

5 OCT 68

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SIRHAN'S LAWYER ASKS FOR A DELAY

Judge in Chessman Case Designated for Trial

By **GLADWIN HILL**
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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 4 — Smiling broadly at relatives a few yards away, Sirhan B. Sirhan, who is accused of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy, made his sixth court appearance today, for a brief five minutes.

The 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant was taken from his 13th-floor cell in the Hall of Justice to an adjacent improvised chamber of the Superior Court to witness the formal designation of a trial judge and a motion by his lawyer that the trial be delayed beyond the scheduled date of Nov. 1.

The matter will be discussed at another hearing on Oct. 14, along with defense motions to exclude certain evidence from the trial and gain access to prosecution information.

Sirhan's lawyer, Russell E. Parsons, told Judge Richard Schauer that if the trial began Nov. 1 and the jury was sequestered, as the defense wants, it would mean isolating the jurors during the Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year holidays. This, the lawyer said, would be "a terrible ordeal," and would make difficult the job of obtaining jurors.

Change in Schedule Urged

Instead, Mr. Parsons suggested, the trial might be started early in December with preliminaries to the swearing in of the jury and presentation of evidence, and then recessed until early January.

Judge Schauer, presiding judge of the Superior Court Criminal Division, said the matter should be decided by his designee for the trial, Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Judge Walker, 69, imposed the death sentence on Caryl Chessman, the abductor whose futile battle against execution ended in the death chamber in 1960. Judge Walker also presided in the prosecution in 1957 of Confidential Magazine for scandal-mongering.

Sirhan in his last court appearance on Aug. 2, pleaded not guilty to a charge of first-degree murder in the shooting of Senator Kennedy, and to five counts of assault with intent to kill, growing out of injuries to five bystanders.

Escorted by Deputies

Today, as in previous hearings, the defendant, escorted by sheriff's deputies, walked casually into the courtroom, attired in dark blue trousers and a light blue open-necked shirt, and took a seat at the counsel table beside Mr. Parsons.

At a similar table on their right were the three deputy district attorneys on the prosecution's staff.

Sirhan grinned and made a slight gesture of his arm at his mother and the youngest of his four brothers, sitting in a roped-off section on the right hand side of the stark white conference-room.

His mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, who works in a church day-nursery, had walked into the courtroom 20 minutes before, escorted by a plainclothes policeman. Tiny, gray-haired, and looking haggard but impassive, she was neatly dressed in a brown-and-white print frock. It was the first courtroom appearance for the brother, Munir Sirhan, 21, nicknamed Joe, who is a department-store clerk in suburban Pasadena, where the Sirhans live.

The defendant was not called upon to say anything, and the hearing ended after a brief discussion of the pending defense motions.