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Sirhan trial 370
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LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's trial on charges of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy could last another three months or more, suggests Judge Herbert V. Walker.

Walker made the observation Wednesday as the prosecution and defense engaged in another round of seating and unseating prospective jurors. Three were provisionally accepted; three others removed.

This left a dozen jurors still tentatively seated, just where the proceedings were last Friday when the prosecution said it was willing to accept the jury.

Since then, half of the 12 have been removed—five by peremptory challenges of the prosecution or defense. One was excused for medical reasons.

The tentative jury is now three women and nine men.

As additional prospective jurors were brought in to the courtroom late Wednesday, Judge Walker told them they should determine from their employes whether their employment would be jeopardized by sitting on a jury "possibly three months or longer."

Sirhan, 24, the shock-haired, 115-pound Jordanian whose cleanshaven, pale olive cheeks wear a perpetual shadow of beard, sat at the far left end of the long counsel table, sometimes in whispered, animated conversation with Russell E. Parsons, nearest of three defense lawyers.

Other times he gravely studied the faces of prospective jurors and the lawyers asking them whether they could impose the death penalty.

Questioning of jury candidates was repetitious yet dramatic in its painstaking search.

Black-robed and spectacled, with huge white bushy brows and a naturally harsh voice, Walker, dean of the county's bench, patiently asked each if he or she understood:

That jurors alone "judge the facts."

That they must "follow the law as I give it to you regardless of any opinion you have of the law."

That the defendant "is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt."

That they would be confined in hotel quarters throughout the trial, ordinarily out of touch with others although husbands or wives could visit them over weekends "at your expense."

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