

Sirhan Trial Recesses for a Day to Study Testimony About Killer's Trance

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The murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan was recessed for 24 hours this morning to allow the prosecution to study the testimony of a psychiatrist who contends the defendant killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy while in a self-induced hypnosis trance.

This morning's session lasted for 15 minutes while a defense attorney completed questioning the psychiatrist, Dr. Bernard L. Diamond, as to his professional qualifications and achievements.

David N. Fitts, an assistant district attorney, then asked the court for a one-day recess

because "we have not had time to closely examine Dr. Diamond's testimony."

"We have been working 15 hours a day," Mr. Fitts said, "and there is a limit to what we may assimilate in a short time." The request for recess was granted by Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker.

In his testimony, yesterday, Dr. Diamond described Sirhan as "small, helpless, pitifully ill, with a demented psychotic rage." When Sirhan killed Senator Kennedy, he knew "next to nothing as to what was happening," Dr. Diamond said.

The psychiatrist made his judgment after visiting Sirhan eight times in his jail cell and hypnotizing him on six of the visits. During one session while under hypnosis, Sirhan reenacted the shooting of the Senator.

Dr. Diamond told the court that the contents of Sirhan's notebook, which included rambling political manifestos and threats against the life of Senator Kennedy and other political figures had been written while the defendant was in a trance induced by experiments in front of a mirror in his bedroom.

Repeatedly, the psychiatrist testified, Sirhan would practice his occult correspondence "looking in the mirror, thinking thoughts of love and peace, only to emerge from his trance—a trance that

he did not really believe had actually happened—to find his notebook filled with incoherent threats of violence and assassination."

"He concluded he was crazy and he feared to let anyone know what was happening," Dr. Diamond said. "He thought they would lock him away in a mental hospital."

While under hypnosis in his jail cell, Dr. Diamond related Sirhan was able to reproduce the same, incoherent writing—the repeating over and over again of words and phrases.

Once in the cell, the psychiatrist asked Sirhan who had hypnotized him when he wrote in his notebooks. "Mirror, mirror, my mirror, my mirror, my mirror, my mirror," Sirhan

Dr. Diamond told the court. Asked who taught him to hypnotize himself, Sirhan wrote "A.M.O.R.C.," the initials of the Ancient Mystical Order of the Rosicrucians, an occult correspondence course.

As a result of his work with Sirhan in jail, Dr. Diamond said he was satisfied that in the defendant's conscious mind, "there was no awareness" of a plan to kill Senator Kennedy or that he, Sirhan, "was to be the instrument of assassination."

Once in the lobby of the Ambassador Hotel with his revolver in his belt, bewildered by the flashing lights and the confusion, partly intoxicated, Sirhan "was back in his

trances, his violent convulsive rages," the psychiatrist said. "Only this time it was for real and this time there was no pencil in his hand," he concluded. "This time there was only the loaded gun."

The trial of the 25-year-old Jordanian immigrant for the slaying of the New York Senator last June 5 is in its 12th week.