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Adv for Tues PMS Feb. 4  
Sirhan-Security 310

LOS ANGELES AP - As Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's murder trial drones through its preliminaries, the 114 reporters covering the case continue to be the targets of a massive security procedure.

The trial growing out of last June's assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy resumes today after a four-day recess.

Newsmen line up in a marble-walled corridor on the eighth floor of the Hall of Justice and sign in. A big, steel-plated door is unlocked, they walk through, and it is locked behind them.

At the direction of a deputy sheriff, newsmen empty their pockets. Out pour such items as pens, pencils, notepaper, keys, wallets and handkerchiefs. If someone has a pipe, the deputy will take it apart to verify that it conceals no weapon. The same with a cigarette lighter.

Then the male reporters lean forward, hands on a table, feet apart. A deputy frisks them for weapons, while a second goes over their bodies with a black, paddle-shaped device to detect metal.

Female reporters are frisked by women deputies in a side room, after emptying their purses and pockets. Brassieres and girdles do not escape examination. "Downright embarrassing," one woman reporter described it, although the deputies are pleasant enough.

Not only are weapons the target of the search, but also cameras and recorders, which are barred from California courtrooms.

Once the frisking is over, the newsmen are admitted through another locked door to a long corridor with access to the courtroom.

On a table are 26 telephones especially installed for the news media. There is a drinking fountain, but no restroom.

If you leave, you have to go through the same security search all over again to get back in.

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In the courtroom, quarter-inch-thick steel plates on the windows are concealed by tan drapes. There are two sets of battery-powered spotlights high on the courtroom wall, for use should the regular lights fail or be deliberately disabled.

"We don't want another Dallas," explained one officer, referring to the murder of Lee Harvey Oswald, before he could be tried in the assassination of the senator's brother, President John F. Kennedy.

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