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LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's defense attorney, Russell E. Parsons, said Wednesday he would ask the court for a ~~three week delay~~ in his client's plea to the charge of killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The continuance is needed, said Parsons, appointed a week ago, so he can study the transcript of grand jury proceedings.

Parsons said he would make the request on or before Friday when the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant is scheduled to plea to a murder charge.

If the request is granted, it also would provide more time to complete elaborate security precautions planned for the trial. Sirhan was originally to have made his plea at the Hall of Justice but the site was changed to the county jail, where he has been a prisoner since the June 5 slaying, because security measures were not ready.

The County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to authorize ~~all necessary expenditures~~ to assure Sirhan's safety. The suspect and his attorney have been the target of numerous threats.

When Sirhan does come to trial, he will sit behind a shield of bulletproof armor plate and glass. The supervisors would not give a precise description of the shield but said it would be large enough to protect not only Sirhan but the judge, jury and attorneys as well.

Sirhan will be led to the courtroom from a cell through a ~~sealed passageway with windows covered by heavy steel plates.~~

A special room on the 13th floor of the building is being equipped with ~~new walls and steel doors~~ for use in noncourtroom proceedings.

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