

# SIRHAN GIVEN 3-WEEK DELAY

T-P 6-29-68  
Appears at Heavily  
Guarded Hearing

By GENE HANDSAKER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan—slight, erect, expressionless—walked into a heavily guarded jail chapel Friday and received a three-week postponement of his plea to a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"Yes, sir," the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant responded politely three times to the judge's questions. Sirhan was nearly dwarfed by four husky sheriff's deputies who stood near him throughout the nine-minute hearing.

The delay was asked by veteran criminal attorney Russell E. Parsons, who took over Sirhan's defense, at the accused's re-



—AP WIREPHOTO.  
SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN  
Leaves Friday hearing.

quest and without fee, nine days ago. Parsons said he had only "limited time" to study the transcript of grand jury testimony.

The hearing was held in the chapel of the Los Angeles County Central Jail—a large, oblong, plain room with oak pews for about 350 persons.

Around 175 attended—news-men, plainclothes detectives, a score or more members of the public. Sirhan's brother Adel, 29, escorted by several police detectives, was a front-row spectator.

Security measures were extreme. Deputies frisked spectators—even Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess—as they reached the building. Pocket knives were temporarily confiscated—even

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# SIRHAN APPEARS IN COURT

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a money clip with a pen knife in it.

There was a television crew from Rome, along with reporters from France and other lands.

## TIGHT SECURITY

Visitors walked in single file, one deputy in the lead and another at the rear, down long corridors, up an escalator and through a pair of electrically operated steel gates. Cameras and recorders, barred by the court from the proceedings, were left in the jail cafeteria.

There, too, came a more thorough search, with pockets emptied and garments carefully felt. A newsman's pipe was taken apart, stem from bowl. A crutch was taken from Sirhan's former attorney, Wilbur F. Littlefield, the public defender's chief trial deputy, after he was seated. It was returned after the hearing to Littlefield, who has a bruised foot.

The proceedings, scheduled for 9 a.m., went like this: 9:03 a.m. A deputy announces

that "anyone who stands or moves about will be removed from the courtroom."

9:05. Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer takes his place, standing, behind a lectern at the rear of the platform. For the Stenotypist's record he announces that "these facilities"—the jail chapel instead of a regular courtroom—are to insure the defendant's security."

Then: "Bring in the defendant."

## ENTRANCE MADE

Sirhan and the four deputies enter from a door onstage to the audience's right.

Still not fully recovered from finger and ankle injuries received during his capture at the assassination scene, he had been brought by wheelchair from his cell to outside the courtroom.

But now in contrast to his arraignment in the same room on June 7—Sirhan is able to walk into the chapel.

He wears a light blue shirt, tight black pants and well polished black loafers. He has no necktie. His face is pale and appears freshly shaved. His kinky black hair, apparently freshly cut, is neatly combed.

"Your name is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan?" the judge asks.

## VOICE LEVEL

"Yes, sir." His voice is level, even, matter-of-fact. It is amplified through a microphone in front of him to a temporary loudspeaker half way back along the chapel wall.

"You desire to substitute Mr. Parsons for the public defender?"

"Yes, sir, we do."

Sirhan rubs his chin with the thumb of his left hand.

Judge: "Is your client ready to plead, Mr. Parsons?"

Parsons, 69 and graying, in a rumpled black suit: "No, because of the limited time I have had, I request a recess of three weeks."

Parsons noted also that one of two court-appointed psychiatrists, Dr. Edward Stainbrook, "has declined to act."

Judge Schauer thereupon appointed Dr. George Abe to join Dr. Eric Marcus in examining Sirhan.

Parsons asked that the examination be made "as expeditiously as can be done."

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