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Sirhan Said In Trance as RFK Killed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sirhan Sirhan killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy while in a self-induced hypnotic trance, a psychiatrist said today, and added that he had reproduced this "twilight state" with Sirhan under hypnosis.

Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, 65, a combination psychiatrist-lawyer-criminologist, was the defense's main witness at Sirhan's first degree murder trial for killing Kennedy.

Like other psychiatrists and psychologists before him, Diamond said he feels Sirhan was unable, "because of mental disease," to premeditate the shooting of Kennedy or "to contemplate consequences of his action."

Diamond said he feels Sirhan killed Kennedy "in a highly abnormal dissociative state of restricted consciousness." He said he diagnosed the 25-year-old Jordanian's illness as chronic paranoid schizophrenia.

Diamond said he examined Sirhan eight times in his jail cell for a total of about 20 to 25 hours, and spent more than 100 additional hours studying the results of psychological tests.

He characterized Sirhan's often rambling, repetitive writings in his notebook as "a product of his schizophrenic psychosis."

Some of the writings, he said, had no apparent relevancy to politics or the Kennedy assassination; others were in the nature of a political manifesto and:

"There is a third category which in my opinion were written in a self-induced hypnotic trance — a dissociative state which in my opinion were similar to his state at the time of the assassination itself."