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Sirhan Lead 230

By HARRY ROSENTHAL

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - A psychologist said today that much of his report on the mental makeup of Sirhan Sirhan was copied from a popular book about five other murders.

Dr. Martin M. Schorr, a psychologist who has been a defense witness for seven days in the Sirhan murder trial, said he cribbed the phrasing and applied it to the defendant because it "filled my diagnostic conclusions."

"I liked the language of this book as it applied to the paranoid mechanism," Schorr said under intensive cross-examination by prosecutor John E. Howard. "I was well aware I was taking these materials out of this book."

Schorr described the killer of Sen. Robert . Kennedy as paranoid and schizophrenic.

Q. You often go to books like that?

A. Yes, if it expresses something better than I do . . . of course I do.

Q. Doctor, how much of this came from Sirhan?

A. All of this came from Sirhan.

Howard gave the jury four pages of side-by-side comparisons of quotations from a summary of Sirhan Schorr wrote last Dec. 18 and from the book "A Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist"

By Dr. James A. Brussel.

The quotations the psychologist lifted are from two cases described in the book—the "Mad Bomber" and the "Christmas Eve Killer".

Arguments over admission of the book brought the trial to a virtual standstill Monday while attorneys argued about how much of the book the jury could see.

Judge Herbert: 5th graf A030

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Sirhan 350

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - A book about five famous murders brought the Sirhan Bishara Sirhan murder trial to a virtual standstill while attorneys argued about how much of the text the jury will see. It won't be much.

The state contends Dr. Martin Schorr, a psychologist the defense had on the witness stand all last week, cribbed liberally from the book in testifying that Sirhan killed Sen. Robert F. Kennedy as a symbolic replica of his hated father. Prosecutor John E. Howard argued for admission of some 90 pages of "A Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist" by Dr. James A. Brussel to show similarities with Schorr's testimony.

Another state's attorney said the book is "not a learned treatise, but a popular piece of fiction" and that the jury cannot evaluate the material without knowing "the flavor of this book."

Schorr conceded he had read the book, but the question of whether he copied from it for his diagnosis had not been put to him directly.

Judge Herbert V. Walker, granting defense objections, ruled the state could excerpt only portions that coincided with Schorr's testimony and present them side-by-side to the jury.

The jury was in the courtroom for only about one hour Monday as the trial went into its 10th week. The arguments over the book were conducted out of the jury's hearing in the afternoon.

Howard had the psychologist read from a letter Monday in which Schorr expressed his eagerness to help the defense on the case. The letter was dated July 10—a little more than a month after Sirhan mortally wounded Kennedy.

"Please forgive me for prattling on, but I so much want to get together with you to help on this case," Schorr wrote.

At another point the letter said: "I would like to help you very much in the matter of preplanning jury selection on the basis of the personality dynamics of the client, since so many headaches can be avoided if proper jury selection tuned to the emotional needs of Sirhan can be met prior to the trial."

"Did you have an opinion as to the mental condition of the defendant at that time?" asked Howard. "No," Schorr replied. "I had no opinion as to his personality structure or whether he had or did not have diminished capacity. I had vague undifferentiated ideas."

Diminished capacity—the inability to maturely premeditate murder—forms the basis of Sirhan's defense against the first degree murder charge.

Schorr said he did not examine Sirhan until Nov. 25.

Eds: Court resumes 12:30pm

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