

LOS ANGELES 3/8/69

# Witness Says Sirhan Asked

LOS ANGELES (AP) — One of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense witnesses testified at his murder trial Friday that the young Jordanian Arab inquired about Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's security guard two hours before the assassination.

Hans Bidstrup, an electrician at the Ambassador Hotel, said he fell into casual conversation with the 24-year-old Sirhan who asked him how long Kennedy had been staying at the hotel.

"I said Mr. Kennedy had stayed at the Ambassador a cer-

tain length of time," Bidstrup said he replied. "I think there was a question about Senator Kennedy's security—if there was any security."

Q. What did you say?

A. That I would assume any man of his importance would have some.

Bidstrup added that a fireman appeared at the booth where the electrician was on duty "and it appeared that Sirhan was a little startled."

Sirhan has testified he was drunk and unable to remember

shooting Kennedy. Bidstrup testified that "it appeared to me he was intoxicated."

"What did you base your opinion on that he was intoxicated?" the witness was asked on cross examination.

"Mainly on a glass in his hand," Bidstrup replied. "It was half empty."

Another defense witness, Enrique Rabago, said he also talked with Sirhan that evening and expressed fear that Kennedy might not win the Democratic presidential nomination.

He quoted Sirhan as telling him: "Don't worry if Senator Kennedy doesn't win. That (obscenity) is a millionaire. Even if he wins he is not going to do anything for me or you or the poor people."

The day's final witness, Richard Lubic, said he was in the kitchen area off the Embassy Ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel where Kennedy was shot.

"I heard a voice saying 'Kennedy you (obscenity),' then the shot," Lubic testified.

The trial resumes Monday.

## About RFK Security

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper was aware in advance of the nature of the testimony by Bidstrup and Rabago. He told newsmen out of court that he was prepared to use it as a basis for questioning defense psychiatric witnesses next week.

Earlier, a former employer of Sirhan testified that the defendant was an advocate of violence months before the assassination.

John Weidner, balding, gray-haired owner of a health food

chain, said they discussed Negro civil rights achievements and that the 24-year-old Sirhan declared: "They got it by violence."

"In substance, did he say that violence was the way the Negro people would achieve their ends?" he was asked in cross-examination.

"Yes, sir," Weidner replied. Sirhan worked for Weidner as a handyman from Sept. 24, 1967, until he quit in a temper March 7, 1968.