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SIRHAN'S TRIAL CAN BE DELAYED

Defense Asks Court for Postponement

By GENE HANDSAKER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The defense proposed Friday postponing until after Christmas and New Year's holidays the Nov. 1 trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Attorney Russell E. Parsons, representing the 24-year-old Jordanian, told a court he will argue the postponement motion at a hearing Oct. 14.

In a case of "this magnitude," he said, the jury should be "sequestered" — locked up — nights in a hotel. Also, he said, "There will be Christmas, shopping, visitations between people and New Year's."

EARLY DECEMBER

Preliminary phases of the trial could start in early December, he said, but before the jury is finally selected and sworn the trial should be postponed.

The 69-year-old defense lawyer's delay proposal highlighted a five-minute hearing—in a tightly guarded, makeshift courtroom 50 steps from Sirhan's 13th-floor jail cell.

The slim, swarthy defendant, clad in the same dark trousers, pale blue shirt and black loafers he wore at five previous court appearances, waved and smiled at his mother Mary and brother Munir, 21, seated across the room.

JUDGE WALKER

Superior Court Judge Richard

Schauer, presiding at preliminary stages of the case, formally announced that Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker would be the trial judge. Walker, 69, a criminal-bench veteran who sent "redlight bandit" Caryl Chessman to the gas chamber, attended the session.

Judge Schauer set Oct. 14 for Judge Walker to hear Parsons' postponement plea and two motions made previously by the defense lawyer.

One is for "discovery of evidence"—witnesses' statements, doctors' reports, Sirhan's jailers' observations and photographs, movies and transcripts.

The other seeks to suppress unspecified evidence Parsons claims was seized in Sirhan's Pasadena home by authorities who lacked a search or arrest warrant.

4 MONTHS LATER

Friday's hearing came four months to the day after Sen. Kennedy won California's June 4 Democratic presidential primary.

He was shot just after addressing a throng of supporters. Bystanders seized Sirhan.

After Friday's hearing Parsons told reporters the FBI has compiled "an inch-thick volume" on the case. He said it's in the hands of Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger and is part of the evidence he seeks in the discovery motion.

The lawyer said he continues to receive threats. "My family has asked me to get out of the case," he added. "They think I'm a damn fool for getting into it. But I've never given up one in my life."