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# JURY ACCEPTED IN SIRHAN TRIAL

## Eight Men, Four Women on Panel

By GENE HANDSAKER

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecution and defense reached surprise agreement Friday on eight men and four women to try Sirhan Bishara Sirhan on a charge he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Court was then recessed until next Wednesday, when the defense will argue a motion to quash the Los Angeles County Grand Jury indictment against Sirhan, on grounds the panel is not representative of the community.

Jurors were ordered to report to court next Thursday, but the judge and attorneys indicated testimony in the case—expected to last three months—wouldn't begin until the following week.

The jury agreement came on the last day of the third week of the trial, and about a week earlier than attorneys had indicated they thought they would have a panel.

The defense said during the morning session it would accept the group. The prosecution, after considering it over the noon hour, agreed.

"If the court please," said Deputy Dist. Atty. David N. Fitts, "the people accept."

### TO PICK ALTERNATES

Selection of six alternate jurors is needed before testimony begins.

Sirhan, slender 24-year-old Jordanian, is accused of fatally shooting Kennedy June 5 after the latter won victory in California's Democratic presidential primary election.

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker told the newly impaneled jury: "So far as you're concerned the case is recessed until next Thursday at 9:30. . . Do not talk about the case among yourselves or with anyone else. Do not take person-

al phone calls . . . Keep your heath."

He said it is "extremely unlikely" they would be locked up Thursday night in a hotel — as will happen after testimony begins. And he cautioned them that if they bring personal possessions— "don't leave anything in your cars. We've got the finest bunch of thieves in this state."

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper said the defense team needs Monday and Tuesday to prepare for presentation of evidence Wednesday on the motion to quash the indictment.

Cooper earlier in the trial had told newsmen that a major reason for attacking the makeup of the grand jury is to lay groundwork for a possible future appeal in the case. The defense contends that because the grand jury selection system excludes persons of certain occupations it is unbalanced.

### 'LOOK ALL RIGHT TO ME'

Fitts, asked why the prosecution accepted the jury, said: "Why not? It just seemed all right." Was he pleased? "They look all right to me."

Cooper said he was pleased. "We've got people from all walks of life." Is that good? "Yes. I wouldn't know what particular type of juror to choose in this case, so the next best thing is to try to get a good conglomeration."

Another defense attorney, Emile Zola Berman of New York, remarked that the jury has "a fair run of minorities," including, he said, four apparent Mexican-Americans, a person of Italian extraction and a Jew.

Said Berman, himself a Jew: "Psychologically, minorities are deeply opposed to capital punishment. Being minorities they've suffered insults and been looked upon as second class citizens. I believe they could identify with another minority, which Sirhan certainly is."

Said Sirhan's mother, Mary, 55, who has watched the trial daily from a back row: "They are nice people . . . I am satisfied."

During jury selection the defense exercised but five peremptory challenges and the prosecution seven. Each side was permitted 20 of the challenges, which permit them to dismiss a juror without giving a reason.