

A Suspect Who Learned to Hate

Times-Post Service

Los Angeles

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the 24-year-old Arab refugee accused of shooting Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was considered by acquaintances to be a "virulent anti-Semite."

Sirhan "was a good worker, an honest man," John H. Wiedner, 57, operator of a Pasadena health food chain and the suspect's former employer, said yesterday.

"But he had a lot of complexes, mainly related to Israel. He resented the state of Israel.

"He claimed when he was young he had seen some peo-

ple, maybe some relatives, killed by Israelis.

RESENTMENT

"Senator Kennedy said the otherday he wanted to help Israel. So I was not surprised after he was shot that Sirhan's resentment had pushed him emotionally to do what he did."

Weidner referred to remarks made by the Democratic presidential candidate, calling for support of Israel's territorial integrity against the Arab nations.

The most recent came during Saturday night's televised debate in San Francis-

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co with Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy.

A newspaper clipping about the debate reportedly was found in Sirhan's pockets when he was seized seconds after the shooting.

ARRIVAL

Records in Washington showed that Sirhan, with his father, mother, a number of brothers and a sister, arrived in New York from Jerusalem on Jan. 12, 1957— not long after the second of the three Israeli-Arab wars. Sirhan was then 12 years old.

Arab sources in Jerusalem said other members of the Sirhan family, known there as Sar'han — pronounced Sak-han — still live in the small village of Silwan on the outskirts of Old Jerusalem in the West Bank sector that was then part of Jordan.

PALESTINE

There are about 250 persons named Sirhan in the village, all members of branches of the same family, the sources said.

Records of the Immigra-

tion and Naturalization Service in Washington showed that Sirhan was born March 19, 1944. At that time the area was ruled by Britain under the League of Nations Palestine mandate. With Britain's blessing, Jordan became an independent kingdom in 1946.

None of the Sirhan family in America was ever naturalized, the Immigration Department in Washington said.

The identification of Sirhan was made public several hours after his arrest by Police Chief Thomas Reddin and Mayor Samuel Yorty at a press conference. The suspect himself had refused to disclose even his name or his motive.

IDENTIFICATION

The mayor said identification was made through the gun taken from him at the hotel. It was traced, he explained, to the suspect's brother, Munir (Joe) Sirhan.

Sirhan, Munir and another brother, Adel, live with their mother, Mary Sirhan, an employee of a Pasadena church nursery, in the family home in Pasadena.

The father reportedly accompanied the family here, but, it is understood, returned to the Middle East several years ago.

A sister, acquaintances said, died of cancer about a year ago.

When police took custody of Sirhan from Kennedy aides who had overpowered him at the hotel, no identification was found in his pockets.

MONEY

But four \$100 bills, a \$5 bill, four \$1 bills and a small amount of change was discovered in them.

Also found, said Mayor Yorty, were "some newspaper clippings which were anti-Kennedy in nature. One, from a Pasadena newspaper, gave Kennedy's itinerary where he planned to speak in June. There also was a poem reflecting unfavorably on the Senator."

Los Angeles police also recovered a spent .22 caliber shell, of the type which felled Senator Kennedy, from trash at the rear of the Sirhan home.

SCHOOL

The slight, olive-complexioned suspect is a 1963 graduate of Pasadena's John Muir high school, where he was considered by classmates to be "polite, clean and an A-1 student."

Neighbors said he also graduated from Pasadena City College about two years ago.

He was employed by Weidner from September last year until April this year as a stock and delivery boy.

Weidner said he asked Sirhan why he had never become an American citizen, and the latter replied with criticism of the United States for its help to Israel.

In New York, the secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab relations, Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, said that Sirhan was active in the Organization of Arab Students at Pasadena State college. Mehdi is known in the New York area as a propagandist for Arab causes.