Witness' Story of Sirhan's Plans

Los Angeles

A trash collector testified yesterday that two months before the death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy Sirhan B. Sirhan told him he was planning on shooting "the son of a b——."

Alvin Clark, who regularly picked up trash at the Sirhan house on his route in Pasadena, told a jury at the murder trial that the conversation took place shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Civil Rights leader was killed in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. Kennedy died in Los Angeles June 6, 1968.

Clark said that he often had a sandwich and coffee with Sirhan at lunch time and that they talked politics frequently. He said that in April they talked about Dr. King's death and Sirhan was disturbed about it.

"He asked me how the Negroes felt about it,' 'Clark said. "I told him we felt there was not just one person involved in his death. He asked me what the Negroes were going to do about it and I said 'what can we do about it?'

"He asked me how I felt about the California (primary) election. I said I was going to vote to Kennedy.

"He said: 'What do you want to vote for that son of a B — for because I'm planning on shooting him?'

"I said he was one of the best men in the country. I told him about Kennedy going down to Tennessee to bring back Luther King's body and paying all the expenses.

"Sol (the name Clark used for Sirhan) said he did that just for publicity."

On cross-examination, Clark was asked by defense attorney Emile Zola Berman whether he was interviewed by the FBI and asked whether he would be willing to testify at Sirhan's trial.

Clark said he was. And Berman asked:

"Didn't you tell the FBI that you didn't know whether you could take the oath because you hated Sirhan so much you would do anything to see he was convictedk"

"Yes," said Clark.

Department District Attorney David Fitts then asked:

"Are you telling the truth her todayg"

"Yes, I am," Clark said.

At that point Sirhan turned to defense counsel Russell Parsons and whispered, "he's a liar."

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