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LOS ANGELES AP - The case of the people vs. Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, prisoner No. 718486, Arab partisan and assassin of Robert F. Kennedy, is complete. Now it's the defense's turn.

Through Sirhan himself, his mother and two of his brothers, plus psychiatrists and psychologist witnesses, the defense will try beginning Friday to show that Sirhan didn't have the mind to devise a mature and meaningful plot against the senator's life.

There is no dispute that Sirhan, 24, a Jordanian brought to this country as a boy, mortally wounded Kennedy last June 5 just after the New York Senator claimed victory in California's Democratic presidential primary.

Premeditation is the key to a first degree murder conviction in California. Diminished responsibility-incapability to consider actions maturely-is a defense which could bring a verdict of second degree murder or manslaughter.

In California the jury sets the penalty for first degree murder with only two choices-life in prison or death in San Quentin's pea-green gas chamber.

The state has not formally rested its case but it has no more witnesses.

The prosecution built its case for premeditation through 56 witnesses in nine days. It opened with the testimony of the people near the senator when Sirhan opened fire with a little black .22-caliber pistol. It closed with the county coroner who said the murder gun was almost touching the senator's head when the trigger was pulled.

There was testimony in between that Sirhan practiced shooting at two gunnery ranges, that he told an acquaintance he planned to kill Kennedy, that he looked over the Ambassador Hotel two days before the deed, and that he lurked in wait as the senator left a victory celebration.

But the most dramatic testimony didn't come from a witness. It was contained in eight pages of notebooks, six of which were shown the jury. The notebooks, it was testified, came from Sirhan's room. Their introduction was bitterly contested by the defense on grounds that there had been no search warrant.

One one page, in a scrawled torrent, Sirhan wrote more than 20 times-in a dozen different phrasings-assassinate Kennedy, assassinate Kennedy before 5 June 1968.

Sirhan's defenders said it was Kennedy's support of Israel in the Mideast crisis that finally brought Sirhan to murder. One one page, Sirhan scribbled "Sirhan is an Arab, Sirhan is an Arab."

The very mention of the notebooks sent the young Jordanian into a rage in court three times-twice in sight of the jury of eight men and four women.

And it touched off his declaration, in an outburst in the chambers of Judge Herbert V. Walker, that "if these notebooks are allowed in evidence I will change my plea to guilty as charged."

Sirhan's attorneys-Grant B. Cooper, Emile Zola Berman and Russell E. Parsons-try to calm him, but Sirhan told the judge he would change his plea:

"Not so much that I want to be railroaded into that 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."

Witnesses testified that after Sirhan shot Kennedy, he muttered:

"Let me explain, I can explain."

He will have the chance beginning Friday.

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