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Sirhan Sirhan, 24, suspect in shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, is hustled out of Los Angeles hotel after being subdued. Behind him is Jesse Unruh, speaker of State Assembly and Kennedy's California manager.

Suspect Is Native Of Jordan

Reported Flip, Unremorseful Man of 24

By William Chapman
Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, June 5
— A 24-year-old native of Jordan, described by interrogators as unremorseful and occasionally flippant, was identified by Los Angeles police today as the suspect seized in the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, who lives in Pasadena, refused to discuss the shooting although he talked freely and articulately today about other matters, police said.

According to Police Chief Thomas Reddin, the suspect's identity was traced through the .22 caliber pistol seized after the shooting in the Ambassador Hotel and through fingerprints taken when he applied for a racetrack job.

No Motive Uncovered

Police investigators said they had not determined a motive for the shooting and had no evidence the suspect had been hired by anyone. In his pockets, they found a newspaper article critical of Kennedy and four \$100 bills.

Reddin said he would not rule out the possibility of a conspiracy involving other persons but he insisted there is no evidence now to suggest that one existed.

[Sirhan was considered by acquaintances to be a "virulent anti-Semite," Jerry Cohen of the Los Angeles Times reported.

[John H. Wiedner, operator of Organic of Pasadena, a

health food chain where Sirhan worked as a stock and delivery boy until April, called him "a good worker, an honest man."

["But he had a lot of complexes, mainly related to Israel," said Wiedner. "He claimed when he was young he had seen some people, maybe some relatives, killed by Israelis.

Kennedy Pledge Recalled

["Sen. Kennedy said the other day he wanted to help Israel. So I was not surprised

." [The same theme was echoed by Dr. Mohammad T. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, in New York City.

[The Associated Press See SUSPECT, A15, Col. 1

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quoted Mehdi as saying that Sirhan "may have been inflamed" by Sen. Kennedy's backing of the Israeli cause during his TV debate with Sen. Eugene S. McCarthy (D-Minn.).

["It is this disrespect for the human Arab person which brings about this kind of violence," Mehdi said. He added that Sirhan was active in the Organization of Arab Students while attending Pasadena State College.

[In a formal statement Mehdi said: "We condemn the fact that Senator Kennedy had kowtowed to the Zionist pressure to the detriment of American interest in the Middle East, as we condemn the act of Mr. Sirhan."]

A swarthy, slender man,

Sirhan was arraigned in Los Angeles Municipal Court this morning and then held in the Los Angeles County jail.

According to Lt. Jack Eberhardt, an executive aide to Reddin, interrogators found Sirhan articulate but adamant in his refusal to discuss either the shooting or his political views.

"He's bantering with the investigators at this point," Eberhardt said. "He's flip."

But Eberhardt said that Sirhan talked eagerly about one subject — a sensational local murder case last year in which a Los Angeles County deputy district attorney was convicted of killing his wife and her lover. Sirhan brought up the case several times and was interested in whether the convicted murderer, Jack Kirshke,

would win freedom in his appeal.

Sirhan was born March 19, 1944, in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem and entered the United States through New York City Jan. 12, 1957, according to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. He was then classed as a permanent resident, the Service said.

Both his first and last names mean "wanderer" in Arabic.

Sirhan and two brothers, Munir (Joe) and Adel, live with their mother, Mary Sirhan, an employe of a Pasadena church nursery in Pasadena. There are unconfirmed reports that his father returned several years ago to an as yet undetermined Arab country. One source said Sirhan has two other brothers in the area.

Sirhan Sirhan graduated in 1963 from John Muir High School in Pasadena before going to Pasadena State. According to the Los Angeles Times, classmates considered him "polite, clean and an A-1 student."

Munir and Adel Sirhan were being questioned by police late in the day and were described as "cooperative."

Identification of Sirhan Sirhan — who had refused throughout the night to tell police his name — was announced at a press conference this morning by Los Angeles Mayor Sam Yorty.

Later Yorty said a "diary of hate" kept by Sirhan carried the declaration that "Kennedy had to be assassinated before June 5, 1968" (first anniversary of the Arab-Israeli war). Police confirmed that

two notebooks of Sirhan's were found at his Pasadena home and brought to the police station.

Each had about 20 pages of reflections of an anti-American "pro-Communist" nature, Yorty said, although he said there was no indication linking Sirhan with the Communist Party.

Some of the writing was in English and some in Arabic.

A fellow worker at Hollywood Park racetrack said Sirhan recently fell off a horse trying to become a jockey. He worked briefly there as a "hot walker," riding sweaty horses to cool them off.

"When there was trouble between Jordan and Israel, he would become inflamed," the Associated Press quoted John Shear, an assistant trainer as saying. "Since I wasn't inter-

ested in politics I would not discuss it. But he was violently pro-Jordan and anti-Israeli."

[Sirhan was arraigned before Municipal Court Judge Joan Dempsey Klein at 7:40 a.m., according to the Los Angeles Times. The Times said Police Chief Reddin and District Attorney Evelle J. Younger decided to charge and arraign him as soon as possible to eliminate any possibility that Sirhan could meet the fate that befell Lee Harvey Oswald, slain after the assassination of President Kennedy in 1963.]

The arraignment was secret. Sirhan talked informally for several minutes with County Public Defender Richard Buckley. Judge Klein then asked twice: "Do you have a name?"



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Suspect's mother, Mary Sirhan, sobs in friend's arms.