

SIRHAN TESTIFIES HE KILLED KENNEDY ALONE; DENIES HE ACTED AS PAID ASSASSIN

# Sirhan Testifies He Killed Kennedy Al

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LOS ANGELES, March 5 — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant who has admitted killing Senator Robert F. Kennedy, said today that he had acted alone, and that no one had hired him for the assassination.

The defendant was on the witness stand for more than two hours this morning as his chief defense lawyer, Grant B. Cooper, read from the pages of several notebooks kept by Sirhan over the last two years.

After reading a section that said, in part, "We believe that Senator Robert F. Kennedy must be sacrificed for the cause of the poor and exploited people," Mr. Cooper asked who "we" was.

"I wrote that myself," Sirhan said.

"Did you have any accomplices when you shot President Kennedy?" Sirhan was asked.

"No, sir," he replied.

Sirhan also denied that he had been hired by an individual or foreign government to kill Mr. Kennedy.

Mr. Cooper, in the long, monotonous morning session, also read a page from the notebook that called for the overthrow of the "current President" of the United States and, in Sirhan's handwriting, said that "I firmly support the Communist cause and its people."

**Objection Recalled**

Earlier, the defense had objected to the prosecution's introduction of the page as evidence because of its "inflammatory" nature. Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker upheld the objection, and the pa-

per had not been mentioned until today.

Sirhan, who appeared to be more embarrassed by the misspellings in the page than by the contents, said that he did not remember writing the document.

"It sounds queer to me," he said with a slight, self-effacing grin.

"At the time you wrote this, did you feel that way?" Mr. Cooper asked. "Hasn't the United States been good to you?"

"Yes, sir," Sirhan answered. "It has been good to me, but not to the rest of my people."

Except for these two exchanges, the morning session was devoted to the reading of doodlings from Sirhan's notebooks — page after page in which Sirhan wrote such things as his name, horses' names, girls' names, random expressions and numbers.

A typical page from a Sirhan notebook read like this:

"Pay, pay to the order of, 28 killed, kill, sir, sir, sir, Sirhan, Sirhan, Sirhan, please pay to the order of, although documentation these facts, Sirhan, Sirhan, deducing from these facts \$500, \$50,000, Sirhan, pay to the order of."

**'Soccer Is Great'**

Occasionally, there would appear a complete thought, such as, "Soccer is great, but let us not ignore the bow and arrow." The pages were studded with the names of race horses and jockeys.

The pages also contained phrases in Arabic, usually Sirhan's name or praises of the Arab countries and people, occult philosophy and such names

as Mahatma Gandhi, Stokely Carmichael and Gaml Abdel Nasser.

The defense is trying to prove that Sirhan could not have rationally or maturely planned the murder of Senator Kennedy at the Ambassador Hotel last June 5.

Under state law, a jury must find a defendant guilty of a lesser crime than first-degree murder if the defense can prove that the accused acted under what the law calls, "diminished capacity."

Sirhan has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder although he had acknowledged that he killed Mr. Kennedy and wounded five other persons.

On some of the pages of his notebooks, Sirhan wrote repeatedly that Senator Kennedy "must die." Late in the morn-

ing session, Mr. Cooper read an article from The Rosicrucian Digest, a publication of the Rosicrucian order, to which Sirhan had applied for membership.

Sirhan, under questioning, said that he had read the article, entitled, "Put it in writing." The defendant listened impassively as Mr. Cooper read the article, which exhorted the reader to put his ideas on paper.

"Put your plan, your goal, your ideas in writing," the article said, "and see how it suddenly catches fire."

Writing down your ideas, the article continued, "feeds data into your subconscious mind a little faster . . . brings it into focus . . . clarifies it."

"Set a target date," it concluded "I dare you to set it down."