Sirhan 'Disturbed,' Trial Told

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LOS ANGELES, March 11—The white card in front of him was completely blank, but Sirhan Bishara Sirhan kept staring at it. At length, he said that it reminded him of Moshe Dayan, the Israeli Defense Minister.

Sirhan said he could even see a bullet crashing through Dayan's brain.

The psychologist sitting next to Sirhan kept prodding.

"Where, in relation to this picture, might you be standing if you were part of the scene?"

"Part of the scene?" Sirhan fired back indignantly. "I am the scene. I'm the one killing him."

Psychologist Testifies

The psychologist, Martin M. Schorr, recounted the bizarre episode on the witness stand today.

He said he had no doubt that Sirhan was "psychotically disturbed" not only during the interview last November that produced visions of Dayan, but also at the Ambassador Hotel last June 5 when he shot down Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, the psychologist declared, considers himself "above all laws."

The 24-year-old Arab immigrant's hang-ups over Israel stood out sharply as his defense attorneys continued putting forth what amounts to a public psychoanalysis of an assasin.

Schorr recalled trying out a few word-associations on Sirhan in his interview of the defendant in jail last Nov. 25-26.

The psychologist tossed out the word, "hate." Sirhan responded with "Jews."

Schorr picked up the word, "Jews," and asked Sirhan to blurt out what came to his mind after that. Sirhan said, "Nazis."

'Like a Puppet'

Schorr testified that he considered Sirhan incapable of controlling his hostilities and that he was driven "like a puppet on a string" by the musings of his private, persecution-ridden mind.

The visions of Dayan, he told Sirhan's jurors, came at the end of a so-called Thematic Apperception Test involving a set of "ambiguous pictures" that could mean anything to the beholder. They are used, Schorr said, to prompt patients to tell stories about the pictures that might give an insight into their "private worlds."

Handed one of a man under a street light, with the background almost completely dark, Sirhan told the psychologist:

"He's lonely. He has no hope, no family, no country. It reminds me of me. Perhaps he's thinking of killing himself."

The blank card came last. Sirhan, Schorr said, "looked at me in a perplexed way" at first, but the psychologist told him to keep staring until something came to mind. Finally Sirhan said he saw Dayan.

"This is the figure of that arrogant, self-assured bastard," the slender immigrant burst out, "with the victorious smirk on his face.

"This is the true picture of the conquerer. It's that Minister in Israel, Moshe Dayan, and he's looking down at people. But there's a bullet crashing through his brain at the height of his glory."

Schorr said he found Sirhan a loner full of thoughts of suicide, with women, perhaps because of his mother who raised him almost single-handed, predominant in his life.

Elaborating on the "loner" theme, Schorr said:

"He's a Semite, but not a Jew. An Arab, but not a Moslem. He has a family, but not a father. He's an immigrant, but not an American. Edward Everrett Hale may have been a man without a country, but this man goes a step further. He's a man without an identity."

Sirhan's preoccupation with small "picayune" details was also striking, the psychologiest said. Sirhan, he testified, might remember the four digits on a policeman's badge the night of the assassination, but not the assassination itself. Schoor said he considered this quite consistent with a man governed by his own ideas, fantasies and emotions to the exclusion of the outside world.

Prosecutor's Position

Chief Deputy District Attorney Lynn D. ompton indicated to newsmen during a recess that the prosecution would not contest the contention that Sirhan has "paranoid feelings."

But he said it would quarrel vigorously with the defense claim that this should excuse the slender Arab of the first-degree murder charge facing him.

As he understood the psychiatric evidence coming up, Compton said, the dividing line between so-called normal and psychotic behavior "can be simply the intensity of feeling."

"What they're saying," the prosecutor added of Sirhan's lawyers, "is that if you hate a little and kill someone, you're culpable. But not if you hate a lot. That doesn't make sense to me.

"If you're going to excuse (the assassination) on grounds of mental illness, I suppose you're going to have to excuse everybody who does that type of thing."