

Sirhan May Testify He Blacked Out

Los Angeles

Sirhan Sirhan may testify he was in a blackout and has no recollection of shooting and motally wounding Senator Robert F. Kennedy, it was indicated yesterday.

The 24-year-old defendant is expected to be called as a witness in his own behalf next week in his murder trial which was in recess yesterday.

The defense will present its first witnesses today, probably Sirhan's mother, Mary, and his younger brother, Munir.

Both have been in attendance at most court sessions since the trial started January 7.

Sirhan's apparently unstable emotional state may cause a delay in his appearance as a witness.

His blackout claim would fit in with the defense contention that he was in a trance when Kennedy was shot early on last June 5 at the Ambassador Hotel in the midst of a celebration on his victory in the California Democratic presidential primary.

All along, the defense has made no argument against the actual shooting of Kennedy. His attorneys have repeatedly stated that Sirhan

pulled the trigger. The blackout contention, however, would support their argument that he had "diminished capacity" to plan the killing and did not premeditate it.

If the jury of eight men and four women agrees, it would ntt presumably decree the death penalty.

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