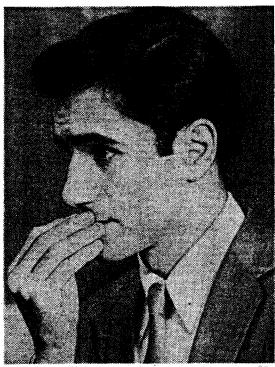
## Jurors Decree Death for Sirhan In RFK Slaying



SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN ... "Even Jesus Christ couldn't have saved me."

## Judge Delays Sentencing Pending Plea By George Lardner Jr.

Washington Post Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES, April 23 -For the murder of one "Robert Francis Kennedy, a human being," a haggard jury decreed today that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan should die in the gas chamber at San Quentin State Prison.

The paranoid assassin, who shot Kennedy down at the high point on his quest for the presidency, took the verdict calmly.

"Even Jesus Christ couldn't have saved me," Sirhan told his lawyers. However, the death verdict can still be reduced to life imprisonment at the Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker. The judge put off sentencing until the 25-year-old Jordaman immi-grant's lawyers submit a motion for a new trial. A hearing was set for May 14.

The jurors signaled a waiting courtroom full of guards, lawyers and newsmen at 11:04 a.m. after more than 11½ hours of deliberations over three days.

A buzzer from the jury room rasped twice and then, after a hesitant pause, a third time, the code for a verdict.

A sheriff's deputy hurried upstairs to Sirhan's windowless cell on the Hall of Justice's 13th floor and told a guard, Frederick Davis, to alert him.

Clad in T-shirt and under-

shorts, Sirhan was staring into a polished steel mirror, combed his hair.

Davis told him a verdict was coming. He said, "Okay," put on a pair of black slacks and blue shirt, and was led downstairs. According to one of his lawyers who saw him earlier, Sirhan had been expecting the death penalty.

Sirhan showed no sign of it as he entered the antiquated courtroom, chewing gum. Grinning jauntily, he took his seat and began chat-

ting with defense counsel Russell Parsons.

Head bowed, chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper waited with a disconsolate look on his face.

"The weak ones crumbledjust like the first time," he said of the jurors who con-victed Sirhan of first-degree murder last week.

Judge Walker settled himself at the bench, put a microphone around his neck and called the jurors in at 11:34 a.m. They filed to their seats with tired, solemn expressions.

Jury Foreman Bruce D. Elliott, a 29-year-old systems analyst with a Ph.D. in engineering, stood up and turned in the verdict on a slip of paper. Judge Walker's Japanese-American clerk read it aloud, the conclusion of Case A-233

See SIRHAN, A4, Col. 4

Adel Sirhan, right, the only member of the Sirhan family present when the pen-

United Press International alty decision was announced confers with defense attorney Russell E. Parsons.

## Sirhan Jury Decrees Death Penalty

of "death ... death" bouncing back into the court room as Mrs. Nishikawa began polling each of the seven men and five women on the jury. ing his gum. Sirhan sat still, an sat still, looking al-indifferent, still chew-

Stillman, clasped her hand to her face. their approval, some loudly, some softly. One, Ruth A. One by one, the jurors voiced

said. "record the verdict." "It's unanimous," the judge

thump. It had required only six minutes out of a trial that heavy brought it down with a loud rubber stamp Nishikawa lifted a

had taken up 66 days in court-room sessions since Jan. 7.
Sirhan, who once testified that he was "willing to die" for the Arab cause, was promptly led to the "holding reassuringly at Parsons as he plated courtroom. He nodded ank" adjacent to the armor

defense lawyers hud

SIRHAN, From A1

| Gled with him there minutes | Compton said it was impossi. David N. Fitts, the Stanford-too twisted and immature to restrict the defendant, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, guilty of murder in the first degree as charged in the very best we could, Coop-penalty in California and else of the possecution, said he necitation.

The verdict came against a mount with tawas saved me.''

The verdict came against a mount with the penalty for her son, his penalty in the fallingly exacted for assassiasitions, and attempted assassic luded her, Mary se policeman, of mations involving other deaths; President James Garfield to Harry S. Truman.

Newsmen rushed to waiting plant in the shows a standard of the standard of the save and the save standard global will be the save that sond souldn't get through," Adel global was and the save study bears that said with the save study of the save study of the court failingly exacted for assassiasic cluded her, but I the American public favores some of the psychiatric claims of the Court in the president save under the save of the part to the penalty for her son, his was put to death for killing a life trance, "Knowing next to the California Supreme Court of the California said unspeptly." The American public favores some of the psychiatric claims draw from the death and penalty for her son, his was put to death for killing a life trance, "Knowing next to the California Supreme Court of the American public favores some of the psychiatric claims draw from the case." The said where the thought it support of U.S. Phantom psychiatrists claimed that Sir-tence to the cash that the president saves in the cash that the verdict was one Shaken by the prospect of the American public favores some of the psychiatric claims draw from the cash the hear of the psychiatric claims draw from the cash the hear of the psychiatric claims draw from the cash the hear of the psychiatric claims draw from the cash the hear of the psychiatric claims draw from the cash the cash of the psychiatric claims draw