

## DETECTIVE TELLS JURY THAT SIRHAN, AFTER ARREST, SEEMED CAUTIOUS AND ALERT

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LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26 — A police detective testified today that Sirhan B. Sirhan asked him to drink from cups of coffee and water before he himself would taste them shortly after his arrest for the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy. "I asked him if he thought they were poisoned," the witness said, "but he didn't answer."

The detective, Lieut. William C. Jordan, said, however, that the slight, 24-year-old defendant was "one of the most alert and cultured persons I've interrogated in 15 years."

The testimony came as the prosecution was winding up its case. Only two state witnesses remained to be heard, and the defense hoped to begin its case tomorrow.

Russell E. Parsons, one of the defense attorneys, said he planned to put 10 to 12 witnesses on the stand, including Mrs. Mary Sirhan, the defendant's mother; his two brothers, Adel and Munir; and the defendant himself.

During the testimony today, Sirhan was subdued and there were none of the verbal outbursts that marked yesterday's session. The defendant, dressed in an open-necked blue shirt and dark trousers, smiled to relatives and friends in the courtroom and appeared to be relaxed.

"He's come out of it," Mr. Parsons said to reporters during the morning recess. "It could happen again, though. He's a sick man."

#### Dispute Over Notebooks

Yesterday, Sirhan startled his defense team and Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker during a conference in the judge's chambers by saying that if his notebooks were allowed in evidence, "I will change my plea to guilty as charged," according to the court transcript.

"I will do so, sir, not so much that I want to be railroaded into the gas chamber, sir, but to deny you the pleasure, sir, of after convicting me turning around and telling the world: 'Well, I put that fellow in the gas chamber, but I first gave him a fair trial,' when you in fact, sir, will not have done so," the defendant said.

He told the judge that the evidence taken from his home was "illegally obtained, stolen by the district attorney's people."

Sirhan was then told that

his lawyers, headed by Grant B. Cooper, would ask to be discharged from the case if he persisted in his demand. Later, after two outbreaks in the courtroom, the trial was adjourned until this morning.

#### Judge's Discretion

Should Sirhan persist in wanting to change his plea, any such move would be at the discretion of Judge Walker. If the judge should find the defendant in a state where he was unable to make responsible decisions, he could order the defense attorneys to stay and refuse to allow a change in plea.

Under the law, he could also call in a psychiatrist to examine Sirhan and to order his care for a period of time. And, before deciding whether to allow him to change his plea, the Judge would also have to ascertain if the defendant had acted in a premeditated way to kill Senator Kennedy.

Sirhan has pleaded not guilty to the charge of first degree murder. His attorneys have conceded that he did shoot the Senator at the Ambassador Hotel last June 5. They will now attempt to prove that the Jordanian immigrant could not give rational and mature consideration to his act.

Under California law, a jury

must find him guilty of a lesser crime, such as manslaughter or second degree murder, if the defense can prove he had "diminished capacity" at the time of the crime.

This morning, Sirhan all but ignored the jury as they pored over the pages from his notebooks. The pages in evidence show that Sirhan, in his own handwriting, called repeatedly for the slaying of Senator Kennedy.

In his testimony, which took up most of the morning session, Lieutenant Jordan said he spent four to five hours with Sirhan after his arrest at the Ambassador. He told the court he had advised the suspect of his constitutional rights two times during the initial interview.

During the repeated interrogations, Lieutenant Jordan said, Sirhan would only repeat the phrase "I will stand on my original decision to remain silent." The detective said the suspect even refused to give his name.

The lieutenant said he gave two cups of coffee and a cup of water to Sirhan during the interrogations, once at the suspect's request.

The detective told the court that each time, Sirhan had him drink from the cups first. He

said Sirhan never answered when he asked him why.

Lieutenant Jordan said he did not give Sirhan any tests to determine if he had been drinking because "it did not seem necessary."

"Sirhan was extremely polite and we had a pleasant relationship," the detective testified. "He laughed and we laughed as much as the situation would permit."

Asked if Sirhan seemed irrational after his arrest, Lieutenant Jordan said no.

#### 'Wasn't Breathing'

"In my opinion he was extremely intelligent and spoke very well," the detective said. "He denied that he'd had a formal education, but he spoke as if he had had one. The defendant expressed himself very well. He was emphatic and had an inquiring mind."

This afternoon, the jury heard testimony from Dr. V. Faustin Bazilauskas, who was on duty at the Central Receiving Hospital when Senator Kennedy was brought in.

"He was pulseless and wasn't breathing," the physician said. "To all intents and purposes then, he was lifeless."

Dr. Bazilauskas said he gave a cardiac massage to Mr. Kennedy. "My first impulse, since

he was lifeless, was to inject adrenalin directly into the heart, which is occasionally a lifesaving device, but not always."

"I halted," he continued, "because Mrs. Kennedy's eyes were about two feet away and I didn't think she could have taken it."

Instead, the physician went on, adrenalin was injected into the Senator's shoulder. "He began to breathe and his condition stabilized," he added. Shortly thereafter, the Senator was taken to Good Samaritan Hospital, a few miles away.