

4-3-69
MICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS, L

STATE ATTACKS SIRHAN DEFENSE

Defendant Not in Trance,
Says Psychiatrist

By ARTHUR EVERETT
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Point by point, the state attempted Wednesday to destroy a defense version of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination at the hand of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

"He killed Kennedy because he hated him," said Dr. Seymour Pollack, star psychiatric witness for the prosecution at the first degree murder trial of the 25-year-old Arab-born Sirhan.

There was no uncontrollable explosion, Pollack testified; there was no trance, there was no split personality in which a schizophrenic mind was torn between love and hatred for the New York senator, who was shot to death June 5, 1968.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

But as cross-examination got under way, Pollack, a portly University of Southern California psychiatry professor, was

asked by the defense:

Q. You did say Sirhan has a mental illness?

A. Yes.

Q. He is emotionally disturbed?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was at the time of the killing?

A. Yes.

Q. And he is now?

A. I believe so.

Q. You and the other doctors disagree to a great extent on the degree and kind of his mental illness?

A. That is correct.

DEFENSE CONTENTION

The defense has contended in the more than 12 weeks that Sirhan has been on trial for his life that the intensely anti-Israeli defendant programmed himself subconsciously like a computer to kill Kennedy — through occult studies, self-induced hypnosis, written threats in private notebooks, and a festering conviction that Kennedy was anti-Arab and pro-Israeli in his campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Sirhan's emotions were torn between a schizophrenic love and hatred for Kennedy, the defense claimed, and he was in self-induced "trance" when he sent a bullet into the brain of the 42-year-old senator.