

**Assassination**

**Arabs Line Up Behind Sirhan**

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan may be defended against the charge of assassinating Sen. Robert Kennedy by lawyers from his native Jordan seeking to put Arab-Israeli relations on trial.

A Jordanian lawyers association has chosen four of its members to defend Sirhan. Two Lebanese attorneys have volunteered their services and similar plans were reported underway in Iraq and by the Arab Federation of Lawyers in Cairo.

The Jordanian organization said the four members — Fuad Atallah, Ahmed El-Khalil, Mohammed Berdai and Hassan Hawa — will fly to the United States "very soon" and will be joined later by other Arab lawyers.

Arab attorneys will be permitted to take over Sirhan's

case if they are deemed qualified by the court and if they arrange to be associated with an attorney admitted to practice by the California Bar Association.

Legal sources see the move as a possible propaganda attempt to air Arab grievances against Israel in a trial certain to gain worldwide attention.

The two Lebanese lawyers, Moussa Prince, 42, and his assistant, Abdel Hamid El Ahdab, 24, last week sent a letter to the American Embassy in Beirut offering to fly here to "clarify the circumstances which surrounded Kennedy's assassination."

A likely plea would be innocent by reason of insanity — specifically, Sirhan's reported hatred of Israel, and of Kennedy for his pro-Israeli statements made during the California primary.

SFChronicle

**An Arab Legal Rally To Sirhan**

Beirut, Lebanon

A groundswell of interest appears to be developing in Arab legal circles over the case of Sirhan Sirhan, the alleged assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

After almost a fortnight in which the lawyers were conspicuous by their silence, the Palestinian-born Sirhan is now threatened with inundation by legal advice from his Middle Eastern compatriots. Lawyers from Jordan, Iraq and the Arab Federation of Lawyers yesterday were reported planning to go to his defense.

Sirhan has not indicated he wants Arab or any other outside legal help, so far as can be determined here. The first offers to take up his case have not yet elicited any response.

This has not prevented others from volunteering. Among the latest was Shafik Ershadat, secretary general of the Cairo-based Arab Federation of Lawyers and himself a Palestinian.

Reports from Amman said that four Jordanian lawyers had appointed a fifth, Henri Kattan, to go to Los Angeles to sound out the situation before they decide whether to present themselves en masse

to Sirhan. Another report said three Iraqi lawyers had similarly volunteered their services.

The slowness of the Arab legal community to respond to Sirhan's plight reflected the near total confusion inflicted upon Arab political ranks by the news that a Palestinian Arab was the chief suspect in the Kennedy murder.

Reactions have swung clear across the political kaleidoscope, from assertions that the deed was the act of a deranged individual and had nothing to do with the Arabs in general to allegations that the whole thing was a Zionist plot to denigrate the Arabs in American eyes.

*Times-Post Service*

**L.A. Lawyer to Defend Sirhan**

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — A veteran Los Angeles criminal attorney agreed today to handle, without fee and as a public service, the defense on a murder charge of the man

accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

He is Russell E. Parsons, who describes himself as a "journeyman, hardworking lawyer" who has tried about

5000 cases in 40 years as a prosecutor and later a defender.

His client is Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the slender 24 year old Jordanian who is accused

of firing the bullet that fatally wounded Kennedy last June 5.

Parsons told a newsman he had not met Sirhan but would visit him later today.

Meanwhile, four Jordanian lawyers who had said they

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might come here to help defend Sirhan canceled their trip. They gave no explanation.