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Threats to Judge

Famed Lawyer To Aid Sirhan

Los Angeles

A prominent New York attorney yesterday joined the defense for Sirhan B. Sirhan, accused of the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, and said it would be the principal concern of the team to save Sirhan from the gas chamber.

Emile Zola Berman, 65, joined west coast lawyers Grant Cooper and Russell Parsons in preparing the case for the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant, who goes on trial January 7.

At a brief hearing in the tiny 14th floor courtroom of the Hall of Justice, Superior Court Judge Herbert V.

Walker, who will preside at the trial, revealed that he already had received mailed threats, including a letter which advised him to "make sure my insurance is paid up."

Walker made the disclosure in ruling formally that the jury in the Sirhan trial will be locked up nightly for the entire three months it is expected to take.

Walker said that he was taking the action to protect jurors from the type of harassment that he already was being subjected to.

At a brief news conference after the hearing, Berman said he had joined the defense team at Cooper's re-



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EMILE ZOLA BERMAN
"Hope" for accused

quest and because he thought it was his duty in a case of this magnitude to see that Sirhan was properly represented.

Asked what he thought might be the outcome of the case, Berman said:

"We are hoping to save his life — that is our principal concern."

United Press