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Sirhan NL 340

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LOS ANGELES AP — The state tried to demonstrate Monday that a defense psychologist pre-judged Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's mental capacity and borrowed from a psychiatrist's book in summarizing the case.

"No, no, not at all," insisted Dr. Martin Schorr, when asked if his conclusions were reached five weeks after the June 5, 1968, fatal shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, and months before he even saw the 24-year-old Jordanian Arab assassin.

As Sirhan's trial for his life entered its 10th week, the defense was granted a two-hour recess to study "A Case Book of a Crime Psychiatrist," by Dr. James A. Brussel of New York.

Schorr, on the stand since March 10, has said he read the book. His written summary of Sirhan as a paranoid whose capacity for wilful and meaningful murder was diminished was strikingly parallel to Brussel's text.

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With the jury absent, the entire afternoon in court was spent in deciding what excerpts from the book were to be shown to the jury, and in what manner. As a result, the trial was recessed for the day with the panel of eight men and four women still unaware even of the book's existence.

Earlier: 5th graf.

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Earlier, the state introduced a July 10 letter to the defense from Schorr.

"The probability strongly exists until we are told otherwise," it said, "that a person might be legally sane as we define the term in dealing with the question of criminal responsibility and yet still be in an abnormal mental or nervous condition and because of such condition he might be less likely or unable to have or to maintain a proper mental balance not only at the time of the alleged commission of the crime charged but also at the time of the arraignment and pre-trial examination."

The theory of diminished capacity forms the basis of Sirhan's defense against the charge of premeditated murder of Kennedy. Schorr first saw the defendant last Nov. 25-26, when he subjected Sirhan to psychological tests.

"Had you made up your mind you were going to be a defense witness at that time?"

A. No.

Q. Did you have an opinion as to the mental condition of the defendant at that time?

A. No...I had no opinion as to his personality structure or whether he had or did not have diminished capacity...I had many undifferentiated ideas...I had all kinds of different ideas. We were just battling ideas back and forth.

Schorr said it was not until after the November tests that his his opinion of Sirhan's mental capacity crystalized.

The psychologist ended his letter of July 10: "With my best wishes for a hopeful outcome."

Q. What was the hopeful outcome?

A. Well, that justice would be served....that I could be very helpful in the case.

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