

Top Lawyer to Defend Sirhan

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — Grant Cooper, a top criminal lawyer, today took over the defense of Sirhan B. Sirhan against a charge of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Although Sirhan selected Cooper as his chief defender shortly after Kennedy was fatally wounded in the Ambassador Hotel last June 5, his role was kept secret because he was involved in another trial.

The conclusion of that trial yesterday, in which Cooper's client was found guilty of conspiracy to cheat members of the Friars Club in rigged card games, marked Cooper's public entry into the Sirhan case.

Cooper, who twice got a hung jury in the sensational Finch-Tregoff murder trials, studied the Sirhan case be-

hind the scenes for months. He was filled in on developments by Sirhan's attorney-of-record, Russell E. Parsons.

Parsons will continue on the case with Cooper calling the signals. Also scheduled to join the defense team is Emile Zola Berman, of New York, another crack defense lawyer.

Sirhan is scheduled to go on trial Monday, but Parsons this week is expected to seek a continuance until at least Jan. 6.



GRANT COOPER
Sirhan's defender