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# Sirhan Murder Charge Put Before Grand Jury

By JACK SCHREIBMAN  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County Grand Jury met today to hear 23 witnesses and consider a first-degree murder indictment against a young Jordanian in the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, 24, was not present as the 22 grand jurors met on the fifth floor of the Hall of Justice. He is jailed under constant surveillance in a maximum security cell.

One witness, who said he was a porter at the hotel where Kennedy was shot but who did not give his name before going into the witness room, told newsmen he saw the accused gunman at the scene half an hour before the shooting.

THE ACCUSED asked several times if Kennedy would pass through the area, the witness said, and "looked worried, but not nervous . . . I didn't see anyone with him."

Another witness was Irwin Stroll, one of the wounded. Shot in the left leg, he arrived in a wheel chair. Another was Ira Goldstein, shot in the hip, who arrived limping.

Richard Walker, an ambu-

lance driver, said another victim, William Weisel, told him he felt "three sharp stings" as he was hit by bullets that wounded him.

Negro athletes Rafer Johnson and Roosevelt Grier, who caught the accused slayer

and wrested a gun from him, were not present. Police said special arrangements had been made to get their stories, so they could attend the funeral, but declined to elaborate.

JURY FOREMAN L. E. Mc-

Kee, a retired garage man from nearby Long Beach, said before the hearing began, "The jury is made up of persons from all walks of life, creeds and colors and I feel that after we have heard all

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the evidence and deliberated, a fair decision will be rendered."

The grand jury was composed of 13 women and nine men. One jury member was absent due to illness. The foreman said a vote of 14 is required for an indictment.

Heading the presentation to jurors was Dist. Atty. Evelle J. Younger, who requested the indictment.

YOUNGER SAID Sirhan would then be arraigned in person within 48 hours in Superior Court, make a plea at that time or shortly after, with trial expected to begin within 60 days from that time. Should the defense seek a change of venue, Younger said he would not oppose it.

The public defender's office is providing Sirhan legal advice.

The prisoner originally was held under \$250,000 bond, but that was revoked by Superior Court Judge Joan Dempsey Klein after Kennedy's death. California law permits no bond in a murder case.

IN ADDITION to the murder indictment, Younger said he would ask five additional

indictments in the wounding of five others who were in Kennedy's vicinity at 12:17 a. m. Wednesday morning at the Ambassador Hotel.

At that minute, with Kennedy joyous with the victory he had freshly scored in the California Democratic presidential primary, a tiny pellet of lead smashed into the brain of the 42-year-old senator who hoped to lead his country.

He died a little over 25 hours later. And nearly 12 hours after that, his body, accompanied by his mourning family, was flown east to await honored burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

As the shock of Kennedy's death spread through the country and the world, the intense young man accused of the shooting sat in a bleak cubicle of three square yards in the county's main jail on Bouchet Street.

FIRST DETAILS of Sirhan's imprisonment were disclosed yesterday by Sheriff Peter Pitchess.

Sirhan's grey-colored cell is on the second floor of the jail in an isolated wing with limited access. An unarmed deputy is constantly in the cell with him.

Outside the steel door with a built-in lock, another guard peers at all times through an