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Sirhan Bjt 360

LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan has been complaining of insomnia as he waits in jail for his trial on a charge of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

And he told Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer Friday he would agree to a waiver granting psychiatrists access to his jail record on a condition that he be given sleeping pills.

"I have constantly been asking for sleeping pills - if they give me sleeping pills, I'll waive it."

No more mention of the pills was made but Sirhan's lawyer, Russell E. Parsons, said later: "I assume the doctor will do his duty and give the man sleeping pills if he needs them."

The defense lawyer said his 24-year-old client "hasn't been resting too well."

Sirhan was in court to enter a plea to the murder charge against him, but Parsons requested and received a two-week delay.

Parsons asked for the postponement, after a month's delay, so psychiatrists can complete reports on Sirhan.

He also requested authorization for X-ray and electric-wave studies of his client's brain.

Parsons said that in another case he handled, such tests led to the defendant's being found insane and that he went to a state mental institution rather than the death house.

The lawyer previously had indicated he may try to show Sirhan suffered brain damage in falling from a horse in 1966. The young immigrant later demanded and received state disability for the injury.

Sirhan seemed cheerful but nervous during his brief court appearance. Wearing a light blue shirt open at the throat, tight black pants and black loafers, he strode briskly into the courtroom on the 13th floor of the Hall of Justice.

Security precautions were heavy. Armor plate covered the courtroom windows and the 100 newsmen and other spectators were searched before entering the room. About 12 armed deputies stood guard during the proceedings.

Sitting at the counsel's table, Sirhan tapped his foot constantly and shot tight-lipped smiles to his brother Adel, 29, a spectator.

Despite his complaint about not sleeping, the defendant looked jaunty. Parsons said Sirhan and his mother pray together during her visits to his cell and that the young man has been reading about another assassinated leader, Mohandas K. Gandhi.

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