

LOS ANGELES, March 27 (AP)—The defense rested its case today in the murder trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan—a case a psychiatrist called absurd in nature but nonetheless valid.

"The defendant rests," attorney Grant B. Cooper announced, after a month of defense testimony concerning the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The jury of eight men and four women was dismissed for the night. The State on Friday will begin rebuttal testimony, adding to a record already over 7000 pages since the trial began Jan. 7.

It had been the State's intention to open rebuttal with a film of Kennedy's victory speech in the California Democratic primary, delivered only moments before and a few feet away from his assassination in Los Angeles' Ambassador Hotel.

However, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker denied the request to show the 12-minute film, saying it would be inflammatory since Sirhan in his testimony gave no indication that he heard Kennedy speak. The State said it wanted to show the film to remove any doubt in the minds of jurors that its content could have triggered Sirhan to shoot Kennedy.

The claim that Sirhan killed Kennedy while in a self-induced trance earlier was described by a defense psychiatrist as "too illogical even for the theater of the absurd"—but he called it valid nonetheless.

"To me this is a script which would never be acceptable in class B motion pictures," said Dr. Bernard Diamond, a University of California criminologist, "and yet these are, I think, the reality of the psychiatric findings."

Diamond was the final major witness in a month of defense testimony at the 25-year-old Sirhan's trial in the June 5, 1968, assassination.

Earlier, Diamond, 65, testified that Sirhan subconsciously programed himself like a computer to shoot the New York Senator, through mystic studies, self-hypnosis experiments and a festering hatred of Jews.

The defendant was said to have considered Kennedy pro-Israeli in campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In a summary, Diamond wrote: "I agree that this is an absurd and preposterous story, unlikely and incredible. I doubt that Sirhan himself

agrees with me as to how everything happened."

Asked to explain, Diamond replied: "When I first had personal contact with Sirhan, I was prepared for the usual case of a paranoid fanatic who dreams grand illusions, and that has been what has been found to be so.

"I was not, however, prepared for what I discovered: These stirring instances of correspondence course hypnosis, dissociate trances and mystical occultism . . . and black magic, and that this, in my psychological thinking, could have resulted in the death of Sen. Kennedy that affected the destinies of the world.

"It is my opinion that ultimately he (Sirhan) was a preposterous person and in my opinion this was the ultimate preposterous absurdity of it, too illogical even for the theater of the absurd . . .

"This sequence of revenge, this mail order correspondence course in self-hypnosis which under normal circumstances with thousands of people is an innocuous kind of superstition; that in this case it could result in a tragic crime; that this crime, I can only say, affected the destiny of this country and the entire world; and this chain of circumstances, of unrelated details—or details which became related only because of their culmination in the assassination."

**Sirhan's Lawyers End**  
*Post 3-28-69*  
**Defense, Rebuttal Set**