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Sirhan 2nd Lead 260

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - A pretty blonde who apparently was the "girl in the polka dot dress" sought after the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said today she never had seen Sirhan Bishara SQIRHAN BEFORE THE SHOOTING.

Wand, she added, she is unable to identify him now as the man who fired the gun.

After Kennedy's assassination last June police hunted a girl reputed to have said, "We shot him. We killed Kennedy."

Valerie Schulte, 22, testified for the prosecution at Sirhan's murder trial that she attended Kennedy's California presidential primary victory celebration at the Ambassador Hotel because she was manager of a Kennedy campaign headquarters near Santa Barbara, Calif.

She was on crutches at the time, she said, due to a skiing accident, but followed Kennedy as he entered the small pantry where he was shot. She was asked by p

rosecutor David N. Fitts what she

saw.

"I noticed an arm extending and a gun and I heard a shot," she said.

"HAD YOU NOTICED THE INDIVIDUAL HOLDING THE GUN?" Fitts asked.

"Before I heard the shots, no," Miss Schulte said.

An earlier witness said he had noticed a girl in a polka dot dress talking with Sirhan.

Miss Schulte produced the dress she was wearing that night—a green A-line dress with half-dollar size yellow polka dots.

Miss Schulte was asked if she recognized Sirhan in the courtroom and she replied:

"I told the officers at the time I could never make a positive identification."

Defense attorney Grant Cooper, on cross examination, asked Miss Schulte a single question: "Obviously you never knew Mr. Sirhan?"

"No," Miss Schulte replied.

There was a flurry of excitement during her testimony when a sheriff's officer heard a clicking at a desk near Sirhan. The court was recessed and a search made. The noise turned out to be from tests on a telephone line.

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Sirhan Bjt 340

Wirephoto LA1

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LOS ANGELES AP - With witness after witness, the prosecution is attempting to show that Sirhan Bishara Sirhan planned the murder of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy—and even practiced for it on the day before the assassination.

On today's witness schedule were two men who had told a grand jury they saw Sirhan p

actice rapid firing at the San Gabriel Valley Gm Club in suburban Duarte.

The defense contends the killing of Kennedy, flush from victory in the California Democratic presidential primary, was "unplanned and undeliberate, impulsive and without premeditation or malice." Premeditation is a key element in a finding of first degree murder.

Kennedy was shot in a kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel on June 5, as he left a victory celebration.

A kitchen helper, Jesus Perez, was asked Monday if he had seen Sirhan in the pantry. He said yes, a half hour before the shooting.

Q. Did you talk to the defendant before the shooting?

A. Yes.

Q. He asked me if Kennedy was coming through that place.

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Q. Did you talk to the defendant before the shooting?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you tell the jury what you told him and what he told you?

A. He asked me if Kennedy was coming through that place.

Q. Was that question asked before the senator was shot?

A. Yes.

Q. How long was the question asked before the senator was shot.

A. I'd say about a half hour.

Q. Did you answer Mr. Sirhan?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you say?

A. That I didn't know anything about whether the senator was coming through there or not.

Other hotel employes and members of the Kennedy party testified that the decision to go through the pantry area was made at the last minute.

"Did you," Perez was asked "notice anything unusual in the manner of actions of Mr. Sirhan?"

"No, I didn't suspect anything."

Another hotel employe, Martin Patrusky, said Sirhan also asked him if the senator was coming through and that he replied:

"I don't know. I'm not the maitre d'."

After two days of testimony the state had called 12 witnesses, including members of the Kennedy party who were in the pantry area at the time of the shooting.

Jesse Unruh, Democratic leader in the California Assembly and manager of Kennedy's campaign in the state, said he felt "there was a real danger" that Sirhan would be harmed before he could come to trial.

"I think I kept saying, 'Don't kill him! Don't kill him! We've got to keep him alive', Unruh testified.

Roosevelt Grier, the 290-pound 6-foot-5 bearded former tackle for the Los Angeles Rams who disarmed Sirhan, said he fought off people who were trying to hit Sirhan until "they seemed to realize that we were trying to save the guy."

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