

## Denies Any Conspiracy

# Sirhan Tells Court He Acted Alone

3/6/69

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LOS ANGELES, March 5—Sirhan Bishara Sirhan swore today that there was no conspiracy behind his assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The killing, he said in his third day on the witness stand, was his work alone. He was not, he added, a member of the Communist Party.

Seeking to squelch talk of a conspiracy for good, chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper pointed to what might be considered hints and touches of one from Sirhan's notebooks and questioned him closely about them.

On one page, the Palestinian immigrant had written: "We believe Sen. Robert F. Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the poor, exploited people."

"We believe we can effect this action to produce this result," Sirhan went on. "One wonders what it feels like to do any assassination that might be some illegal work."

Slouched in his chair, evidently tired of hearing the notes read to him page by page and line by line, Sirhan said he had no recollection of jotting down the entry. But he acknowledged that it was his handwriting.

"I did the writing myself," he said. "I don't know who else might have been with me."

"You said, 'we,'" Cooper pressed. "Did you have an accomplice?"

Sirhan: "No sir, I did not."  
Cooper: "Did anyone hire you?"

Sirhan: "No, sir."  
Cooper: "Were you working for any government?"

Sirhan: "No, sir."  
Cooper: "You worked all by yourself?"

Sirhan: "Yes, sir."  
Cooper: "What was the 'we' then?"

Sirhan: "I can't explain it."  
Cooper: "An editorial 'we'?"  
Sirhan (wearily): "Must be."

Cooper put before the jurors every page of the three notebooks seized from Sirhan's home after the assassination, including the two pages the defense had protested against

last week as "too inflammatory."

Sirhan's lawyers, it was clear, wanted the jury to get them anyway. Last week, though, Sirhan had been bitterly bucking any mention of the secret writings. This week, his attorneys have had him under control.

On the two contested pages, a so-called "communist manifesto" as Cooper described it to newsmen, the 24-year-old Arab had written that "I firmly support the Communist cause and its people—whether Russian, Chinese, Albanian, Hungarian or whoever."

The document began with Sirhan advocating "the overthrow of the current President of the (obscenity) United States of America" and ended with the repeated declaration, in English and in Arabic: "Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to loose (sic) but your chains. . ."

Glossing over "the nasty word," Cooper read it all aloud, then asked Sirhan: "Are you a member of the Communist Party?"

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### SIRHAN, From A1

Sirhan said he was not.

"It sounds queer, sir," he said of the document. "I don't feel that way now."

"Was there a time when you felt that way?" Cooper asked him.

"There must have been a time when you felt that way?" Cooper asked him.

"There must have been," the defendant said. The United States, he went on, "was very good to me," though "not to the rest of my people."

### 'Lot of Nonsense'

Cooper kept on, pointing to one page where Sirhan had mentioned his fantasies about triggering World War III and another unrelated page where he wrote down "Stokely Stokely."

"It's a lot of nonsense, sir,"

Sirhan said of his writings at one point. "That's all it is. Nonsense."

Just above "Stokely" was the name of "Lawrence Welk."

Cooper passed over the bandleader. He asked Sirhan whether he was a fan of Negro militant Stokely Carmichael's philosophy.

"I believe some of it," Sirhan said. "I don't follow all of it."

Cooper wound up the morning session with an article from the May, 1968, Rosicrucian Digest. Sirhan, who joined the mystic sect in 1966, acknowledged reading it.

### 'Put It in Writing'

It appeared to support the prosecution's claims as much as the defense. Sirhan had repeatedly written in his notes that "Robert F. Kennedy must

be assassinated before 5 June '68."

The piece from the Rosicrucian was titled "Put It in Writing."

"Plan something different, something exciting," it began. "But here's a piece of advice. Put it in writing . . . and see how it suddenly catches fire . . . gains momentum simply by writing it down . . ."

"This simple act eliminates

a lot of spinning of the wheels. Try it. Pick a goal. Set a target date . . . believe it will come true. Read that goal every morning when you get up and every night when you go to sleep."

The advice came complete with endorsements from bandleader Stan Kenton and a professional archer who said he got a perfect score after trying it out.