

## Sirhan's Outbursts in Court Called Not Psychotic

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LOS ANGELES, April 4—Sirhan B. Sirhan's angry outbursts in the courtroom were described by a psychiatrist today as "inappropriate," but not in a "psychotic, pathological way."

The psychiatrist, Dr. Seymour Pollack, a prosecution witness, concluded five days on the stand by standing by his testimony that Sirhan had the mental capacity to plan and carry out the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy with full awareness of the legal consequences.

Under questioning by Grant B. Cooper, chief defense lawyer, Dr. Pollack said that Sirhan's behavior in the courtroom was "not a fake" and that "he was not putting on a show."

But he refused to agree that the angry eruptions, in which Sirhan demanded to be allowed to change his plea to guilty of first-degree murder and to ask for his own execution, were the outbursts of a psychotic.

"Sirhan is an impulsive, volatile man, easily aroused to anger," Dr. Pollack said. "He

### Psychiatrist Insists Accused Had the Mental Capacity to Plan Kennedy Murder

explodes easier than the normal person.

"However, the inappropriateness of his outbursts are not inappropriate in a psychotic, pathological sense."

Dr. Pollack said the defendant had also had temper tantrums in his jail cell, in which he said angrily that he wanted to "stop being bugged by psychiatrists" and that he was "through with the whole thing."

These outbursts, the psychiatrist said, were also not psychotic reactions.

Asked once more whether he still believed that Sirhan had the mental capacity to premeditate the murder of Senator Kennedy with a realization of the legal consequences, Dr. Pollack appeared to back away slightly from his earlier affirmative responses.

"I said, Mr. Cooper, that I reached my conclusion with reasonable medical certainty that Sirhan did have the mental capacity," the psychiatrist replied. "I want to stress, however, that 'reasonable medical

certainty' is not an absolute. There is also an underlying moral value judgment that is not up to me but is for the jury to decide."

In the rebuttal questioning by the prosecution, Dr. Pollack read the transcript of a conference on Feb. 2 among all the psychiatrists and psychologists connected with the trial. The transcript showed that the participants had bickered a good deal.

The target of the tart exchange was Dr. Pollack, who declined repeatedly to give his opinion on Sirhan's mental state. Presumably the prosecution had the transcript read to indicate to the jury that Dr. Pollack was being cautious in his diagnosis.

Dr. Pollack's long stay on the witness stand ended at 11:15 A.M. Judge Herbert V. Walker then adjourned the trial in Superior Court, in observance of Good Friday, until Monday.

A spokesman for the prosecution said the case, which has gone on for 13 weeks, "may be in the hands of the jury" by next Friday. The state plans to call one more rebuttal witness, a psychologist from the University of South California, before the closing arguments begin.