to write the final version.

Asked if it ws epossible to make that involved a diagnosis of Sirhan's mental and emotional state from the results of the tests he had given the prisoner, the psychologist said it was "easily done, once I got the scores of the tests arranged in front of me."

Dr. Schorr has now been on the witness stand for four days. After giving the results of the tests administered to Sirhan, which took two days of testimony, the psychologist has been under heavy pressure from a prosecution attorney to admit to errors in his scoring of th etests.

Thus far, Dr. Schorr appears to be holding his own under the intense cross-examination. In several exchanges, he told Assistant District Attorney John Howard that the scoring of the tests was standard. Once he said, rather sharply, that he could not argue about the ink blot test scoring "because that's the way Rorschach set it up."

Dr. Schorr, a slight, nervous man with a taste that runs to green suits, said in discussing the similarity in language between his report and Dr. Brussel's case study: "My training was in intrapsychics and so was his. Therefore we think alike."

"One phrase Dr. Brussel has used for paranoids, for example," he continued, "is 'champion grudg-haters.' I liked the

...e Case Study in '68 Book

Associated Press

Dr. James A. Brussel

description so much, I've used it many times."

In court today, the prosecution continued playing a long series of tape recordings made at the interrogation of Sirhan by the police in the hours following his arrest.

Although nothing new or dramatic has come out of the tapes, the prosecution is apparently going to question Dr. Schorr on some of his findings as against the material heard on the tapes.

In the recordings, Sirhan consistently refuses to give his name, declines to say anything about the crime and occasionally becomes the interrogator, asking the policemen about thei families, their work and past cases.

Suit Is Threatened

By ISRAEL SHENKER

Dr. Brussel, who is vacationing on Young Island, a tiny resort island 600 feet south of St. Vincent Island in the West Indies, said yesterday that he recognized his words in the report of Dr. Schorr as read to him by telephone.

"I'm flattered that he quotes me," Dr. Brussel said, "but I had priority. I hope Bernard Geis sues. Everybody likes to make money."

Mr. Geis, director of the publishing company, said yesterday: "To steal a man's words is bad enough, but to steal his mind compounds the injury."

He said he "would definitely sue," adding: "I'm flabbergasted. That's the most fantastic thing, that a guy would testify that way. I don't know how much we'll sue for — I'll have to consult my lawyer."

Dr. Brussel, who is 63 years old, served from 1952 to 1966 as Assistant Commissioner of Mental Hygiene for New York State, in charge of New York City services for the department. In 1966 he was appointed director of historical research in the same rank of assistant commissioner. Last month he retired.

He is a prolific author. His books include "Just Murder, Darling," and "The Layman's Guide to Psychiatry." He is coauthor of the "Layman's Dictionary of Psychiatry," and he wrote the sections on psychiatry for Collier's Encyclopedia and for the "Yearbook of Medicine" published annually by Parents Magazine. Dr. Brussel is an associate editor of Psychiatric Quarterly. He lives in Manhattan.

Dr. Schorr, who is 45, earned his bachelor of arts degree at Adelphi University in Garden City, L. I., in 1949. He did graduate work at the University of Texas and Purdue University and obtained his Ph.D. at Denve University.

He came to San Diego in 1961 and opened a private practice that he still maintains. He went to work for San Diego County in 1962 and was assigned to psychological testing work on inmates at the San Diego County honor camps. He has been a staff psychologist at the San Diego County Hospital for the last four years.

The passages quoted on this page from Dr. Brussel's book appear in a chapter about the "Christmas Eve Killer."

Dr. Brussel tells how the Queens homicide department called him for help with the fatal stabbing of Mrs. Mary Nerich on a sidewalk in Queens Village two days before Christmas. On the basis of the few clues available, Dr. Brussel provided a description of the kind of person who might have committed the crime—and told the police how they might ago abou finding the criminal.

He suggested the man — or boy — they were looking for would be "schizophrenic . . . thin for his height, small-framed," adding in the book's account: "I pictured him as a mother-tied, timid, weak little shrimp . . . a loner, lacking friends, brooding by himself . . . watches TV, reads comic books . . . His work record, if he has worked at all, is spotty at beat. . . . I don't see him as a trouble-maker in school or anywhere else. I doubt that he's even committed a misdemeanor before

In the end, the police picked up a boy of 16 who fitted the description. Dr. Brussel reports that the police congratulated him on his sleuthing — and expressed wonder about his medods.

In his description of Sirhan, Dr. Schorr has been saying that the defendant is a paranoid personality with tendencies toward schizophrenia adn hypomania.

The fundamental paper dealing with the mechanism of paranoia and the paranoid form of schizophrenia is the discussion of the Schreber case by Sigmund Freud in volume III of his Collected Papers.

In Dr. Schorr's testimony, and in Dr. Brussel's book, the technicalities of Dr. Freud are smoothed into more accessible language.

Dr. Brussel was called in on the Christmas Eve Murder case because of his success in identifying — on the basis of available clues, his own psychiatric training and experience, intuition and more formal reasoning — what sort of person New York's Mad Bomber might be.

During the years 1940-1957, the Mad Bomber terrified New Yorkers by setting off increasingly large explosions around the city.

Dr. Brussel went on to further celebrated cases, such as that of the Boston Strangler.

His casebook deals with seven criminal cases and his role in the use of deduction (like Sherlock Holmes, said Gerold Frank, the author, in his introduction to Dr. Brussel's work) to provide leads that might help in their solution.

The book has sold more than 20,000 copies. One review appeared in Los Angeles, site of the Sirhan trial, on Nov. 11 in The Los Angeles Times.

From Book and Report

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 13—Following are excerpts from a report read to the jury yesterday in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan by Dr. Martin M. Schorr, a psychologist, and excerpts from a book, "Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist," by Dr. James A. Brussel, published in 1968 by Bernard Geis Associates:

Dr. Schorr

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.

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

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.

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 had denied him: her love.