

Sirhan Still Mum Over Shooting

By Chicago Daily News and United Press International

LOS ANGELES — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan emerged today as a cool, cocky partisan who banterers with police and acts as if he never heard the name of Robert F. Kennedy.

"If I were to judge him strictly on the basis of our conversation, I would say he is a gentleman." Los Angeles Police Chief Thomas Reddin said.

When he was hustled by police through an angry crowd of Kennedy supporters and out of the Ambassador Hotel early yesterday, his pockets were crammed with miscellany:

- Newspaper accounts of the senator's television debate with Sen. Eugene McCarthy last Saturday, in which both candidates endorsed America's commitment to the defense of Israel.

- A clipping listing Kennedy's campaign itinerary.

- A poem critical of the senator.

HATED ISRAEL

- A notebook diary with antagonistic references to several U.S. public officials, including Kennedy.

- A slip of paper with the date — June 5 — the anniversary of the beginning of last summer's six-day Arab-Israeli War.

Sirhan's former employer at a health food store in Pasadena says the youth worked hard but often expressed a pathological hatred of Israel and its people.

Despite extraordinary police security and an official reluctance to disclose information about the 24-year-old suspect, the jigsaw puzzle of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan is slowly being pieced together.

The picture that emerges is of an intense, proud immigrant who burns with a fierce hatred of Zionism. He has thus far told police nothing about the shooting.

JUST CHIT-CHAT

Lt. Jack Eberhardt, executive assistant to Chief Reddin, said Sirhan bantered with police who questioned him, engaging in "light conversation, chit-chat and persiflage." Persiflage indicates a derisive or scolding manner of speech.

Although he speaks with a slight accent, he is described as "extremely articulate." Police said they believe he

— Turn to Page 4, Col. 3

Youth Cool And Cocky At Probe

From Page 1

knows the Spanish language and some Russian.

"Why don't you answer my questions?"

"He plays word games," Reddin said.

"I spoke with him for 15 minutes and he sounds well educated. He is a good conversationalist. He was very relaxed.

"He almost appeared to be the calmest man in the room."

NOTEBOOKS

With permission from Sirhan's family, police recovered two notebooks from his room. The contain 18 to 20 pages of handwriting. Some in Arabic, most in English.

"There's much scribbling, repeated phrases, many references to Sen. Robert Kennedy, even some references to Arthur Goldberg, Mayor Sam Yorty said of the notebooks.

In a notation entered either May 17 or 18, Mayor Yorty of Los Angeles said, Sirhan apparently wrote "a direct reference to the necessity to assassinate Sen. Kennedy before June 5, 1965."

Kennedy was shot when June 5 was only a few minutes old. It was the first anniversary of the beginning of the six-day Arab-Israel war.

Yorty and his police department, both conservatively inclined, let it be known that a car belonging to Sirhan had been observed by the police surveillance unit parked at meetings of left-wing organizations.

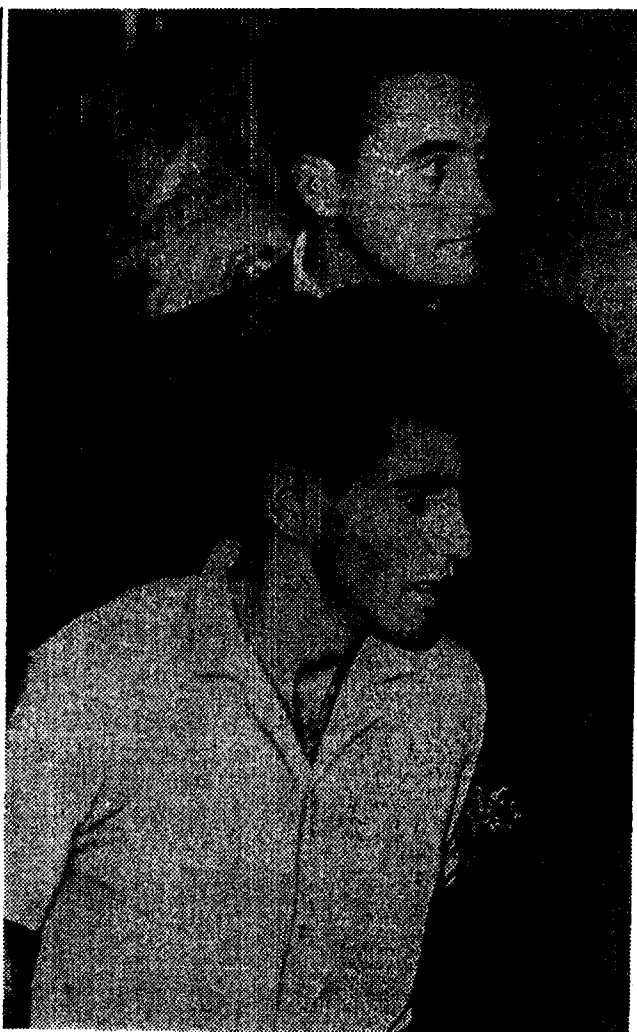
Police have determined that Sirhan was born on March 18, 1944, in Jerusalem, while that city was under Jordanian control. He came to the United States in 1957 with his parents, four brothers and sister. His father returned to the Middle East the same year. His sister has since died.

BROTHERS CLERKS

Two brothers, Munir and Adel, are described as stock clerks. They helped police identify him. The other two brothers, Sharif and Saidallah, have not been located by authorities. His mother, Mary, works in a Pasadena church nursery.

There was no known police record of Sirhan in the Jerusalem area. He has no police record in Los Angeles.

Sirhan attended John Muir High School here. He graduated in 1963. He attended Pasadena City College and Los Angeles State College, although it was not known whether he graduated. He re-



QUICK ARRAIGNMENT OF SHOOTING SUSPECT
Sirhan Sirhan is led to Hall of Justice

Sirhan is known to have worked recently as an exercise boy at Hollywood Park Race track and as a delivery boy and stock boy at Organic Pasadena, a health food store about a block and a half from where he lived.

HATED ISRAEL

John Weidner, owner of the store, described Sirhan as having "complexes, mainly about Israel."

"He told me that when he was a child, he saw members of his family killed by Jews. He had to flee Jordan when he was a child," Weidner said.

Olive Blakesley, a neighbor of the Sirhans, described the suspect as a "fine boy, good looking, polite, clean, willing to help."

"I never found anything wrong with him," she said.

Neither Sirhan nor the other members of his family are U.S. citizens. They are formally classified as "permanent residents."

In Arabic, the name Sirhan reportedly means "wanderer."

Today the wandering was at an end. And as investigators pieced together the puzzle of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, they discovered it was still a puzzle.