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# When Sirhan May Go Free

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## Sacramento

Sirhan Sirhan, convicted of murdering Senator Robert Kennedy, was granted a parole date of Feb. 23, 1986, by the California Adult Authority yesterday.

Sirhan, who was originally sentenced to death, would end up serving a total of 16 years, 9 months under the parole date.

He was extremely well behaved all the time he has

been in prison — absolutely no problem," said Phillip D. Guthrie, assistant director of the state Department of Corrections.

"The adult authority considered that while he killed a very well known figure they had to treat him as if he killed an ordinary person," Guthrie added.

Sirhan was sent to San Quentin five years ago next 2 1/2 Friday for the slaying of Kennedy on June 5, 1968, in

the pantry of the Ambassador Hotel shortly after Kennedy claimed victory in the California Democratic presidential primary election.

Sirhan was convicted of first degree murder and five counts of assault of a deadly weapon in a shooting that also wounded a Los Angeles labor official.

The 1966 parole means Sirhan will be released from prison at that time unless he commits a "serious" breach

of prison rules or is involved in a prison crime Guthrie said.

Granting of a parole date is part of a new policy of Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.'s administration to set "determinate" sentence dates for California convicts.

The adult authority met for the parole hearing at San Quentin, but the Sirhan decision was announced in Sacramento.

Sirhan, 31, was among the 107 persons on Death Row spared from the gas chamber in San Quentin as the result of a 1972 state Supreme Court decision which held capital punishment 3% unconstitutional.

Voter later provided for the restoration of the death penalty, but it was not retroactive to those spared.

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