

Radio, TV Men Subpoenaed Over Sirhan Trial Publicity

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LOS ANGELES, Calif., Jan. 9 — Process servers armed with blank subpoenas summoned a string of radio and TV newsmen to court today in another move to forestall Sirhan B. Sirhan's assassination trial.

The newsmen were called to testify at a closed hearing in Judge Herbert V. Walker's chambers about publicity devoted in the past week to Chief Defense Attorney Grant B. Cooper's involvement in a Federal grand jury investigation.

Sirhan's team of defense lawyers has been pressing all week for a month-long delay of the trial on this and other grounds, and has just as repeatedly been turned down.

It appeared unlikely that to-

day's bid would fare any better.

Michael A. McCowan, the private detective in charge of investigations for the defense, said he tried to have a subpoena served on every radio and TV station in the Los Angeles area. His process servers marched around town with blank subpoenas, filled in the names of newsmen they could find at the stations, and sent them to court for the day-long session.

They were asked to bring with them records of newscasts in the past few days linking the Sirhan trial to Cooper's problems in Federal court.

Cooper admitted last week that he had lied in Federal court last year during the Friars Club card-cheating trial where he represented one of the defendants. He appeared

before a Federal grand jury this week under orders to answer questions about the source of secret Government transcripts that he had in his possession during that trial.

Emile Zola Berman, another of Sirhan's defense lawyers, contends that the publicity about Cooper could only harm Sirhan if his murder trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy goes forward now.

Most of the radio stations apparently complied with the defense request for records of their newscasts although an attorney for CBS, William Hill, called it a "fishing expedition."

Those summoned to court included a surprised blonde secretary for a radio-station-rating bureau who told a process-server her boss wasn't in. He subpoenaed her instead.