

Sirhan Jurors Face Secret Questioning

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some questioning of prospective jurors in the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan trial will be conducted behind closed doors, the defense says.

Grant B. Cooper, one of three lawyers defending the 24-year-old Jordanian charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, revealed plans for the secret questioning during an impromptu news conference Thursday at the end of the third day of Sirhan's trial. The trial was in recess today. Jury selection is expected to start Monday.

Cooper said Judge Herbert V. Walker wants prospective jurors cross-examined individually in the privacy of his chambers in areas "of a sensitive nature."

Cooper defined as sensitive any questioning about opinions prospective jurors might have on Sirhan's guilt or innocence—"What they may have seen on television or read in the newspaper."

But Cooper said questions about the death penalty would be asked in open court. He said the secret questioning was "unprecedented in this jurisdiction."

Sirhan appeared for the nine-minute court session, then retired to the judge's chambers with defense attorneys and prosecutors to hear private testimony from radio newsmen about publicity in the case.

The defendant was dressed in a new blue-gray suit and tie. He was accompanied by two guards.

While the judge spoke in opening the session, Sirhan turned in his chair and, eyebrows arched, searched the rear row of the courtroom for his family.

For the first time since his trial began Tuesday, his mother Mary and his brothers Adel, 29, and Munir, 21, all were absent.

Sirhan appeared disappointed. Most of the day's proceedings took place in the chamber as the defense tried to show Sirhan's case was damaged by news stories and similar coverage.

Ten radio newsmen and a man who runs a private broadcast monitoring service were

subpoenaed to testify in the chambers.

Each was instructed not to discuss publicly what was said—and all followed instructions.

"Boys, I've been given the warning," said Herb Humphreys, news editor for station KFWE, Los Angeles. "So hello and goodbye."

Before the jury selection be-

gins Monday, the defense is expected to make another closed-door attempt before Walker to have the list of prospective jurors set aside.

Sirhan's lawyers contend prospective trial jurors and grand jurors are selected in Los Angeles County in a way that counters court opinion that juries should be representative of

"a true cross section of the community."

Hippies Banned

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP)—The Salvadorean government Thursday banned the entry of foreign hippies. Col. Jose Angel Berdugo, immigration chief, called them "a social menace."