

A227

4 FEB 69

357 AES

lbyllbylee

Sirhan correction

LOS ANGELES Sirhan lead a223 1st graf read it xxx was \$2,212.46

sted \$2,212.45

The AP

ED318pes. Feb 4

4 FEB 69

A223LA

lbyllbylzyyIA

URGENT

Sirhan Lead

By BOB THOMAS

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP. - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, taking the witness stand at his trial on a charge he murdered Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, said today the most money he earned in any of the four previous years was \$2,212.45.

The slender young Jordanian was poised and spoke clearly during five minutes of testimony about his financial status. He spoke in support of a defense motion to quash the grand jury indictment against him on grounds the jury was unbalanced in makeup.

He confirmed these income figures: 1965, \$984.90; 1966, \$2,212.46; 1967, \$432.96; 1968, \$752.35. The money, he said, came from jobs in a drive-in, motor service firm, a ranch in nearby Chino, a construction company in nea

by Corona, and a food store in

Pasadena.

Sirhan, 24, was neatly dressed in a gray suit, blue tie and shirt, and took the oath with fists clenched. But he seemed relaxed while speaking. His voice was slightly accented.

The defense earlier presented testimony that the g

ra

was mostly composed of college-educated persons in the p<sup>nd jury</sup>rofessional, sales or managerial classes and included no one who was under 20 or poor.

Under questioning by chief defense counsel Grant B. Cooper, Sirhan responded almost entirely with "yes," or "yes sir."

Under cross-examination by Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton, Sirhan's replies were a bit ltnger.

Was he going to school during the years cited?

"Yes, in 1964, 1965, 1966--no, just 1964 and 65 at Pasadena City College"

"Did you tu

n over your money to your mother?"

"Part of it."

Asked his age, Sirhan replied: "I'll be 25 next month."

He said he lived at home most of the time during the years in question.

The information about his income was derived by Cooper asking Sirhan if income tax withhtlding figures were correct, with Sirhan saying "yes."

Asked by the prosecutr if any of the federal tax deducted from his paychecks was returned, Sirhan said: "Some of it, yes."

Then he thought a bit and added, "almost all of it, sir."

After Sirhan was excused his mother, Mary, 55, was called.



She spent 18 minutes verifying her son's and her earnings over recent years.

After confirming figures read to her by defense attorney Cooper and saying that her two other sons contributed only occasionally to household expenses, she capped her witness stand appearance as she was excused by rising and saying:

"I thank God that he gave me the strength and I thank you nice people also that I never got hungry and have a roof over my head."

To reporters, as court was recessed at midday, she explained that she meant: "I thank the United States."

Cooper read into the record her gross income, taxes and net income since 1958. Her annual nets were: 1958, \$1,471.40; 1959, \$1,600.25; 1960, \$1,579.11; 1961, \$1,597.71; 1962, \$1,631.69; 1963, \$1,603.58; 1964, approximately the same as 1965 which was \$1,768.76; 1966, \$1,772.56; 1967, \$1,752.69. No figure was given for 1968.

Mrs. Sirhan: 45h graf AO20 day  
DR&SWQ&L?LPPS Feb 4

AO20

lbylczzc

Sirhan Bjt 320

LOS ANGELES AP - The defense arranged to call Sirhan Bishara Sirhan to the witness stand for the first time today to talk about his family's low income but not the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy for which he is on trial.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper wants to quash the murder indictment brought against the 24-year-old Jordanian on grounds the grand jury's members were highly educated with above-average income and didn't represent a cross-section of population.

Sirhan's tiny, grey-haired mother, Mary, 55, also was called to testify about the family's economic conditions. Sirhan was jobless when arrested. His mother works as a housekeeper.

Mrs. Sirhan has been in court every day since the trial began Jan. 7.

The defense subpoenaed all 133 of the county's Superior Court judges to explain how they pick grand jurors. Three testified in person, saying it was difficult to find low-income jurors because of the hardship in leaving work.

Cooper said 13-page questionnaires were completed by most of the other judges.

After the defense motion is disposed of by Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker, a jury of eight men and four women, already seated to hear the trial, will be sworn in and selection of six alternate jurors begun.

Sirhan is charged with murdering Kennedy moments after the New York senator claimed victory in California's Democratic presidential primary last June 5. He also is being tried on five counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to commit murder.

A 17-year-old Los Angeles youth - one of those wounded in the gunfire which killed Kennedy - filed a \$1.05-million suit against Sirhan in Superior Court Monday. Irwin Stroll asked \$50,000 in general damages and \$1 million in punitive damages.

A supporter of Kennedy's presidential bid, Stroll was wounded in the leg. He testified before the grand jury which indicted Sirhan.

HP357aes Feb. 4