

# Busboy Tells Of Aiding Dying RFK

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the traumatic moment after Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was shot, a young busboy cradled the senator's bloody head in his arms, whispered encouragement and placed a rosary in his hands.

"I said the first thing that came to my mind," Juan Romero said yesterday to the jury that is trying Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for Kennedy's death. "I said, 'Come on Senator, you can make it.' Then his head dropped back."

Emile Zola Berman, one of Sirhan's three defenders, said in his opening statement that "there is no doubt . . . that he (Sirhan) did, in fact, fire the shot that killed Sen. Kennedy." But, Berman said, the defense will present psychiatric testimony that "at the actual moment of the shooting he was out of contact with reality, in a trance."

THE STATE is trying to prove Sirhan killed Kennedy, June 5, 1968, with malice and premeditation — the elements of first-degree murder. The defense hopes to show the killing was impulsive, without premeditation or malice. As Berman put it: "totally a product of a sick, obsessed mind and personality."

The pale, 24-year-old Jordanian rose from his chair in protest as Berman described him thus. He was obviously agitated, murmuring "No, no." A court inspector leaned over the chair of defense investigator Michael McCowan and said, "Talk to him, Mike."

McCowan pushed Sirhan back into his chair and whispered to him for several minutes. There were no further incidents and Sirhan smiled broadly a number of times during the day.

THE FIRST day's testimony also revealed that a last minute change in plans brought Kennedy to his deadly encounter with Sirhan—in

a pantry off the Ambassador Hotel ballroom where the senator had just claimed victory in California's presidential primary.

Romero had gone to the ballroom to hear Kennedy speak and preceded him to the pantry area. Shortly after midnight Romero saw someone coming toward Kennedy.

"I thought it was a person who couldn't wait to shake his hand," Romero said with his heavy Spanish accent. "I seen the guy put a hand at the senator's head. And then I saw a gun."

"THEN I SAW Sen. Kennedy stretched out in front of me. I leaned down and picked up his head."

Romero said he talked to Kennedy when "somebody, a priest or somebody," gave a rosary to him "and I put it in his hand."

At this point, state's attorneys produced a picture showing Romero with the senator. The picture was passed to the jurors who studied it intently, some of them frowning.

On cross-examination, defense attorney Russell E. Parsons asked if Kennedy—who died 25 hours later—said anything.

"HE SAID, 'Is everybody all right? Is everybody okay?'" Romero answered.

Romero was asked if the man who did the shooting was in the room. He shook his head.

Sirhan was asked to stand. "I don't believe that's him," Romero said.

Even Sirhan smiled.