

The 12 by 12 World of Sirhan Sirhan

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — For the past month, the world of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, accused assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has consisted of a 12 by 12 foot jail cell and 30 feet of corridor outside it.

Only twice since he was taken to the cell after a secret municipal court arraignment June 5, a few hours after Kennedy was shot at the Ambassador Hotel, has Sirhan left its immediate vicinity.

Both times were for brief court appearances in a makeshift courtroom that



SIRHAN SIRHAN
Leaving a hearing

—UPI photo

usually serves as the chapel of the men's central jail, a maximum security facility.

Sirhan's cell actually is a room in the hospital wing of the large reinforced concrete structure situated in an industrial section adjacent to a railroad track in downtown Los Angeles.

The cell is painted a greenish-grey and is sparsely furnished with a bed, a wash basin, toilet and a writing desk that can be raised or lowered to rest against the wall.

BUILT IN 1964

Although sheriff's deputies now refuse to comment on security precautions, they

were believed to be the same as originally employed: A guard in the room with Sirhan, a second watching him through a small window in the steel door of his cell and three others on the corridor outside.

The jail itself is a three-story building with several wings. It was built in 1964 and houses approximately 3,700 prisoners besides Sirhan.

Sirhan is allowed outside of his cell to exercise in the 30-foot corridor in front of it, but he has no contact with any other jail inmates. Although he eats the same type of food the other prisoners do, his meals are prepared in a separate kitchen, apparently as an added security precaution.

His visitors have been few: Attorney A. L. Wirin of the American Civil Liberties Union; Deputy Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield; his present attorney, Russell Parsons; a brother and his mother, who last Monday paid her first visit to her son since he was jailed.

BOOKS REQUESTED

He is allowed reading material, and requested several books on the occult. All mail addressed to him is turned over to his attorney.

He has not left the jail since he entered it.

For his two court appearances he was taken to the jail chapel under heavy guard, and all persons allowed in the room were thoroughly searched before hand.

County supervisors have authorized a \$20,000 expenditure for installation of armor plate and bulletproof glass in a courtroom at the old Hall of Justice, several blocks away, to protect Sirhan during his trial.

However, the presiding judge of the superior court, Donald E. Wright, has complained that he was not told of plans to turn the courtroom into a near fortress and that such decisions were the prerogative of the trial

judge. He also hinted there was a possibility of a change of venue.

If the trial is held here, Sirhan would be taken from his cell in the central jail to a holding cell on the ninth floor of the Hall of Justice where workmen have installed armor plating in a corridor to protect him when he would be moved to and from the courtroom on the eighth floor.