

Psychiatrist Tells Sirhan Trial Killing Was Not Psychotic's Act

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A prominent psychiatrist, appearing for the prosecution in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, said today the killing of Senator Robert F. Kennedy had been "motivated by political reasons" and was not the action of a psychotic.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Seymour Pollack, a professor at the University of Southern California, said Sirhan was "tense, somewhat insecure, somewhat vulnerable, superstitious, fearful and withdrawn from close personal relationships."

Dr. Pollack added, however, that the defendant had "no significant paranoid features, no significant deviations."

Thus, the prosecution witness contradicted the testimony of a number of psychiatrists and psychologists, who, appearing for the defense, had characterized the killing of Senator Kennedy as the action of a paranoid schizophrenic who was unable to premeditate the shooting.

Sirhan's Early Life

Dr. Pollack also took issue with psychiatrists who had testified that Sirhan's early life in war-torn Jerusalem was partly responsible for his mental condition. He said the defendant's "childhood experiences were not significantly different" from those of other children in the Middle East.

"Sirhan's childhood was less rather than more disturbed than others around him, all of whom were exposed to turmoil," he said, explaining that the defendant's mother had provided "an emotionally adequate, secure home."

Earlier in the day, the prosecution attempted to prove that the defendant could not have been under self-hypnosis when he wrote threats against the life of Senator Kennedy.

Recalled to the witness stand was Laurence W. Sloan, a handwriting expert working for the district attorney's office, who was asked to compare the writing of Sirhan while under hypnosis by a psychiatrist in his jail cell with the rambling

threats and political manifestos in notebooks found in his home.

Mr. Sloan testified that the handwriting in the notebooks was of "better quality" than that of the defendant under hypnosis in jail.

He said that, in his opinion, Sirhan was not in any kind of self-induced trance at the time he wrote in his books.

Several Witnesses Called

Mr. Sloan was among several rebuttal witnesses called by the prosecution in its attempt to shake the defense's contention that Sirhan was so mentally ill as to be incapable of "meaningfully and rationally" premeditating Mr. Kennedy's death. The defense rested its case yesterday.

During the morning session, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker halted the proceedings to announce that it was his "sad duty" to report the death of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He called for one minute of silent

prayer. The judge was visibly upset at the news of General Eisenhower's death.

Juror Suffers Illness

At the outset of the day's session, a deputy sheriff told the court that a juror, Lawrence K. Morgan, had been taken in the night from the hotel where the jury is sequestered to a hospital with a possible bleeding ulcer. An alternate juror, Ruth Stillman, an insurance adjuster, was selected to take his place.

The defendant's mother was not in court today. It was one of the few sessions she had missed. A defense lawyer said Mrs. Mary Sirhan was at St. Luke's Hospital in nearby Pasadena with another son, Saidallah, who was struck by a car yesterday afternoon.

Saidallah Sirhan, who is 36 years old, was listed in serious condition with a fractured skull and a compound fracture of his right leg. The driver of the car, a student at Pasadena City College, where Sirhan Sirhan was once enrolled, was not held by the police.

Another Sirhan brother, 37-year-old Sharif, was arrested in the night when he forced his way into the intensive care unit where his brother was lying at the Pasadena hospital. The police said he had shoved a nurse who tried to quiet him as he began shouting that Saidallah Sirhan was being "mistreated." Sharif Sirhan was later freed on \$125 bail.

Late today, Judge Walker announced that there would no court session Monday because of the national day of mourning for General Eisenhower.