

WEDNESDAY

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COURTROOM SKETCHES made by Associated Press artist Rosalie Ritz show principals in the Los Angeles murder trial of SIRHAN BISHARA SIRHAN accused of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Ken-

—AP WIREPHOTO.  
nedy. From left: Sirhan, SUPERIOR JUDGE HERBERT V. WALKER and MRS. MARY SIRHAN, mother of the defendant.

## Sirhan Attack On Indictment Due at Trial

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Defense motions to set aside Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's indictment and his plea of innocent come before Judge Herbert V. Walker today as his trial resumes on charges of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The case of the People vs. Sirhan opened formally yesterday. Within minutes, one of Sirhan's attorneys asked for a closed session in Walker's chambers to discuss motions. After an hour in chambers, four motions were introduced in open court and Walker—after ruling against two—directed the defense to submit written requests today on the others.

SIRHAN, 24, a Jordanian who came to this country as a boy, was neatly dressed in a gray suit; white, button-down shirt and blue tie. He waved to his attorneys as he en-

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tered the heavily guarded, 75-seat courtroom. He sat next to them at the left end of the long counsel table but made no public statements.

The motion to withdraw the plea of innocent is a legal technicality. Under California law, an indictment can not be quashed while a plea stands. After a plea is withdrawn, and if another indictment is returned, the original plea may be re-entered.

The motion attacking Sirhan's indictment is based on a contention the grand jury which indicted him was not composed of a proper cross-section of the community, said Russell Parsons, one of three defense lawyers. Parsons said such juries frequently exclude women, members of minority groups and people of various professions.

SIRHAN IS charged with shooting Kennedy to death and wounding five bystanders just after the New York sen-

ator proclaimed victory in California's Democratic presidential primary. Bystanders seized Sirhan after shots rang out as Kennedy walked through a crowded kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel, site of the victory rally.

Another of the defense attorneys, Grant B. Cooper, told newsmen after yesterday's court session that "it would be silly to deny he did it."

The defense also asked Walker for a 30-day delay to prepare the motion on Sirhan's plea and the jury list and requested two juries—one to decide Sirhan's guilt or innocence, the other to set the penalty if he is convicted. Walker ruled against both.

Seats in the tiny courtroom were divided about evenly between security officers and newsmen, with only five members of the general public admitted. Sirhan's mother, Mary, 55, and brother, Munir, 21, sat in a back row.