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STATES-ITEM

# First Male Gets Tentative Seat On Sirhan Jury

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The first male prospective juror was tentatively seated at the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial today and the defendant spoke out for the first time.

Sirhan's remark caused the judge to admonish a deputy prosecutor to confine his comments to questions.

The prosecutor, David N. Fitts, had asked the juror, Lawrence K. Morgan: "Would you have the courage, once deliberating, if first-degree murder was a proper verdict in this case, to come down here and say Mr. Sirhan must die in the gas chamber?"

SIRHAN LEANED forward and smiled at the juror from the counsel table.

"There, you're getting a good view of him now and he's smiling at you," Fitts told Morgan. "He probably will be smiling at you for the rest of the trial."

"I smile at you, too, Mr. Fitts," Sirhan said.

The judge then told Fitts to

stick to questions and make no comments on Sirhan's behavior.

Prospective jurors are being asked in great detail about their attitude toward psychiatry, the death penalty and the effect of pre-trial publicity on their opinions.

Defense of the 24-year-old Jordanian accused of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is expected to feature a sophisticated, legalistic tactic which admits Sirhan fired the fatal bullet.

Exhaustive and repetitious probing by both defense and prosecution has centered on questions designed to show how the prospective jurors would react to such a defense.

FOUR JURORS, all women, tentatively were seated by the close of yesterday's session. Both sides hope to begin testimony within a month.

Sirhan watched the proceedings intently and was quoted by one of his attorneys as saying, "I am satisfied with the way things are going."

Prospective jurors are being asked if they can set aside their revulsion to the crime itself and deliberate instead on Sirhan's state of mind at the moment he pulled the trigger.

THEY ALSO ARE being asked if they can forget the victim's world renown.