

Rumors Dispelled in Trial of Sirhan

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LOS ANGELES, Feb. 26—In a move to dispel rumors and controversies similar to those surrounding the assassination of President Kennedy, prosecutors at the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan trial have purposely introduced certain witnesses so that lingering reports of a conspiracy in the shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy would be publicly rebutted.

Often embarrassed and shy, these witnesses admitted in the crowded courtroom where the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant is being tried for the murder of the New York Senator that earlier stories alluding to a conspiracy between Sirhan and others were untrue.

"They put them on the witness stand purposely to be exposed," Lynn D. Compton, the Chief Deputy District Attorney, said in an interview today.

"We wanted the public to hear them tell the truth, so that any rumors about a conspiracy would be put to rest."

Girl in Polka Dot Dress

One witness described to the jurors a girl in a polka dot dress, whom he said he saw talking to Sirhan before the shooting and later overheard crying triumphantly: "We did it! We did it! We shot him!"

This story, it was disclosed, was not the truth, but the imaginative concoction of several distraught people present at the Ambassador Hotel when the tragedy occurred.

Another witness described the two men who reportedly accompanied Sirhan when he bought and signed a sales slip for ammunition four days before the shooting.

As the gun shop clerk was telling the jurors his story of three men, Deputy District Attorney David N. Fitts, interrupted him.

"This has gone far enough," he said. "I can't let it continue."

Lie Detector Test Cited

He reminded the witness that months earlier, after failing a lie detector test, he had admitted this story was not true. And in within minutes, the thin, blond haired man recounted in a whisper that he did not remember his transaction with Sirhan.

Asked why the prosecution was so convinced that the moody defendant who wrote countless times in his notebooks that "R.F.K. must be

assassinated," acted alone, Mr. Compton replied:

"The police, the F.B.I. and the Los Angeles Police Department have interviewed literally thousands of people, running out every suggestion, lead or possibility, and have failed to find any connection between Sirhan and anyone else."

"There's just no evidence of any conspiracy," he went on. "We believe the shooting was strictly the product of his own mind."

Many investigators

Since early June, 47 policemen, about 20 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and six investigators for the District Attorney's office, have worked full time gathering information related to the assassination.

Just how thoroughly they searched for evidence of a conspiracy is illustrated by the tale of the girl in the polka dot dress.

Every person registered at the Ambassador Hotel the night of June 4, every one employed by the hotel and everyone else known to have attended the Senator's election night celebration or any other function held there that evening, was questioned about seeing such a girl.

Late yesterday afternoon, the case against the small, dark-

haired defendant was completed after two weeks of testimony.

During this time 56 witnesses and 82 pieces of evidence—including 168 autopsy photographs, the clothes the Senator was wearing when he was shot and six pages from the green spiral notebooks found in Sirhan's bedroom—were introduced to support the two main contentions of the prosecution. First, that the young man deliberately planned the murder and, second, that he acted alone.

Additional statements from about 200 people who did not testify will be introduced into the official case record, Mr. Compton said, "so that everything associated with this case will be public."

He said: "We don't want any doubts about a conspiracy, or anything secret and sealed up, as it was after President Kennedy's assassination."

The complete file of investigative reports, he added, also will be made available to the public after the trial.

Tomorrow at 9:30 in the morning, the defense is expected to open its case. Although the three lawyers defending Sirhan have not disclosed the identity of their first witness, it is expected to be a member of the family—his mother, one of his four brothers, or perhaps the defendant himself.