

THE NEW YORK TIMES, 8

## Sirhan Prosecution Witnesses Rebut Self-Hypnosis Testimony

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Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, March 28—The prosecution in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan attempted today to prove that the defendant could not have been under self-hypnosis when he wrote threats against the life of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Recalled to the witness stand was Laurence W. Sloan, a handwriting expert working for the district attorney's office, who was asked to compare the writing of Sirhan while under hypnosis by a psychiatrist in his jail cell with the rambling threats and political manifestos in notebooks found in his home.

Mr. Sloan testified that the handwriting in the notebooks was of "better quality" than that of the defendant under hypnosis in jail.

He said that, in his opinion, Sirhan was not in any kind of self-induced trance at the time he wrote in his books.

Earlier, a psychiatrist testifying for the defense told the court that Sirhan had been in a self-induced hypnosis when he scrawled disjointed threats at various times in the notebooks. He also said the defendant was in a similar state when he fatally shot Senator Kennedy.

### Several Witnesses Called

Mr. Sloan was among several rebuttal witnesses called by the prosecution in its attempt to shake the defense's contention that Sirhan was so mentally ill as to be incapable of "meaningfully and rationally" premeditating Mr. Kennedy's death. The defense rested its case yesterday.

Among these witnesses were three policemen who told the court that Sirhan was "calm and coherent" in the hours just after his arrest last July 5. There was no evidence, they agreed, that the defendant had been drinking or was in a trance.

Police Sgt. Adolph B. Melendres, under questioning by the defense, acknowledged that it was possible for persons with mental illness to appear normal.

During the morning session, Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker halted the proceed-

ings to announce that it was his "sad duty" to report the death of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He called for one minute of silent prayer. The judge was visibly upset at the news of General Eisenhower's death.

### Juror Suffers Illness

At the outset of the day's session, a deputy sheriff told the court that a juror, Lawrence K. Morgan, had been taken in the night from the hotel where the jury is sequestered to a hospital with a possible bleeding ulcer. An alternate juror, Ruth Stillman, an insurance adjuster, was selected to take his place.

The defendant's mother was not in court today. It was one of the few sessions she had missed. A defense lawyer said Mrs. Mary Sirhan was at St. Luke's Hospital in nearby Pasadena with another son, Saidallah, who was struck by a car yesterday afternoon.

Saidallah Sirhan, who is 36 years old, was listed in serious condition with a fractured skull and a compound fracture of his right leg. The driver of the car, a student at Pasadena City College, where Sirhan Sirhan was once enrolled, was not held by the police.

Another Sirhan brother, 37-year-old Sharif, was arrested in the night when he forced his way into the intensive care unit where his brother was lying at the Pasadena hospital. The police said he had shoved a nurse who tried to quiet him as he began shouting that Saidallah Sirhan was being "mistreated." Sharif Sirhan was later freed on \$125 bail.

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## Eldest Sirhan Brother Struck by Automobile

PASADENA, Calif., March 27 (UPI)—Saidallah Sirhan, 36 years old, brother of Sirhan B. Sirhan, was rushed to a hospital in serious condition Thursday after he was struck by a car.

Sirhan Sirhan is on trial for the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The driver of the car that hit Mr. Sirhan, the oldest of five brothers, was being questioned by the police. A spokesman said the accident "appears to be a normal pedestrian-car accident."

A spokesman at St. Luke's Hospital said Mr. Sirhan had received a head injury and a possible fracture of the right leg and was in "serious" condition.

Last July 7, Mr. Sirhan reported that he was shot at twice on a freeway as he drove toward Pasadena, where the Sirhan family lives.