

Sirhan Granted 3 Weeks

By Joseph A. St. Amant
LOS ANGELES, June 28 (UPI)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, surrounded by guards in a jail chapel turned into a court room, today was granted an additional three weeks to enter his plea on charges he assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The 24-year-old defendant displayed an icy calm when he appeared before Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer and spoke only a half-dozen words in response to questions from the court.

He showed a moment of nervousness when he entered the makeshift courtroom, flanked by five deputy sheriffs who towered over him. As he walked up a step to the counsel table Sirhan nervously stroked his upper lip with his right forefinger.

At the end of the nine-minute hearing he arose from the table and started to leave. He stumbled over the first step but recovered himself.

The motion for a continuance was made by Defense Counsel Russell E. Parsons, who pointed out that he was just recently named as attorney for Sirhan and had had only a limited time to study the case.

The Judge granted the continuance until July 19 at 9 A.M. and the District Attorney's office, represented by John Howard and David Fitts made no objection.

Sirhan was clad in a long-sleeved light blue shirt, open at the neck, black slacks and black shoes. His hair appeared to have been freshly cut.

After he sat down Judge Schauer asked, "Are you the defendant Sirhan B. Sirhan?"

"Yes, sir," Sirhan replied in precise English.

Later in the proceedings, Judge Schauer explained

that time was running out on a 60-day time limit for bringing a defendant to trial after the date of indictment.

Parsons said he would waive the time limit and the Judge asked Sirhan if he agreed.

"Yes, sir, I do," said Sirhan after a whispered conference with Parsons.

The proceedings were witnessed by about 125 newsmen and a few members of the public. There were 12 uniformed deputies spaced about the chapel courtroom.

Sirhan's brother Adel, was also there, escorted by a half-dozen plainclothes sheriffs detectives.

No one was permitted to

More to Enter Plea

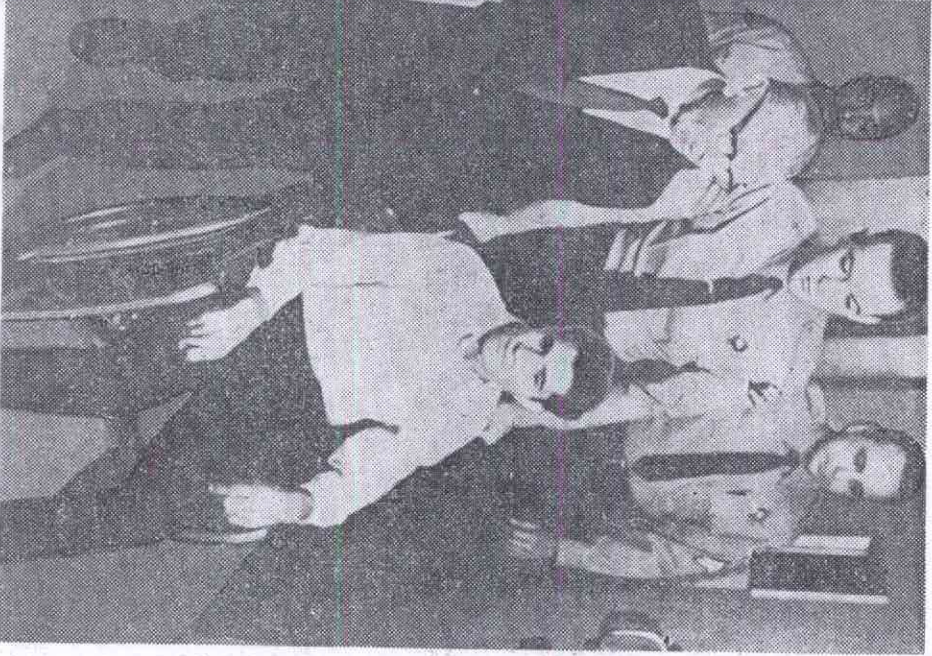
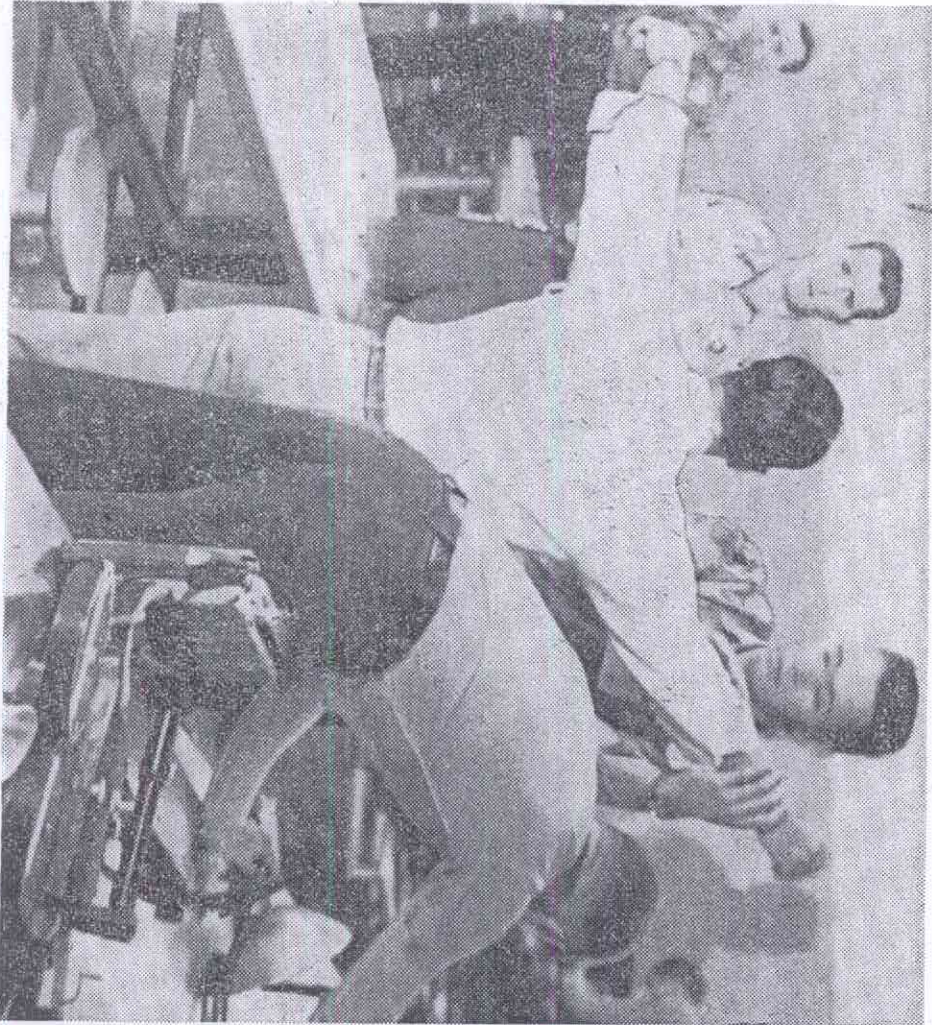
leave the courtroom until Sheriff Peter Pitchess returned to the room, indicating that Sirhan was back in his maximum security cell.

Newsmen and all other spectators were "frisked" on the way in. Their names were taken on a register at the ground floor waiting room.

Then they were escorted to the third floor and given another and more severe frisking in a mess hall near the chapel. Pen knives, fingernail clippers and any other potential weapons

No cameras or recording equipment were allowed in the court room.

Post 6-29-68



Newsman are searched for weapons inside Los Angeles County Jail chapel where hearing was held for Sirhan B. Sirhan. At right, Sirhan, treated recently for a leg injury, is wheeled out after winning delay. He got to his feet during hearing.

Associated Press-United Press International