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Sirhan Bjt 3rd NL
By By ARTHUR EVERETT
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - Arab-born Sirhan Bishara Sirhan testified Tuesday that his love for Robert F. Kennedy turned to hatred because of the senator's support of Israel, and that he would have killed him nearly three weeks earlier had he been able. "At that time, sir, the way I felt about it, if he was in front of me, so help me God, he would have died," Sirhan said at his murder trial for the assassination of Kennedy. Reading page after page from Sirhan's personal diary, defense attorney Grant B. Cooper brought out that the 24-year-old defendant craved revenge against American government officials whom he considered pro-Israeli, and not in favor of the territorial integrity of his native Jordan.

Q. Did you ever have in mind killing President Johnson?
A. No, but I hated his guts at one point. He said the United States supports the territorial integrity of all nations, and he stressed all nations.
Q. You thought of assassinating him?
A. I must have.

For the same reason, Sirhan testified of former U.S. ambassador Arthur Goldeberg: "I felt he should die...Why not, sir? He did not stick to his word."

Sirhan said he felt neither Johnson nor Goldberg kept their pledge of territorial integrity when it came to Jordan. "Do you feel you're crazy?!" Cooper asked. "You think you're completely normal, don't you?" "I don't think I'm crazy," Sirhan replied.

The defendant squirmed and smiled with embarrassment when Cooper read 44 pages from his diary. Many of the entries were unintelligible or repetitious.

Over and over Sirhan repeated, "I can't explain this." Just before the trial adjourned for the night, Cooper read an entry which said: "Long live the Arab dream." "I'll say it again, sir," interposed Sirhan. "Long live the Arab dream."

Sirhan said he would have killed Kennedy three weeks earlier than the June 5, 1968, assassination date if he could. The statement came while he was being questioned about May 18, 1968, exhortations in his notebook to kill the New York senator. At that: 3rd graf 2nd NL A256LA.

By ARTHUR EVERETT
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Sirhan Bjt 2nd NL 200
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LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan said Tuesday that, infuriated at what he deemed Robert F. Kennedy's support of Israel, he would have killed the senator nearly three weeks earlier if he had had the chance.

Sirhan was being questioned at his murder trial about self-exhortations in his notebook May 18, 1968, to assassinate the New York senator.

"At that time, sir, the way I felt about it," Sirhan said, "If he was in front of me, so help me God, he would have died. Sirhan actually shot and mortally wounded Kennedy June 5, 1968.

The young Arab said he was driven into a fury upon learning through a television show that Kennedy helped celebrate Israeli independent in 1948 and by a radio newscast that the senator favored the sale of 50 jet fighter planes to Israel last year.

"It burned me up," Sirhan testified emotionally. "Up to that time I

be elected president." But Sirhan continued, it dawned on him that Kennedy "was is doing a lot of thing behind my back that I didn't know about." "Zionism is more inimical to me than communism is to you," Sirhan told defense lawyer Grant B. Cooper. "I have the same

feelings about Zionism as you do about communism.”

Sirhan said this was why he repeatedly wrote in his private notebooks, “RFK must die.”

“This line was good just for the period of time it was written. I was provoked . . . I don’t deny it. These were my feelings

“I received the impression that Robert Kennedy was not all the good guy he made out to be. It boiled me up again. I just thought of blasting him.”

Sirhan, a student of the occult, said that in this moment of fierce anger he was staring into a mirror.

“Instead of seeing my own face, I saw Robert Kennedy’s face,” he went on. “I actually saw his face. I was that burned up about it.”

Sirhan lost his composure as he discussed Arab-Israeli affairs and profanely denounced Mid-East Jews and their American supporters. His voice rose angrily as he described his emotional state before the assassination: “I was just sick and tired of being a foreigner. . . . I wanted a place of my own . . . something that I would identify as Arab.”

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By ARTHUR EVERETT

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - Arab-born Sirhan Bishara Sirhan lost his composure again at his murder trial Tuesday. His voice rose as he angrily and profanely denounced Israeli Jews and their American supporters.

“I was just sick and tired of being a foreigner . . . I wanted a place of my own . . . something that I would identify as Arab,” Sirhan described his emotional state before his June 5, 1968, assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Referring to his Jordanian Arab homeland, Sirhan testified:

“When you move a whole country, a whole people out of their land, their homes and their businesses and introduce a new people, Jews or Zionists, that is wrong.”

The 24-year-old Sirhan’s pro-Arab emotions, the defense contends, contributed to his assassination of Kennedy, whom he

regarded as pro-Israel.

“What were your feelings regarding President John F. Kennedy?” defense attorney Grant Cooper asked the wiry young defendant.

“I loved him,” Sirhan replied. “more than any American could have. He was working to bring about a solution to the Palestine refugee problem.”

Sirhan, in his second day on the witness stand, also testified at length about experimenting with metaphysics and the occult. He said he studied them to make himself “a better human being.” He told of sticking his hand into boiling water and having

it feel cool, of trying to make a candle's flame change color by staring at it.

Sirhan accused Zionists of brainwashing the American public during the short-lived 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"That burned the hell out of me," Sirhan said, his hands moving, clenching and pounding emphatically, his body writhing in the witness chair a few feet from the jury of eight men and four women.

Sirhan recalled seeing a picture of victorious Israeli troops on the banks of the Suez Canal and continued: "They had just blasted the hell out of the Arabs. If I saw those guys in person, I would have blasted them all."

"Those goddamn Zionists," Sirhan interjected at one point.

"Just a moment," Cooper interrupted sharply.

"Pardon me," the dark haired Sirhan said.

Cooper then led Sirhan into a recital of his studies of Zionist history and asked what impact they had on him.

"I was just sick and tired of being a foreigner," Sirhan

replied. "It is as simple as that. I wanted a place of my own where people would speak my own language, where I could eat my own food, where I could share my own politics and my own—something that I would identify as Arab—as a Palestinian Arab. And my own country, my own city, my own land, my own business—my own everything."

At one point, as his testimony grew ever more impassioned, Sirhan stopped midsentence, looked at Cooper and said, "I'm too nervous."

While Sirhan held his head in his hands, Cooper had some water brought to him.

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Earlier, Cooper had explored the defendant's growing interest in what Sirhan called "white magic"—the world of the occult and mystic. The defense said that also contributed to what was described as Sirhan's unstable state of mind at the time he shot Kennedy.

"You can do anything in your mind if you know how," was how Sirhan described the philosophies he studied. He said his interest accelerated after he injured his head in a fall from a horse in 1966.

Q. You wanted to become a better-developed person, a superior person?

A. I don't know about superior person—a better-developed person, yes.

Sirhan said among theories he studied was one that "if you have a goal you want to achieve and you don't know the steps, if you concentrate on the achievement, the steps will take care of themselves."

Sirhan described experiments he conducted in solitude in the bedroom of his home in Pasadena: "One of these was to put a lighted candle in front of you in a darkened room between you and a mirror. You were supposed to concentrate on the yellow flame and you could see any color you wanted. That was very hard for me to do when I started, but after repeated exercises I managed to do it."

AQ.—You could see any color you desired?

A.—Yes sir.

Q.—And you practiced this over and over?

A.—Yes sir.

Q.—Why were you doing this?

A.—Well, I never heard about this before. I thought it was a lot of baloney. But I said let them try to sell me on it—and it worked.

Q.—Where did you think it would lead you?

A.—I don't really know. I thought it would make me a better person.

Sirhan also told of exercises he practiced to allow his mind to dominate his body.

"One of them was to put your hand in a very hot pan of water and think cool," the defendant added. "I know this sounds weird and impossible, sir, but when I put my hand in the water it felt cool."

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