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14 April 1969

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BULLETIN

LOS ANGELES AP - The first-degree murder case against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan went to the jury Monday, after the state called the young Arab assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy "a cunning, vicious man."

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JH607pm Apr. 14

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Bulletin

LOS ANGELES Sirhan A255LA, which make 2nd NL Add: man."

"The defendant hated Robert Kennedy," stated Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn Swenson told the court Monday. He said Sirhan plotted the killing before they returned at 2:45 p.m. EST to begin deliberations in the 14-week-old trial.

"He said so," Swenson added. "He wrote it down. He wanted his last. He intended to kill Kennedy. . . . He had followed Kennedy closely. He saw where Kennedy was. He stalked Kennedy because he wanted to kill him."

Superior Court Judge Robert V. Walker, 59, dean of Los Angeles criminal judges, told a 4-man jury to "listen to the evidence by passion or by prejudice against him."

JH620pm Apr. 14

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LOS ANGELES Sirhan 2nd NL A259, add: him."

Thereafter the jurors ascended 19 steps to the deliberation room on the floor above the courtroom. Airconditioned, it has wall-to-wall carpeting.

Judge Walker told the jurors they may bring in any one of four verdicts. They could find Sirhan guilty of manslaughter, neither of which are being asked for by the state. They also include first-degree murder, murder findings, the main issues involving the 14-year-old Sirhan.

The subject of penalty or punishment is not to be considered or discussed by the jury, Walker told the panel. He said that in the event of a first-degree murder conviction the jury will retire away to fix the penalty. In any other findings, Sirhan's punishment will be in the hands of the court.

The defense: 4th graf A252.

By ARTHUR EVERETT  
Associated Press Writer

JH620pm Apr. 14

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Los Angeles Sirhan 2nd NL A260 2nd add: court.  
The jury was sent to its hotel at 4 p.m. and it was announced they would begin deliberations soon after 8 a.m. Tuesday. Judge Walker's comments to the abbreviated schedule of deliberations apparently was motivated by the fact that a large security guard is on duty whenever the courtroom is open.

The defense: 4th graf A25  
JH748PES April 14



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Sirhan Bit HI 850

By ARTHUR EVERETT

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - The state made a final appeal for a first-degree murder conviction of Sirhan Sirhan Monday, calling the young Arab slayer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy a cunning, cold-blooded killer.

The defendant, Robert Kennedy, Chief Deputy Dist. Atty. Lynn D. Compton said a lot of other men and boys would just before it was to get the state against the 25-year-old Sirhan.

He said he "wanted to kill him." He wanted him dead. He promised an instant to kill him he had followed Kennedy closely he knew where Kennedy was he stalked Kennedy because he wanted to kill him."

The defense argued that Sirhan was mentally unbalanced when he shot the Sen. on Monday June 5, 1968, and asked a verdict of second-degree murder, punishable by five years to life imprisonment.

The state requested a first-degree conviction, leaving it to the jury to decide if Sirhan or accomplices who shot Sirhan should die in the California gas chamber or serve a life term in prison.

The last witness, judge-sired Sirhan ignored part of Compton's summation, making a look at the defense table. His mother, Mary, 58, was shown from court by one of the men in the long trial, which began Jan. 1. Sirhan's mother, said the mother did not stand up to answering to the final state effort against her son.

The defense argued the bitterly anti-Sirhan was driven by an impulse that he had recently learned he requested the senator as a supporter of the Arab cause. Sirhan was one of the Arabs in the Middle East during the Arab cause while campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

In their opening statements last week, the three defense lawyer argued that Sirhan was mentally unbalanced or naturally and mentally unbalanced. The prosecution, an ingredient of a first-degree murder charge.

"I say to you, we want the world to know that justice is possible in this country, Justice does not mean any particular verdict. A first-degree murder conviction in this case will serve justice just as much as any other verdict."

Justice Dept. Sirhan, the prosecutor went on, with "the enormous effort by the authorities to prevent him from being lynched."

With frequent sarcasm, Compton referred to the findings of defense psychiatrists and psychologists that Sirhan was a schizophrenic, a split personality with a rapidly deteriorating mind.

"If he was a vegetable on June 5," the prosecutor said, "he should have been a staggering idiot here on this witness stand."

"I say throw them all out in one big bag," Compton added of the mental experts. "Because Sirhan didn't do it the way they thought it should be done, that's immature planning."

"I can take any one of you and, if tomorrow you kill somebody, there is something in your background they could find by way of explanation."

What the psychiatrists say is, if you hate a man a little bit and you kill him you are responsible and mature, but if you hate him a lot you are not responsible and mature."

Juror No. 1, Ronald S. Evans, a telephone switchboard installer, was excused over the week because of a death in his family. Drawn by lot to succeed him was one of five remaining alternate jurors, George Stitzel, a pressroom supervisor for the Los Angeles Times.

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