

Sirhan Termed Aggressive Paranoid

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A clinical psychologist said today that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan showed strong signs of being a "very aggressive" paranoid who could easily lose control of himself.

Psychologist Martin Schorr of San Diego said Sirhan was far from stupid, but at times plummeted under the stress of psychological tests to the level of a moron.

Sirhan bit his fingers, squirmed in his seat and frowned nervously as Schorr summed up his findings at the Palestinian nationalists' murder trial here for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Sirhan, Schorr said, was "most anxious to convince me how normal and sane he is."

But he said this simply shored up the indications of paranoia.

"The paranoid," Schorr testified, "is the one most anxious to convince you how right he is and how wrong everybody else is."

The psychologist, who has testified in dozens of murder cases, most often for the prosecution, said he gave Sirhan a battery of tests in his jail cell last Nov. 25-26.

The results, Schorr added, indicated that Sirhan lied far less than most people would.

Schorr said he gave Sirhan a battery of intelligence tests called the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, a psychiatric questionnaire called the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, and the Rorschach ink-blot test.

The psychiatric questionnaire, Schorr said, showed Sir-

han "telling us he's actually more paranoid than 95 out of 100 people . . ."

The psychologist testified nervously, made all the more jittery on the witness stand by defense counsel Emile Zola Bernant's repeated reminders to put the findings "in English we can understand."

Schorr did his best to comply. With paranoia, he pointed out, "an individual takes the position that I'm O.K., and everybody else isn't."

The psychiatric tests, Schorr said, also showed a high degree of "hypomania . . . an individual who is very aggressive . . . in a state of constant turmoil. There's something driving this man."

The intelligence tests, Schorr said, were also striking. Although Sirhan is an Arab immigrant, the psychologist pointed out, he still did

best on his verbal tests, performing on them "just like any other American."

On these, Schorr said, Sirhan came out with a "high average" or "bright-normal" IQ of 109.

By contrast, he showed "a remarkably inferior non-verbal IQ," the psychologist testified. He called the variation pathological.

"When a person is breaking apart," Schorr said, "the vocabulary is the last to go. But performance falls apart very rapidly. This is what we have here."

Ruling out brain damage, Schorr called the pattern he found "typically consistent with schizophrenia . . . a split personality."

Schorr told of showing Sirhan a series of pictures such as a door with the doorknob missing and a map of the

United States with Florida left out. The 24-year-old immigrant was also given colored blocks to put together in a particular design.

On both, he said, the defendant did poorly.

He did even worse, Schorr said, on a final non-verbal intelligence test requiring him to put connecting pieces together like a crossword puzzle.

If his scores on this test and the one involving the colored blocks were applied "across the board," Schorr told the courtroom, "he'd have the IQ of a moron or a mentally deficient individual."

All these signs, he said, pointed to a person "with markedly reduced intelligence . . . under stress . . . what you'd expect if he were five or six years old. This is not the real Sirhan."