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SIRHAN BJT

LOS ANGELES (AP) -- ARMOR PLATE AND ARMOR GLASS WILL SHIELD SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN IF HE IS TRIED IN LOS ANGELES AS EXPECTED ON A CHARGE OF MURDERING SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN WILL BE LED FROM A HOLDING CELL THROUGH A SEALED PASSAGEWAY, ITS WINDOWS COVERED BY HEAVY STEEL PLATES, INTO THE MOST HIGHLY SECURED COURTROOM IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY HISTORY.

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLVED TUESDAY TO AUTHORIZED UNLIMITED EXPENDITURES TO ASSURE SIRHAN'S SAFETY. THE NECESSARY WORK WAS ESTIMATED AT \$20,000--\$1,500 FOR WORK ON THE PASSAGEWAY AND THE REST FOR "ARMOR PLATE, ARMOR GLASS, STEEL PLATE AND WIRE NETTING" IN THE COURTROOM.

SIRHAN WAS EXPECTED TO ENTER HIS PLEA FRIDAY ON THE NINTH FLOOR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE, A FLOOR ABOVE THE COURTROOM WHERE HE PROBABLY WILL BE TRIED, BUT THE PLAN WAS CANCELED TUESDAY BECAUSE SECURITY MEASURES WERE NOT READY.

INSTEAD, HE WILL ENTER HIS PLEA IN THE CHAPEL OF THE NEW COUNTY JAIL. HE HAS BEEN UNDER HEAVY GUARD IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL IN THE COUNTY JAIL SINCE KENNEDY WAS SHOT TO DEATH JUNE 5. SIRHAN WAS ARRAIGNED IN THE CHAPEL.

SIRHAN IS TO ENTER HIS PLEA BEFORE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RICHARD SCHAUER AT 9 A.M. OBSERVERS NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE DEFENDANT MAY NOT ENTER HIS PLEA THEN. HIS NEW ATTORNEY, RUSSELL E. PARSONS, WHO TOOK OVER THE CASE ONLY LAST WEEK FROM THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, MAY REQUEST MORE TIME TO STUDY THE LENGTHY GRAND JURY TRANSCRIPT, OR THERE COULD BE OTHER REASONS FOR DELAY.

A NUMBER OF THREATS HAVE BEEN MADE AGAINST THE LIFE OF SIRHAN, AND HIS LAWYER AND OTHERS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE.

SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN NOTED THAT SHOULD SIRHAN'S ATTORNEY ASK FOR AND RECEIVE A CHANGE OF VENUE FRIDAY, THE ARMORED PARTITION WILL NOT BE BUILT IN THE COURTROOM.

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SIRHAN BJT INSERT

LOS ANGELES SIRHAN BJT INSERT AFTER 8TH GRAF: COURTROOM.

"THE WORD WE HAVE NOW, HOWEVER, IS THAT THEY WILL NOT ASK FOR A CHANGE OF VENUE." HAHN SAID OF THE DEFENSE.

AS PLANNED, 9TH GRAF.

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SUB FOR 3RD GRAF FROM END: COURTROOM.

A PRECISE DESCRIPTION OF THE ENCLOSURE WAS NOT MADE PUBLIC, AT THE REQUEST OF SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE DONALD R. WRIGHT. BUT HAHN NOTED THE SHIELD COULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO PROTECT NOT ONLY SIRHAN, BUT THE TRIAL JUDGE, ATTORNEYS AND JURY AS WELL. BEYOND THIS, HAHN, WHO DISCLOSED THE SKETCHY DETAILS TO NEWSMEN, WOULD NOT ELABORATE.

THE COUNTY 2ND GRAF FROM END

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AS PLANNED, THE PARTITION REPORTEDLY WILL BE ERECTED PARALLEL TO THE SPECTATOR RAIL IN THE COURTROOM.

SUPERVISOR HAHN SAID SUPERIOR COURT PRESIDING JUDGE DONALD R. WRIGHT HAD REQUESTED THAT A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE ENCLOSURE NOT BE MADE PUBLIC. BUT HE NOTED THE SHIELD COULD BE LARGE ENOUGH TO PROTECT NOT ONLY SIRHAN, BUT THE TRIAL JUDGE, ATTORNEYS AND JURY AS WELL.

THE COUNTY MECHANICAL DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN THE BULLET-PROOF DEVICE FRIDAY, HAHN SAID.

A SPECIAL ROOM ON THE 13TH FLOOR OF THE HALL OF JUSTICE IS BEING REFURBISHED FOR USE IN ALL PROCEEDINGS NOT REQUIRING FULL COURTROOM FACILITIES. NEW WALLS AND STEEL DOORS ARE BEING ERECTED FOR THIS ROOM.

LA JUNE 25 SA925PPD CW