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Prosecutor's Questions on Lying Cause Court Outburst by Sirhan

LOS ANGELES, March 26 (UPI)—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, visibly upset by insinuations that he lied to a defense psychiatrist, glared at a prosecuting attorney and muttered under his breath today.

The 25-year-old Arab immigrant, on trial for the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was restrained by one of his attorneys and by a bailiff when he half rose from his seat at the defense table.

The incident occurred during questioning of Dr. Bernard Diamond, the psychiatrist, by associate prosecutor David N. Fitts.

Fitts, cross-examining Diamond of his testimony that Sirhan was in a self-induced trance when he shot Kennedy last June in the Ambassador Hotel, said:

"Sirhan never told the truth . . . He was not cooperative was he?"

Diamond answered, "I can tell when he's lying or not lying. I wouldn't say he was never cooperative."

It was during this exchange that Sirhan started to rise from his seat, slapped a hand on the defense table and glared dark-eyed and furious at Fitts.

Attorney Russell Parsons quieted him as head bailiff William Conroy moved up be-

hind the defendant to restrain him.

At one point, Diamond said Sirhan lied on the witness stand when he denied claims, by two witnesses that he took rapid fire target practice before going to the Ambassador Hotel the night Kennedy was shot. Sirhan testified he squeezed the trigger of his gun slowly.

Diamond said it was his opinion that Sirhan did fire rapidly and did so because it was a great emotional outlet for him. Sirhan did not want to admit this, however, because it would reveal his own mental illness, Diamond said.

Diamond and Fitts sparred at length over testimony that Sirhan's mental illness—described as paranoid schizophrenia—had roots in his childhood when he was exposed to the horrors of Israeli-Arab warfare in his native Palestine.

Sirhan's hatred of the Jews who founded Israel and took over parts of Palestine was a factor in causing him to assassinate Kennedy who had sided with the Israelis, according to Diamond.

Specifically, Sirhan was ob-

sessed with the idea that Kennedy promised to send 50 Phantom jet bombers to Israel if he were elected President.

Fitts asked Diamond if it were not true that Sirhan had a "structured story" about wandering into the Ambassador Hotel aimlessly on the night Kennedy was shot.

Diamond answered with a wry smile that Sirhan "concocted a story that couldn't possibly help him—He was willing to admit he killed Kennedy, hates him and carried out the assassination to prevent him from becoming President and keeping the bombers from Israel."