

primary.

Jury Hears Tape Telling Of Slaying

By William Shumann
Washington Post Staff Writer

A tape recording made by a murder defendant while under the influence of a drug that is used to unlock the subconscious mind was played yesterday for an Arlington Circuit Court jury.

The recording was introduced by the defense in the case of Kenneth R. White, 25, of Wythe County, Va., accused in the beating and stabbing death of Eugene A. Kish, 32, in Kish's Arlington Towers apartment last April 3.

White has pleaded innocent, his lawyers arguing that he acted under "an irresistible impulse" and should not be held accountable for his actions at the time of the slaying.

Dr. Wilbur A. Hammon, the psychiatrist who administered the drug sodium pentathol to White, said the case is the first in Virginia in which such a tape recording has been played for a jury.

Permission Given

Dr. Hammon testified that he got White's permission to administer the drug at Arlington Hospital last Feb. 16 after he was unable during five months of interviews to get the defendant to give a complete account of his actions when Kish was killed.

In several hours of testimony, Dr. Hammon recounted his analysis of White's psychiatric history and White's mental state when he arrived in Washington on April 2.

The all-male jury then heard a two-hour tape in which White, whose last job was driving a Norfolk bus, said that he and Kish met in Washington and went to the Arlington apartment. While

under the drug, White said that Kish performed a homosexual act on him.

Upset as a result of leaving his wife, being involved in a homosexual act and then being ignored by Kish, White said he hit the victim with several objects and then stabbed him several times. On tape, he said he took Kish's money, car and television set to make it appear someone broke in and robbed the victim.

Richmond Arrest

White was arrested two days later in Richmond after he met a stranger in a drive-in restaurant there and told him about the killing and robbery.

The prosecutor, assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Donald S. Caruthers Jr., has argued that White came to Washington to rob a homosexual and killed Kish during a robbery.

Prosecutors generally object to playing such tapes because they may create sympathy for the defendant, while defense attorneys say the tapes give a jury a better idea of a defendant's true mental state than a psychiatrist's testimony.

Judge William L. Winston ruled yesterday that the jury should not regard the tape as evidence but only as supporting testimony to Dr. Hammon's opinion.

White's trial will continue today. He is being defended by Court-appointed attorneys Roy E. Batchelor Jr. and Lucy Logan.