

# Sirhan Talked About Killing, Jury Is Told

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LOS ANGELES, Feb. 21—A bearded Pasasena trash collector swore today that Sirhan Sirhan told him not to waste his primary vote on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy because he was planning to shoot "the son of a B."

Testifying in a quick burst of syllables that startled the courtroom, Alvin Clark said the young Arab made the threat just a few days after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April 4.

Under cross-examination the lanky witness acknowledged that he once declared that he would "do anything to see (Sirhan) convicted," but he insisted that he was telling the truth.

It was a Wednesday, trash collection day on East Howard Street where Sirhan lived, Clark recalled, and the slender immigrant walked up to chat as he often did.

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## SIRHAN, From A1

"He was upset somewhat about the death of Luther King," the Negro sanitation worker recalled. "He asked me how the Negro people felt about it . . . 'What do you think the Negro people are going to do about it?'"

"What Can we Do?"

Clark shrugged. "I said that I mean, 'Like what can we do about it? There wasn't but one person involved.'"

Then, he said, Sirhan asked him how he felt about California's upcoming presidential primaries, still weeks away.

"I told him I was going to vote for Kennedy," Clark said. "and Sirhan said, 'What are you going to vote for that son of a B for? Because I'm planning on shooting him.'"

Sirhan stirred in his seat on the other side of the antiquated courtroom. A smile crossed his face. Abruptly he put his hand over it and leaned over to whisper to

chief defense counsel Russell Parsons.

Clark went on. "I said, 'You'd be killing one of the best men in the country.'" he said he told Sirhan.

The trash collector, whom Sirhan used to serve coffee and sandwiches, said he reminded the defendant that Kennedy had sent his plane to Memphis to pick up Dr. King's widow and his body for the Negro leader's funeral in Atlanta.

Sirhan, he said, passed that off. "He said he did this for publicity—Kennedy did."

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman rose to attack the trash collector's testimony. Clark, Berman noted, had been interviewed by an FBI agent last September.

"Didn't you tell the FBI that you would hate to take the oath and testify because you hated Sirhan so much you would do anything to see him convicted?" Berman demanded.

"Yes, I did," Clark replied.

## Swears It's True

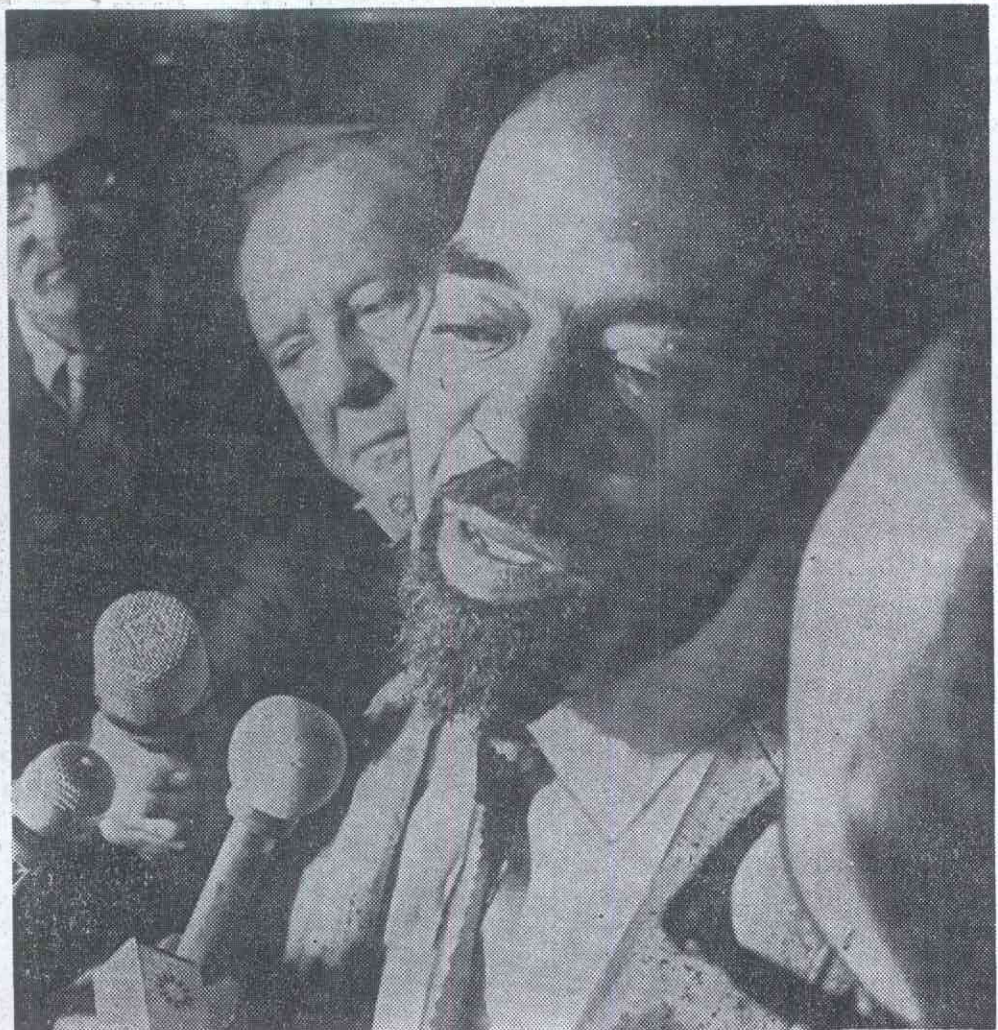
"Have you told the truth here, sir?" prosecutor David N. Fitts countered.

"Yes, I did," Clark said.

He was followed to the stand by two witnesses who told of seeing Sirhan apparently stalking Kennedy in the Ambassador Hotel last June 2, some 2½ days before the assassination.

The occasion was a Sunday evening reception for the Democratic presidential candidate. Kennedy, the jury was told, first gave a speech in the Coconut Grove nightclub at the hotel, then moved through backstage corridors to get to the hotel's Palm Terrace, where more supporters were waiting to hear another pep talk.

Headwaiter Angelo Dipierro said he escorted Kennedy through the back way after



Associated Press

Prosecution witness Alvin Clark meets newsmen after testimony in Sirhan trial.

the first speech, delivered around 8:30 p.m. I took them through the pantry where, Sirhan has admitted, he shot the Senator down in the early morning of June 5.

Long-haired William Blume, 18, said he saw Sirhan first. The two had worked as stock boys in adjoining stores in Pasadena and Blume said he recognized the Jordanian im-

migrant in the crowded hotel lobby around 8:45 p.m.

The crowd was moving toward the Palm Terrace to hear Kennedy's second speech, Blume said. He said Sirhan was struggling against it, moving in the direction of the hotel's Embassy Room and the pantry where Kennedy was coming through.

The New York Senator finished his second talk around 9:30 p.m. Miriam Davis, a volunteer Kennedy hostess, said she saw Sirhan next. Mrs. Davis was with her husband and teen-age daughter.

"My daughter is 17," Mrs. Davis said, "and she was interested in finding the dressing rooms of the stars that had appeared at the Cocoanut Grove."

They entered the nightclub through the lobby, went backstage and started roaming around.

"We got hung up there somewhere," Mrs. Davis said in testimony that captivated the courtroom. "It was very dimly lighted." Finally, they stumbled into a corridor with shelves full of glasses and a big bowl of ice, but no water.

"We took a glass and put some ice in it," she said with a smile, adding that they also snagged it as a souvenir of the evening.

"Then we wandered around there looking for water. Anyway, my husband opened a door. We were surprised to see this man. I tell you the truth, we were so frightened. We thought that he was a waiter. We knew we were off base. He was seated right inside the door. That was what frightened us so."

The family gulped, held up the ice-filled glass and asked: "Where's the water?" she testified.

Sirhan, she said, "shrugged his shoulders and shook his head . . . It seemed like he was sitting on a box facing the door. There was a paper bag near him."

Mrs. Davis was not clear on just what "kitchen area" they had stumbled into, although it was apparently in or near the pantry where Kennedy was killed. The Senator did not come back that way until two nights later.