

FPost
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Protection Planned For Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan will sit behind a shield of bulletproof armor plate and glass if he is tried as expected in Los Angeles on a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

He will be led to the courtroom from a cell through a sealed passageway whose windows will be covered by heavy steel plates.

The County Board of Supervisors decided Tuesday to authorize unlimited expenditures to assure the safety of the 24-year-old Jordanian, accused of shooting Kennedy June 5.

The cost of the protective equipment was estimated at \$20,000—\$1,500 for work on the passageway and the rest for "armor plate, armor glass, steel plate and wire netting in the courtroom."

Several threats have been made on the life of Sirhan as well as his lawyer and others connected with the case.

The accused was expected to enter his plea Friday on the ninth floor of the Hall of Justice, a floor above the courtroom where he probably will be tried.

But the plan was canceled because the security measures were not ready.

A precise description of the security devices was not made public, at the request of Superior Court Judge Donald R. Wright. But Supervisor Kenneth Hahn said that the shield could be large enough to protect not only Sirhan but also the trial judge, attorneys and jury.

Instead of in the Hall of Justice, Sirhan may enter his plea Friday in the chapel of the new county jail, where he has been

kept in a maximum security cell since the shooting.

Observers note, however, that his attorney, Russell E. Parsons, who took over the case from the public defender last week, may request more time to study the lengthy grand jury transcript, or there may be other reasons for delay.

Hahn said the county mechanical department will begin work on the bulletproof shield Friday.