

## Father's Story

# Sirhan 'Quiet, Gentle Boy'

TAIYEBA (Israel-Occupied Jordan—(AP)—The father of the man accused of killing Sen. Robert Kennedy looked today at the first picture he had seen of his son in years and, visibly moved, said:

"I cannot understand what could have pushed him to do such a thing.

"My son was always a quiet, humble and very gentle boy. I brought up my children to be good."

Bishara Sirhan, 53, locked himself behind the shutters of his 10-room villa in this sleepy mountain village 2500 feet high overlooking Jericho, when he first heard his son, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, had been arrested in the shooting of the senator.

### 'TERRIBLY SORRY'

But, as scores of newsmen, photographers and television crews converged on the village between Jericho and Ramallah, he allowed a newsman to speak to him.

"I am terribly sorry for what has happened to Senator Kennedy and my son. I will send a cable to the Kennedy family to express my feelings, he said in quiet, excellent English.

"My boy was a good Christian all his life. He visited church regularly since he was small.

"He was never interested in any kind of rough games. He hardly ever played.

### FATHER OF 5

"There was never a rifle or any kind of weapon in the house — only books.

"What could have pushed my son to doing what he did."

Bishara lives alone in the two floor villa. He has five sons — Sirhan, Sherif, Adel, Munir and Sa'adullah.

The mayor of Taiyeba, Baziz Mu'addi, said Bishara's wife Mary went to the United

States in 1950. Her husband and the children joined her seven years later.

### SEPARATION

Bishara returned in 1961 after a quarrel with his wife, the mayor said, and built a home in the village where he was born.

The mayor, a distant relative of the family, declared:

"I must apologize on behalf of the whole village for what has happened.

"I know this boy lived a quiet life, he was gentle and polite, and could not have done it on his own.

"He was brought up very strictly with little money. Some bad man must have persuaded him to do this for a lot of money."