

2 July 1968

CW--LA

NY FOR PMS AYE
SIRHAN SAFETY

LOS ANGELES (AP)--SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN MAY NOT BE TRIED BEHIND ARMOR AND BULLET PROOF, GLASS FOR THE KILLING OF ROBERT F. KENNEDY, AFTER ALL.

PRESIDING JUDGE DONALD R. WRIGHT OF SUPERIOR COURT SAID SPECIAL PROTECTIVE DEVICES, "IF ANY," WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE JUDGE ASSIGNED TO THE TRIAL.

THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AUTHORIZED LAST WEEK THE BUILDING OF AN ELABORATE ARMOR-PLATED, BULLET-PROOF GLASS ENCLOSURE FOR SIRHAN.

JUDGE WRIGHT SAID DEFENSE MOTIONS FOR A CHANGE OF VENUE STILL MUST BE RULED ON. HE NOTIFIED THE SUPERVISORS TUESDAY THAT SIRHAN MAY PRESENT MANY PRELIMINARY MOTIONS WHICH WILL REQUIRE RULINGS BEFORE A TRIAL TAKES PLACE.

"IT IS MY OPINION," WRIGHT SAID, "THAT ANY SUBSTANTIAL EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY FUNDS BEYOND THOSE NECESSARY FOR PRELIMINARY PLANNING MAY BE PREMATURE."

SUPERVISOR KENNETH HAHN SAID HE ASKED FOR THE PROTECTIVE ENCLOSURE AFTER TALKING WITH SHERIFF PETER J. PITCHESS AND WRIGHT. BUT WRIGHT SAID HIS CONCERN WAS ONLY WITH THE COURTROOM, NOT OTHER AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE SHERIFF. THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS TAKING MASSIVE PRECAUTIONS TO PROTECT SIRHAN DURING LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AT THE HALL OF JUSTICE.

THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS THREATS TO SIRHAN'S LIFE, PITCHESS SAID. SIRHAN'S NEXT COURTROOM APPEARANCE WILL BE JULY 19, WHEN HE IS EXPECTED TO ENTER A PLEA TO A CHARGE OF MURDERING KENNEDY.

THE 24-YEAR-OLD JORDANIAN IS ALSO CHARGED ON FIVE COUNTS OF ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON, STEMMING FROM WOUNDS SUFFERED BY FIVE ONLOOKERS WHEN KENNEDY WAS SHOT AT THE AMBASSADOR HOTEL JUNE 5.

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