

Plea of Sirhan Again Delayed

Psychiatrists Are Given Time for Reports

By GENE HANDSAKER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Newly jaunty and smiling, but foot-tappingly nervous, the young Jordanian charged with assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy received Friday.

Another postponement of his plea, this time for two weeks to Aug. 2, so psychiatrists can complete their reports on him.

—Apparent assurance of sleeping pills because, his attorney told newsmen, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan "hasn't been resting too well."

—Authorization for X-ray and electric-wave studies of his brain. The lawyer said that in another case he handled, such tests led to the defendant's being found insane and that he went to a state mental hospital instead of being executed.

The defense counsel, Russell E. Parsons, had indicated previously he may try to show Sirhan suffered brain damage in falling from a horse about a year ago.

Friday, Parsons said also that Sirhan and his mother pray together during her visits to his cell and that the defendant has



—AP WIREPHOTO.
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN
Receives postponement.

been reading about another assassinated leader, Mohandas K.

Gandhi.

ARMOR PLATE

The swarthy, slightly built Sirhan, 24, strode swiftly into the makeshift courtroom—with armor plate on the windows for protection—where about 100 newsmen and other spectators waited on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

It is about 30 steps along a twisting, 4-foot-wide corridor from the cell where six deputies guard him constantly.

In contrast to his deadpanned court appearance three weeks ago, Sirhan was not surrounded by deputies as he entered. But as before, spectators were searched and 12 deputies guarded the room.

Also as before, the 5-foot-3, 110-pound Sirhan wore a light blue shirt, open at the throat; tight black pants, and black loafers.

At the counsel table he folded his bony hands, brushed a cheek with his left hand, chewed the inside of his right cheek, jiggled his right heel. His fingernails appeared chewed down.

Often he shot tight-lipped smiles at his brother Adel, 29, a spectator.

Once he misunderstood a question from Superior Judge Richard Schauer, replying in a mumble inaudible to spectators. The court reporter later trans-

lated his reply: "I have constantly asked for a sleeping pill."

QUESTION EXPLAINED

Parsons explained to Sirhan that the question was: Would he

waive his physician-patient privilege to let psychiatrists examine records of the jail physician? Sirhan nodded, and Parsons said they so waived.

Parsons told reporters later,

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of the pills: "I assume the doctor will do his duty and give the man sleeping pills if he needs them."

As the approximately 15-minute hearing started, Parsons said Sirhan was not ready to plead because the lawyer had received only two preliminary reports from one appointed psy-

chiatrist, Dr. Eric Marcus, and none from the other, Dr. George Abe.

Attorney Parsons asked that Dr. Edward Davis be appointed to take a Sirhan encephalogram—an X-ray photo of the brain. Parsons' investigator, Michael A. McCowan, told a reporter later that Parsons meant electro-

encephalogram or "EEG" — a graph produced by an instrument for measuring and recording electric activity of the brain. But, McCowan added: "He thinks the examination will include both the picture and the EEG."

Parsons asked the judge also that Dr. Roderick Richardson, a

psychologist, be appointed to assist and report to Dr. Marcus.