

A276LA

lzyleeeyx

Sirhan LA

18 FEB 69

252 PPS

70

434 PPS

SIRHA 2nd NL 160

By ARTHUR EVERETT

ASSOCIATED Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan was identified from the witness stand Tuesday as having engaged in rapid fire practice on a gun club range only hours before the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"He came up to me and said I want the best box of shells you have and I want some that will not misfire," said Everett C. Buckner, rangemaster at the club.

Buckner said Sirha signed the practice

oster at the club that

day. Sun

the man wht signed it?"

"Sirhan wsirhan, the fellow over there," Buckner replied, pointing at the defenda t.

The testimony was offered in support of the state's claim that Sirha premeditated the murder of Kennedy.

Earlier, the mystery girl in the polka dot dress at the scene of the senator's slaying said she didn't know Sirhan, had never smiled at or talked to hih, and couldn't even recognize him for sure in court.

Tall, blonde; 2nd graf A257LA

T434pps Feb 18

A307LA

zyczceeLA

Sirhan Add

LOS ANGELES Sirhan 2nd NL A276LA add: of Kennedy. Cq, deleting 6th graf "Earlier etc. x x x in court."

Kennedy was fatally shot shortly after midnight June 5, 1968. The state testimony placed Sirhan, a 24-year-old Jordanian Arab, on the gun range in the early afternoon of June 4-less than 12 hours before the assassination.

The defense at Sirhan's first-degree murder trial attempted on cross-examination to discredit Bruckner's reliability as a witness. He was asked:

Q. "Didn't ytu at first tell the police there was a lady with Sirhan and she said to him 'Get out of here God damn you or somebody will recognize us'?"

A. "I said it sounded something like that."

Q. "WQEREN'T YOU GIVEN A LIE DETECTOR TEST?"

A. "Yes."

Q. "And you flunked?"

A. "On that question."

Judge Waluer sustained a state objection at this point despite a defense complaint that "They have put Mr. Sirhan at this range and they hape testified about one isolated conversation."

Resuming, Bruckner was asked: Q. "Did you at any time ever hear any lady say to Mr. Sirhan 'get out of here God Damm you, somebody will recognize us.'"

A. "No."

Another witness who talked to sirhan at the range was Henry Carreon. Shown the gun taken from Sirhan after the assassination, he was asked if it was the gun the defendant practiced with.

"I QWOULD SAY THIS IS THE GUN," Carreon replied. "It looks like it at least."

Earlier, the mystery girl in the ptlka dot dress at the scene of Kennedy's assassination said she didn't know Sirhan, never smiled at him and never talked to him.

Tall, blonde Valerie Schulte, 22, testified she was knocked to the floor in the hectic aftermath of the shooting and saw very little.

"Do you eti 3rd graf NL A257 LA

XM&TQ344PPS Feb 18



AQ1579LA

lzylywyfee Sirhan LA

SIRHAN NL 500

By ARTHUR EVERETT

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - The mystery girl in the polka dot dress at the scene of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's assassination said Tuesday she didn't know the slayer, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, and had never smiled at or talked to him. She said she couldn't even recognize him for sure in court.

Tall, blonde Valerie SCHULTE, 44, TESTIFIED AT THE YOUNG Jordanian's first-degree murder t

rial that she was knocked to the floor in the hectic aftermath of the June 5, 1968, shooting and saw very little.

"Would you recognize him at all?" deputy district attorney Davie N. Fitts asked, indicating the 24-year-old Sirhan at the defense table.

"I told the officers at the time that I could never make a positive identification," replied Miss Schulte, who wore a green and yellow polka dot mini dress at the time of the shooting. She wore a sleeveless white mini into court.

"As far as you know that is a person you never had any contact with before?" Fitts asked.

"Yes," she replied.

Defense attorney Grant B. Cooper asked a single question on cross-examination: "Obviously you never knew Mr. Sirhan?"

The state thus sought to erase any thought that a conspiracy lay behind the slaying of the 42-year-old Kennedy in the kitchen area off the wembassy Ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel.

Moments before, the senator had proclaimed victory with his supporters in the California Democratic presidential primary.

Miss Schulte, a Kennedy campaign worker, had retired to the kitchen area before the senator finished his victory speech.

At the time of the assassination, police investigated reports that a girl, in polka dots had smiled and chatted with Sirhan, and stood beside him when he fired the fatal shot.

There also were reports, which police later discredited, that a few minutes after the shooting the polka dot girl dashed from the scene crying, "We shtt him! We shot Kennedy."

Miss Schulte testified that she was using a crutch at the time, after breaking a leg in a ski accident two years ago. She still wears a brace in her left leg.

She estimated that she did not leave the scene until approximately 45 minutes after the shooting.

Sirhan has pleaded innocent to first-degree murder. The defense says his emotional and mental condition was such he was unable to premeditate murder.

For the first time in the trial's seven weeks, the closely guarded and supervised courtroom was cleared abruptly.

Sheriff's officer William Conroy said later that a clicking sound had been heard on a telephone at his desk.

Investigation subsequently revealed the noise was caused by workmen handling the special telephone wire in another part of the courthouse. The t

rial was interrupted for about 12 minutes.

Miss Schulte was followed onto the stand by William Barry, Kennedy's bodyguard, and Rafer Johnstn, former Olympic decathlon champion, who was a Kennedy aide.

Each testified that Kennedy's exit from the ballroom through the kitchen area constituted a last-minute change of plans, and that as a result they were trailing the senator when he was shot.

SA252pps Feb. 18