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Sirhan Lead

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's claimed amnesia during the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy would not have been caused by schizophrenia, a psychiatrist said today at Sirhan's murder trial.

Dr. Eric Marcus, like psychologists who testified before him, said the young Jordanian suffers from schizophrenia—two personalities within one person.

But, asked by the prosecution if this would explain the mental blackout Sirhan says he suffered when Kennedy was shot last June, Marcus said: "No, I don't consider there is any direct connection between amnesia and schizophrenia."

Marcus, appointed by the court, was called to testify by the defense.

He was asked if he determined that Sirhan had periods of amnesia after falling from a horse while working as an exercise boy at a ranch in 1966. "I wasn't able to determine that," he said.

But Sirhan showed symptoms of increased mental illness afterward, Marcus said—increased seclusion and reading, a fight with his brothers that alienated them, and he became increasingly preoccupied with politics.

In testimony Thursday, Marcus said Sirhan "thought he was really more or less the savior of society . . . He was going to destroy the current political leaders of the country. He thought he knew what was best for society."

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Sirhan Bjt 370

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LOS ANGELES AP - By killing Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan "thought he was really more or less the savior of society," says a psychiatrist who has made a study of assassinations.

"He was going to destroy the current political leaders of the country," Dr. Eric Marcus testified Thursday at Sirhan's murder trial, nearing the end of its 11th week. "He thought he knew what was best for society."

Marcus was scheduled to wind up his testimony today. He was appointed by the Superior Court to examine Sirhan soon after Kennedy was assassinated last June 5, but testified for the defense.

The defense said it would call next Dr. Bernard Dymond, a psychiatrist who is considered a leading expert in the concept of diminished responsibility. That's the plea by which Sirhan's defenders hope to save him from the gas chamber.

Dymond, assistant dean in the school of criminology at the University of California Berkeley campus, hypnotized Sirhan to have him recall the shooting of Kennedy.

Grant Cooper, chief defense attorney, said Dymond was the only major witness remaining and that he would be on the stand about three or four days.

Marcus told the jury of eight men and four women that Sirhan "is mentally disturbed and became more disturbed in spring last year. The mental disturbance was relevant and directly related to his political views and feelings toward Robert Kennedy."

Marcus, a terse and unsmiling witness, brought with him a stack of manuscripts dealing with the assassination of political figures. He said he also interviewed Dr. Edwin Weinstein, who was commissioned by the Secret Service to study people who have threatened U.S. presidents.

Sirhan had written in his diaries that Kennedy, the president and other national leaders should be assassinated.

Sirhan's erratic, irrational and rambling writings, Marcus said, are "very, very typical and similar to the notebooks, diaries and letters of insane people who have written threatening letters to presidents."

In cross examination he agreed with co-prosecutor David N. Fitts that the 25-year-old Jordanian felt himself a part of the Arab-Israeli war. But he disagreed that Sirhan's Arab background and intense nationalism diminished the value of the psychological tests.

"The defendant in terms of psychology and personality is an American," Marcus said. "The tests show his answers are Western-American answers."

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