

Sirhan Psychologist Quotes From Book?

Examiner News Services

NEW YORK — Striking similarities were noted today in the language of a published case study by a New York crime psychiatrist and a San Diego psychologist's trial report on Sirhan Sirhan's motivation for killing Sen. Robert Kennedy.

Bernard Geis, publisher of the book by Dr. James Brussel containing the case study, said he was not sure whether he would sue the psychologist, Dr. Martin Schorr, for plagiarism but said he was "considering it very carefully."

Schorr said he was familiar with the Brussel study.

Same Language

"I know I read the book," Schorr said, "but I know it was prior to the trial. You use pretty much the same language when you talk about cases."

"Dr. Schorr had no business using Brussel's exact wording in his report on Sirhan," said Geis.

"It was inexcusable. But it

is understandable that he would turn to the Brussel book because there is no large amount of writing in the field of crime psychology and Brussel has had such phenomenal success in this field."

The book, "Casebook of a Crime Psychiatrist," was published last October and will be the Book of the Month Club's alternate selection for April.

Cite Example

Among the cases written for a popular reading audience is the murder of Mrs. Mary Nerich in New York's Queens borough in 1957. One excerpt read:

"She, whom he loved, ne-
kept her pledge and he began
to feel that she really didn't
love him. Pain had to be re-
paid with pain, and since the
unconscious always demands
the maximum, the pain had
to be death."

Schorr's report on Sirhan, read into the record during cross-examination at his trial in Los Angeles Wednesday, contained this paragraph:

"She, whom he loved, never
kept her pledge, and now
this pain had to be repaid
with pain. Since the uncon-
scious always demands max-

imum penalties, the pain had
to be death."

Another Brussel excerpt
read:

"The boy hated his father,
yes — and more important,
feared him. Therefore, he
would never entertain the
idea of doing away with the
man . . . then, somewhere
along the line, the protecting
mother may have 'failed' her
boy."

A parallel passage by
Schorr read: "He hated his
father and feared him. He
would never consciously en-
tertain the idea of doing
away with him. But some-
where along the line, the pro-
tecting mother fails her
son."

Still another Brussel ex-
cerpt read:

"Now his prime problem
was the conflict between in-
stinctual demand for her
death and the realization,
through his conscience, that
killing one's mother is not so-
cially acceptable."

Schorr told the court:

"Sirhan's prime problem
becomes a conflict between
instinctual demands for his
father's death and the reali-
zation that killing his father
is not socially acceptable."

Finally, Brussel wrote:

"The only solution was to
look for a compromise. He
did. He found a symbolic re-
plica of his mother, killed her
and took valuables that stood
for her most precious posses-
sion — the thing she had de-
nied him: her love."

And Schorr reported:

"The only real solution is
to look for a compromise. He
does. He finds a symbolic
replica of his father in the
form of Kennedy, kills him
and also reverses the rela-
tionship that stands between
him and his most precious
possession — his mother's
love."

The similarities were
pointed out to the New York
Times by a reader who said
she was reading Brussel's
book, which has sold over
20,000 copies, when she read
Schorr's report in the Times.

Brussel, who is vacationing
in the West Indies, said he
was "flattered" to be "quot-
ed" by Schorr, but he said he
hopes his publisher sues.

Brussel, 63, was for many
years assistant commissioner
of mental hygiene for New
York State.

His sleuthing in criminal
cases consists of taking clues
that indicate motivation for
the crime which in turn indi-
cates the kind of suspect to
look for.

He helped police solve the
Nerich murder and was ac-
tive in investigation of New
York's "mad bomber" and
the "Boston strangler"
cases.