

Sirhan's Stifled Attempts To Plead Guilty of Murder Death Diary

Los Angeles

Sirhan Bishara Sirhan wants to plead guilty to the first-degree murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, his attorney said yesterday and take his chances on the gas chamber.

"We're not going to let him," defense attorney Grant Cooper told newsmen, after a day in which Sirhan's diary showed him as a Communist supporter who drew up a timetable for the June 5, 1968, assassination of Kennedy.

However, it was learned that a State witness, police handwriting expert Laurence Sloan, had been told he need not return to the stand — an indication both sides might be anticipating an abrupt end to the seven-week-old trial. Sloan had not finished his State testimony, and had not been cross-examined.

CHANGE

The announcement of Sirhan's wish to change his plea to guilty came as a climax to a hectic day, in which the 24-year-old defendant twice interrupted his trial in an attempt to speak. Each time he was silenced.

Eight pages of Sirhan's personal diary were made public during the day by Superior Court Judge Edward V. Walker, most but not all of it eventually intended for scrutiny by the jury.

Eighteen days before he shot Kennedy, June 5, 1968, Sirhan had written: "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated before 5 June, 1968."

On another page of the same notebook Sirhan wrote:

"I advocate the overthrow of the current President of the (obscenity) United States of America. I have no absolute plans yet but soon will compose some. I am poor—this country's propaganda says that she is the best country in the world—I have not experienced this yet—the U. S. says life in Russia is bad—why—supposedly no average American has ever lived in a Slavic society so how can he tell if it is good

or bad—isn't his Government putting words in his mouth.

DECLINE

"Anyway I believe the U.S. is ready to start declining anyway, not that it hasn't — it began in November 23, 1963 (date of President John F. Kennedy's death), but it should decline at a faster rate so that the real Utopia will not be too far from being realized during the early 70s in this country.

"I firmly support the Communist cause and its people — whether Russian, Chinese, Albanian, Hungarian or whoever."

The young Jordanian Arab listened to the argument over admitting his intimate notes with rising perturbation. He squirmed, his head jerked nervously, and he rocked in his chair at the defense table. As the afternoon session began, Sirhan tried to gain the judge's ear from his courtroom seat, but was silenced and taken into an ante-room. There he was joined by his 55-year-old mother Mary Sirhan. Mother and son re-entered the courtroom, wiping their eyes.

ADJOURNMENT

Walker then adjourned the trial overnight at the request of the defense.

"He's blown his top, that's all," Cooper told newsmen. "We're trying to control him . . . He just feels his constitutional rights were violated by taking those notebooks."

Three notebooks were seized at Sirhan's home in Pasadena after the Kennedy assassination. Sections of them were made public as the State neared the end of its case.

"My determination to eliminate RFK is becoming more and more of an unshakable obsession . . . Robert F. Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the exploited people," Sirhan noted in a scrawl that often dwindled into gibberish at other places in the notebooks.

GOLDBERG

At another point, Sirhan wrote: "Ambassador Gold-

berg (presumably the then U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Arthur Goldberg) must die die die . . . Goldberg must be eliminated . . . Sirhan is an Arab Sirhan . . ."

Judge Walker admitted six pages of Sirhan's scrawled assassination timetable into evidence, to be made available later to the jury. He refused to admit two additional pages, but authorized their release to the news media after the prosecution argued it was vital the Nation should be aware of the motives of the defendant.

Associated Press

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disposed of properly
Robert Fitzgerald
Kennedy must soon die
die die die die
die die die die die*

UPI Telephoto

A portion of the diary made public yesterday