

Will Admit Sirhan Fired Fatal Shot, Says Defense

'Intent' Will Be Major Issue in Trial

By GEORGE ZUCKER
LOS ANGELES (AP)

There will be no denial that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan fired the shot that killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Sirhan's chief defender said Monday.

That defense position would make Sirhan's "intent" the main issue in the trial of the young Jordanian who is charged with murder.

As the selection process continued, Mrs. Rose Molina, a widow and a nurse, became the first prospective juror to be accepted by the defense.

Questioned about which newspapers she reads and what broadcast stations she listens to, Mrs. Molina underwent additional private questioning in the judge's chambers and again in open court.

At one point she was asked by a prosecuting attorney if she would give Sirhan "some bene-

fit" because of his youth. She said no.

'NOT ENOUGH'

Attorney Grant B. Cooper said in questioning the first prospective juror in the case that commission of the act of shooting is not enough to constitute guilt of murder.

"There will be no denial of the fact that our client, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, fired the shot that killed the late senator and injured others," Cooper said.

The jury's job will be to consider Bishara's intentions, he said.

Sirhan, 24, is accused of shooting Kennedy June 5 after the senator had claimed victory in California's Democratic primary election. Sirhan also is charged with assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder against five other persons who were wounded.

The trial's fourth day began with rejection of a defense motion challenging the jury selection system on grounds that it produces juries not representative of a cross section of the community.

Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker conceded that persons in some occupations—ministers, doctors and those in public office—are exempt from jury duty.

But Judge Walker added that he found that no persons of any ethnic, sociological or economic group were systematically excluded.

The judge also denied a mo-

tion to quash the grand jury indictment of Sirhan, on grounds that its members were not representative of the community.

The defense had indicated in making its motions that it was laying groundwork for a possible future appeal to higher courts.

As the jury selection began, a group of six men and women were called for examination in the tiny, heavily guarded Hall of Justice courtroom.

The first to be questioned, George Baudle, an official of an aerospace firm, was excused after being asked if he could fairly judge the defendant even though he knew Sirhan shot Kennedy.

"No sir," he replied.

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