

Briton Says Americans Not 'Sick'

LONDON (AP) — Americans are not sick, says a British writer, and if another country had been "so shaken by political and racial violence, a revolution would have occurred or at least the government would have fallen."

John Pilger of the London Daily Mirror wrote from New York that the great majority of Americans are among the most law-abiding people in the world but this fact "appears to have been lost in the emotion over Robert Kennedy's death."

"What is wrong with America is not Americans, but the very law and order they are being called upon to uphold. The gun laws, by their weakness, have simply allowed a disease to spread," he said.

Dr. Hiroshi Minami, a Japanese psychologist who lived in the United States for seven years, wrote in the Japanese weekly Asahi magazine: "In America, democracy is not quite widespread, the Civil War

still hasn't completely ended. And the politicians, with vigorous greed for power and prestige, engage in politics with a do-or-die attitude that in no way can be comparable to what takes place in Japan.

"In this respect, the assassinations of the two Kennedys do not appear too mysterious to me.

"Individually speaking, however, the Americans are 'open' and 'energetic,' possessing still many of the virtues of the pioneer spirit."

The Times of London predicted that the Democrats will nominate Hubert H. Humphrey for president and the Republicans will choose Richard M. Nixon.

"But," it said, "it grows ever plainer that this is not the choice that the American public wants to consider in the autumn."

The Times suggested that American voters want to choose among new men with new ideas. A presidential contest between Eugene J. McCarthy and Nelson A. Rockefeller would "have real meaning, and the winner would face America's problems in the right atmosphere for leadership," the Times said.

The West German magazine Neue Illustrierte Revue carried a report on the American Negro woman.

"As strange as it may appear, the black women in the United States are the real stalwarts of the 'Black Power,'" wrote Gerd Schmitt-Hausser. "They are far more advanced than the men—and that creates social uneasiness in the black society . . .

"The Negro woman was never regarded as a threat by the white society. She was an object of lust or the good old Negro mammy, the household factotum. This way she could very well earn her and her family's living—in the street or in the house. No wonder that she began to despise the often jobless and no good black man who reacted by having inferiority complexes."

Tiger When Aroused

Post 6.28.68

Underdog Lawyer To Defend Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A wispy, silver-haired lawyer who looks like a small-town banker but turns into a tiger in the courtroom will defend Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Russell E. Parsons' own description of his 40-year career is perhaps a clue to his taking what undoubtedly will be his most famous case: "I've been journeyman lawyer."

Parsons will work without fee in behalf of the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant charged with shooting Kennedy in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel on the morning of June 5.

He indicates he may argue that Sirhan suffered from brain damage. But he declined to specify his strategy and admitted only that he is defending another client who suffered a type of brain damage.

A psychiatrist will examine Sirhan "from the tops of his shoes to the tip of his head," Parsons said.

After an American Civil Lib-

erties Union attorney announced Sirhan's selection, newsmen ascended to Parsons' fourth-floor Civic Center office and found:

— A 69-year-old legal veteran who has tried about 5,000 cases and on appeal won California's celebrated "Cahan decision" barring illegally acquired evidence.

— A wiry, 5-foot-7, 137-pound man, hawk-faced, with thinning hair combed straight back... piercing blue eyes behind thin-rimmed spectacles... snappy answers in a shallow voice.

"He seems quiet," said an associate, "but in court he roars."

Said others: "He's an orator of the old school... in the tradition of Clarence Darrow"... "Lawyer's lawyer," and—

"When he argues to a jury, chills go up and down your spine."

On the street, they said, he unflinchingly contributes to panhandlers and blind peddlers. Twice a grandfather, he walks two or three miles a night, goes deer hunting annually in Utah and escapes on weekends with his wife Victoria to their home in Palm Springs.

But his only real hobby is the law, at which he puts in 12-hour days.

Parsons was born near downtown Los Angeles where his contractor father helped build the 3rd Street tunnel after helping build the Palace Hotel in San Francisco, the U.S. Grant Hotel in San Diego and Hotel Utah opposite the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City.

"I'm a Jack Mormon, which means not a very good one," said Parsons. "I don't smoke, I don't swear much and I drink not at all—I used to but not much."

He looks upon the Sirhan case as "a big assignment, a tremendous responsibility. Any criminal case is."