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NY ONLY--NOT FOR PUBLICATION--1,000
ABE GOLDBERG ASKED, FOR LOG
BY GENE HANDSAKER

IN A MARBLE-WALLED CORRIDOR ON THE EIGHTH FLOOR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE YOU STAND IN LINE AND SIGN IN. A BIG, STEEL-PLATED DOOR IS UNLOCKED, YOU WALK THROUGH AND IT'S LOCKED BEHIND YOU. YOU'RE COVERING SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN'S MURDER TRIAL BUT ALREADY FEEL LIKE SOME KIND OF SUSPECT YOURSELF. THE FEELING IS ONLY BEGINNING.

A DEPUTY SHERIFF TELLS YOU TO EMPTY YOUR POCKETS. YOU LAY PEN, PENCILS, NOTEPAPER, KEYS, WALLET, HANDKERCHIEF ON A LONG TABLE. THE DEPUTY TAKES YOUR PIPE APART TO VERIFY IT ISN'T A PISTOL OR KNIFE. HE DISASSEMBLES YOUR LIGHTER AND INSPECTS THE COTTON WAKKING.

YOU LEAN FORWARD, HANDS ON TABLE, FEET APART. THE DEPUTY RUNS HIS HANDS OVER YOUR COATSLEEVES, UNDER COLLAR AND LAPELS, UP THE BACK, ALONG THE SEAMS, UP AND DOWN YOUR LEGS.

A SECOND DEPUTY MOVES A BLACK, PADDLE-SHAPED METAL DETECTOR OVER YOUR PERSON. ITS SQUEAL BECOMES LOUDER WHEN IT CROSSES YOUR BELT BUCKLE AND THE CLIP THAT HOLDS YOUR COURTROOM PASS TO YOUR BREAST PICKET.

FOR WOMEN REPORTERS THE FRISKING IS A WORSE ORDEAL. ONE DESCRIBES IT: WOMAN DEPUTY AND FRISKEE STEP INTO A SIDE ROOM. DEPUTY EMPTIES NEWSWOMAN'S PURSE, INSPECTS SPECTACLES, SPECTACLES CASE, MAKE-UP KIT, WALLET; FEELS UNDER SCARF OVER NEWSWOMAN'S HEAD.

DEPUTY UNZIPS BACK OF NEWSWOMAN'S DRESS, REACHES DOWN HER FRONT, EXPLORES AREA UNDER, UH, BRASSIERE. NEWSWOMAN HOISTS SKIRT TO WAIST, DEPUTY EYEBALLS HOISERY AND GIRDLE.

"DOWNRIGHT EMBARRASSING," ONE NEWSWOMAN CALLS THE PROCEDURE. "DEGRADING" IS ANOTHER'S APPRAISAL.

THE DEPUTIES ARE NICE ENOUGH ABOUT IT. THEY'RE JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS. THEY EVEN FRISK EACH OTHER. THEY'RE LOOKING FOR WEAPONS BECAUSE, A SENIOR OFFICER HAS TOLD YOU, "WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER DALLAS." ALSO THEY'RE LOOKING FOR CAMERAS AND RECORDERS, BARRED FROM COURTROOMS BY CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL COUNCIL RULES REINFORCED BY ORDERS FROM THE JUDGE.

POCKETS RELOADED, YOU'RE ADMITTED THROUGH ANOTHER LOCKED DOOR TO A LONG CORRIDOR. ON A LONG TABLE ARE 26 TELEPHONES SPECIALLY INSTALLED FOR NEWSMEN. THERE IS A DRINKING FOUNTAIN BUT NO COFFEE URN--AND NO RESTROOMS. LEAVE THE SECURITY AREA AND YOU HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE FRISKING PROCESS ALL OVER TO GET BACK IN.

ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN NEWSMEN ARE COVERING THE TRIAL. THEY REPRESENT EIGHT NEWS SERVICES, 19 U. S. NEWSPAPERS AND PAPERS IN CANADA, MEXICO, ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, SWITZERLAND, EGYPT, JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA. FIVE MAGAZINES, THE RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORKS AND SEVERAL LOCAL STATIONS ARE REPRESENTED.

(LIKE UPI) AP/IS ASSIGNED TWO SEATS IN THE COURTROOM, BUT DURING JURY SELECTION USUALLY WAS ABLE TO USE BUT ONE. PROSPECTIVE JURORS WERE ASSIGNED THE OTHER. DURING TESTIMONY, BOTH SEATS ARE AVAILABLE. NY'S ART EVERETT AND WASHINGTON'S HARRY ROSENTHAL ARE SET TO COVER WHEN TESTIMONY BEGINS.

OF THE COURTROOM'S 75 THEATER-TYPE SEATS, 37 ARE ASSIGNED TO NEWSMEN; THE REST ARE FOR WITNESSES, SIRHAN'S FAMILY AND SECURITY GUARDS. THE OVERFLOW CROWD OF REPORTERS WATCHES THE PROCEEDINGS BY CLOSED-CIRCUIT TELEVISION IN AN AUXILIARY ROOM FOUR FLOORS BELOW. A TV CAMERA CONCEALED IN A COURTROOM AIR CONDITIONER CARRIES THE SCENE TO THREE MONITOR SCREENS ON HIGH PEDESTALS. THE PICTURE IS A STEADY LONG SHOT, WITH SIRHAN HARDLY MORE THAN A DOT AND THE JURY OUT OF VIEW. SOUND MOST OF THE TIME IS ADEQUATE. IN THE AUXILIARY ROOM, TOO, DEPUTIES SEARCH NEWSMEN FOR CAMERAS AND RECORDERS.

THE COURTROOM IS MAYBE 35 FEET WIDE AND 45 FEET LONG, WITH TAN-AND-CREAM WALLS. A VARNISHED-WALNUT FENCE, WITH AN ELECTRICALLY LATCHED GATE, BISECTS IT CROSSWISE. TWO SETS OF SPOTLIGHTS, HIGH ON WALLS, SPREAD THEIR AIM AROUND THE ROOM. THEY'RE UNLIGHTED, BUT IF A MURDER PLOT AGAINST SIRHAN SHOULD SUDDENLY DOUSE THE REGULAR LIGHTS, THE BATTERY-POWERED SPOTLIGHTS WOULD COME ON INSTANTLY AND AUTOMATICALLY.

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QUARTER-INCH-THICK STEEL PLATES OVER THE WINDOWS, A PRECAUTION AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT ON THE DEFENDANT'S LIFE BY BULLET OR BOMB FROM OUTSIDE, ARE CONCEALED BY TAN DRAPES.

ALTERNATING AT COVERAGE FROM THE AP'S TWO FRONT-ROW SEATS HAVE BEEN LA STAFFERS GENE HANDSAKER, AND GEORGE ZUCKER, LINDA DEUTSCH WITH OCCASIONAL HELP FROM OTHERS. SKETCHES OF TRIAL PRINCIPALS AND JURORS BY SAN FRANCISCO FREE-LANCE ARTIST ROSALIE RITZ HAVE MOVED ON THE WIREPHOTO NETWORK.

AP AND OTHER PHOTOGS MUST WAIT IN THE CORRIDOR OUTSIDE THE SECURITY AREA TO SNAP PRINCIPALS AS THEY ARRIVE OR LEAVE.

ZUCKER FINDS "SOMETHING ALMOST AMUSING ABOUT SHOWING YOUR PRESS CREDENTIALS TWICE A DAY TO A SECURITY CHIEF WHO KNOWS YOU ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS. OR UNLOADING YOUR POCKETS FOR A FRISKING BY A GUARD WHO KNOWS BY HEART YOU'RE CARRYING A PACK OF LARK CIGARETTES, THREE PENS, COPY PAPER, WALLET AND HANDKERCHIEF."

LINDA DEUTSCH NOTES THAT SIRHAN SHOWS LITTLE EMOTION, EITHER AT MENTION OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY'S NAME OR DEFENSE ATTORNEYS' ADMISSION, IN QUESTIONING PROSPECTIVE JURORS, THAT THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN KILLED HIM.

"HIS FACE IS USUALLY BLANK EXCEPT WHEN HE SMILES AT HIS MOTHER AND BROTHER," LINDA ADDS. "HE ALSO HAS GRINNED AT JURORS, SMILED AT NEWSMEN AND ON ONE OCCASION SEEMED TO BE STIFLING A GIGGLE. HE LOOKS TERRIBLE, SEEMS TO HAVE LOST WEIGHT SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF PRELIMINARY HEARINGS. NORMALLY THIN, HE NOW LOOKS EMACIATED, AND THERE IS A YELLOW TINGE TO HIS SKIN UNDER A PERPETUAL SHADOW OF BEARD."

COUNSEL HAVE I

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60--HOOKUP--ANDREW KAELIN SAYS PLANS TO RETIRE AS INTERNATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OF RAILROADS DIVISION OF TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION.
110--BB--PENN CENTRAL ANNOUNCES 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN LONG DISTANCE PASSENGER FARES.

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COUNSEL HAVE INDICATED SIRHAN'S DEFENSE WILL BE ONE OF "DIMINISHED RESPONSIBILITY," WHEREIN A DEFENDANT MAY BE JUDGED SANE AND YET NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR A VIOLENT ACT.

SIRHAN, USUALLY WEARING A GRAY SUIT AND BLUE NECKTIE, IS BROUGHT DOWN IN A JAIL ELEVATOR FROM HIS HEAVILY GUARDED, 13TH-FLOOR CELL TO A GREEN-WALLED "HOLDING AREA" ADJOINING THE COURTROOM.

ITS DOOR OPENS AND YOU GLIMPSE HIM TAKING A LAST DRAG ON A CIGAR. TWO DEPUTIES ESCORT HIM INTO THE COURTROOM--NINE EASY, STROLLING STEPS TO A LEATHER-UPHOLSTERED SWIVEL CHAIR AT THE FAR LEFT END OF THE LONG COUNSEL TABLE. HE SMILES AND WAVES TO HIS MOTHER MARY AND BROTHERS ADEL AND MUNIR, SEATED IN THE BACK ROW. HE SMILES AND WHISPERS ANIMATEDLY WITH WISPY, GRANDFATHERLY RUSSELL E. PARSONS, NEAREST OF HIS THREE DEFENSE ATTORNEYS, LEGAL ACES ALL.

HERBERT V. WALKER, 69, PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE LOS ANGELES CRIMINAL SUPERIOR COURT, MOUNTS HIS HIGH, VARNISHED-WALNUT BENCH. HE'S WEARING A BLACK ROBE. ENORMOUS WHITE EYEBROWS FLARE OVER HIS SPECTACLES. THE U. S. AND CALIFORNIA FLAGS FLANK HIM AT THE REAR.

"PEOPLE VERSUS SIRHAN," HE SAYS. "LET THE RECORD SHOW THE PARTIES' COUNSEL ARE PRESENT."

NEWSPAPER AND TV ARTISTS ARE BUSILY SKETCHING. REPORTERS' PENCILS ARE POISED OVER NOTE PADS. SIRHAN STOPS FIDGETING.

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