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NY ONLY
SIRHAN PMS BJT
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LOS ANGELES (AP)—A SURPRISE PROSECUTION MANEUVER MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR A JURY TO BE SEATED AS EARLY AS TUESDAY IN THE SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN MURDER TRIAL.

CHIEF DEPUTY PROSECUTOR LYNN COMPTON STARTLED THE PACKED COURTROOM FRIDAY AFTERNOON BY ANNOUNCING THE STATE WOULD RELINGUISH ITS RIGHT TO DISMISS THE 11 TENTATIVE JURORS.

CHIEF DEFENSE ATTORNEY GRANT B. COOPER MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO ADJOURN UNTIL TUESDAY.

"WE NEED TIME TO ASSESS THE ACCEPTANCE OF THIS JURY AS IT IS NOW CONSTITUTED," HE TOLD SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER.

SIRHAN, 24, A JORDANIAN IMMIGRANT, IS ACCUSED OF MURDERING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY LAST JUNE 5.

JURY SELECTION HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO TAKE WEEKS.

SIRHAN'S THREE ATTORNEYS WILL DECIDE OVER THE WEEKEND WHETHER TO YIELD THEIR PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES--AS THE PROSECUTION HAS DONE -- OR CONTINUE EXERCISING THEM AGAINST JURORS IT FINDS OBJECTIONABLE.

IF THE DEFENSE WAIVES THE CHALLENGES, IT WOULD MEAN THE 11 TENTATIVE JURORS WOULD BE PERMANENTLY SEATED.

"DON'T BE SURPRISED AT WHAT HAPPENS TUESDAY," COOPER TOLD REPORTERS. "WE JUST MIGHT HAVE A JURY."

THE 12TH SEAT IN THE JURY BOX, HOWEVER, REMAINS VACANT. THE PROSPECTIVE JUROR, HELEN WOODWORTH, A RETIRED LEGAL SECRETARY, TOLD WALKER IN CHAMBERS FRIDAY SHE MUST CONSULT HER DOCTOR TO LEARN WHETHER A LONG TRIAL WOULD INJURE HER HEALTH.

EITHER SIDE COULD DISMISS MISS WOODWORTH BECAUSE THE PROSECUTION YIELDED ITS PEREMPTORY CHALLENGES BEFORE SHE WAS SEATED.

PROSECUTION AND DEFENSE EACH EXCUSED A JUROR FRIDAY BEFORE THE STATE WAIVED ITS REMAINING CHALLENGES.

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THEY WERE ALICIA DUKE, A DIVORCEE IN HER EARLY 30S, AND SHARON ENGLE, THE ATTRACTIVE YOUNG WIFE OF A SUBURBAN GLENDALE UNDERTAKER. AMONG TWO JURORS ADDED DURING THE DAY WAS DORA JACOBI, A RETIRED UNIVERSITY INSTRUCTOR WHO ONCE WORKED IN AN ARMY PSYCHIATRIC CENTER AT FT. EDWARDS, MASS.

MISS JACOBI, WHO IS JEWISH, TOLD THE COURT SHE COULD HEAR THE EVIDENCE WITHOUT PREJUDICE.

SIRHAN, A PALESTINE-BORN ARAB, IS REPUTED TO HAVE WRITTEN IN A UJQARY THAT KENNEDY WOULD DIE BEFORE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI WAR.

DEFENSE ATTORNEYS HAVE SAID THAT THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION WAS BOUND TO COME UP DURING THE TRIAL.

THE PANEL'S ONLY OTHER JEWISH MEMBER, BENJAMIN GLICK, A CLOTHING RETAILER, ALSO ASSURED THE COURT WHEN HE WAS SEATED THURSDAY HE COULD DELIBERATE THE CASE IMPARTIALLY.

AT THE OUTSET OF FRIDAY'S SESSION, WALKER APPROVED A PROSECUTION CHALLENGE OF ALVINA ALVIDREZ, THE ONLY PROSPECTIVE JUROR OF THE MORE THAN 30 QUESTIONED SO FAR TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO THE DEATH PENALTY.

SIRHAN'S COURTROOM DEMEANOR REMAINED JAUNTY AT THE CLOSE OF THE TRIAL'S FIRST FULL WEEK.

AT ONE POINT IN THE AFTERNOON, AS ASSOCIATE DEFENSE ATTORNEY RUSSELL PARSONS WAS QUIZZING A PROSPECTIVE JUROR, SIRHAN STOOD UP AND WHISPERED IN THE LAWYER'S EAR.

A GUARD TOLD HIM TO SIT DOWN.

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