

WEDNESDAY

Sirhan Amnesia Real Defense Witness Says

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A psychologist testified today that Sirhan Sirhan was not lying when he said he could not remember shooting Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"There is nothing of a malingering, sociopathic personality claiming an amnesia that did not exist," Dr. Martin M. Schorr testified at Sirhan's murder trial.

It was Schorr's third day on the stand as a witness for the defense. He testified yesterday Sirhan had a Jekyll-Hyde character and did not have the mental capacity to form a meaningful, mature, plot against the senator.

SIRHAN IS psychopathically paranoid and dissociates—has a personality split — under stress, the psychologist said, adding "he probably will continue to dissociate under stress."

Q. Is he better now?

A. I think he's worse, from what I observe.

Sirhan testified that he remembers just a few things about the moments preceding and following the shooting of Kennedy last June 5—going to Kennedy's hotel in a drunken state for coffee . . . talking to a pretty girl . . . then choking as he was overpowered after the shooting.

SCHORR SAID this "indicates partial amnesia."

Prosecutor John E. Howard asked the psychologist to tell when the dissociate state started. Schorr said he could not say with any exactitude.

Q. Can you tell us when it ended?

A. It didn't end when he was interrogated; it didn't end for hours afterward.

Q. Kind of like a switch. Can you turn it on and off?

A. It depends on the conditions of stress.

SCHORR READ from a summary he drew up of Sirhan's personality which called mother love the defendant's "most precious possession."

"By killing Kennedy," the summary read, "Sirhan killed his father and took his father's place with his mother . . . he hated his father and feared him?"

Since the killing of his father was unacceptable to Sirhan, the summary continued, "the only real solution was to look for a compromise."

SCHORR SAID had Sirhan been examined before the assassination he probably could have been spotted as a potential murderer and yet, the psychologist said, Sirhan in his mental condition could not have formed a meaningful and mature plot.

That point is crucial to Sirhan's defense. His lawyers hope to save him from a death sentence by convincing the jury the shooting of Kennedy was the result of a sick, obsessed mind.

COULD SIRHAN have acted with malice aforethought? "No," said Schorr.

Under cross-examination by prosecutor John E. Howard, the psychologist was asked whether he could have predicted Kennedy's assassination if Sirhan had been tested earlier.

"With a reasonable degree of certainty, murder is predictable," Schorr said. He added that of 100 people chosen at random, three or four would be shown by psychological tests as having the potential for murder under stress.

"SIRHAN WOULD have been

one of these three or four," he said. "If I had to live with one of these three or four I would be very fearful.

"I'm not saying I could have predicted Sirhan would kill the senator," Schorr said, "but tests would have pointed to Sirhan as an odds-on favorite who would do something like this."

The 24-year-old Jordanian listened with obvious fascination as the psychologist described him as a Jekyll-Hyde personality.

"I DON'T think he's at all aware that the personality of the assaulter is within him at all," said Schorr.

Sirhan has said he cannot remember going to his car to get his gun or shooting the senator early in the morning of June 5 last year.