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By ARTHUR EVERETT

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP. - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan subconsciously programmed himself like a computer to assassinate Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, a psychiatrist testified Monday, then "accidentally committed the crime without knowing what was happening."

The opinion came from Dr. Bernard Diamond, who conducted hypnotic experiments on Sirhan. During one, the defendant gave a remarkable re-enactment of the slaying, said Diamond, a defense witness at Sirhan's murder trial.

"It was a startling experience-it was very real and dramatic," said Diamond of the mental rerun of the assassination as acted out by the 25-year-old Arab-born Sirhan.

Through prior experiments by Sirhan in thought control, and self-hypnosis with the use of mirrors and candles, Diamond said: "With absolutely no knowledge he was gradually programming himself like a computer, programming himself for the coming assassination."

"He had no awareness of the plan, or that he, Sirhan, would be an instrument of the assassination."

"I am satisfied he had not consciously planned to be in that situation."

But, Diamond went on, Sirhan found himself drunk and in Kennedy's presence last June after passing through a hotel area of mirrors, reflecting chandeliers and television lights.

"The mirrors in the hotel lobby, the flashing lights-this was like pressing a button that starts a computer," said Diamond.

"This time it was for real. This time there was no pencil in his hand. This time the gun was loaded."

Under hypnosis, Sirhan recounted that he only wanted to shake Kennedy's hand when he first moved toward the senator. Instead, he shot him.

"It is my opinion . . ." Diamond continued, "that Sirhan at the precise moment of firing the gun was in a highly abnormal and psychotic state of mind expressed by blind, primitive, reflex-raged reaction."

Diamond, pointing out that Sirhan had practiced self-hypnosis at home with mirrors, said there was a self-induced trance at the assassination scene "that began at the moment he felt very confused and dazed by the mirrors and the lights."

The defense: 3rd graf A253.

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By ARTHUR EVERETT

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LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan assassinated Sen. Robert F. Kennedy while in a self-induced trance, a psychiatrist testified Monday. The opinion was based on a re-enactment of the slaying by Sirhan under hypnosis, the doctor said.

Sirhan's first thought as Kennedy came near, the witness said, was that he wanted to shake the senator's hand—but when Kennedy got next to him he compulsively drew his gun and fired. "It was a startling experience—it was very real and dramatic," said Dr. Bernard Diamond of the mental rerun of the shooting as acted out by the 25-year-old Arab-born Sirhan.

The defense at Sirhan's first-degree murder trial offered to put him under hypnosis before they jury trying him for his life, but Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker vetoed the idea.

Dr. Diamond, professor of psychiatry and criminology at the University of California in Berkeley, said he asked the violently anti-Zionist Sirhan in one hypnotic session: "Are you the only person involved in the Kennedy shooting?"

He paused," Diamond said. "Then he said yes."

The reason advanced by Sirhan, Diamond said, was that Kennedy had advocated the sale of 50 jet bombers to Israel while the New York senator was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The sallow, jockey-sized Sirhan doodled on a pad during part of Diamond's testimony, but seemed to regain interest when the doctor related a hypnotic session in the defendant's jail cell Jan. 26.

The graying psychiatrist said he put Sirhan into a hypnotic state by dangling a 25-cent piece before the defendant's eyes. In his subconscious, Diamond said, Sirhan found himself back in the kitchen area of the Ambassador Hotel. The time was about 12:17 a.m. June 5, 1968. Kennedy was leaving a rally of supporters who had celebrated his victory in the California Democratic primary.

Diamond continued: "He was just standing there when Sen. Kennedy and a crowd with Sen. Kennedy entered from the other side and, in Sirhan's words: 'They rushed at me.'

"Sirhan's first thought was that he wanted to shake hands with Kennedy. Kennedy's bodyguard passed Sirhan and then Sirhan was in almost physical contact with Sen. Kennedy and he shot and killed the senator."

"Do it over again," Diamond said he commanded the hypnotized Sirhan. "Sen. Kennedy's here. He's coming toward you."

Enunciating clearly and facing the jury as he might a class in criminology, Diamond went on: "Sirhan simply pulled an imaginary gun out of his left belt and he fired it compulsively over and over again and shouted, 'You son of a ----.' "This was the first indication from any source confirming what actually happened.

"It was a startling experience. I jumped. It was very real and dramatic," Diamond said. "The expression on his face was most violent and distorted. He started to choke, actually experiencing the choking that occurred when they held him down and took away the gun. HE BECAME ACTUALLY BLUE IN THE FACE. He then went into a deep sleep.

"In my opinion, this is a reasonably authentic reenactment and reliving of the shooting."

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At the outset of Diamond's testimony regarding a series of six hypnotic sessions, the psychiatrist was asked by a defense attorney:

"Do you think you could do it in the courtroom?"

"Yes, I'm satisfied I could."

Q. Right here and now?

A. Right here and now.

Defense attorney Emile Zola Berman asked the judge, "Would the court entertain such a demonstration?"

"Are you asking me?" Walker replied. "The answer is no."

Diamond then recounted his first interrogation of Sirhan by means of hypnosis on Jan. 4, testifying: "His first response to hypnosis was to me a surprising one. I asked him about his Arab people. Sirhan went into a compulsive rage in response and, with his fists clenched, he got a most dramatic distorted rage expression on his face and sobbed and tears poured down his face. For the first time I had a completely different image of the Sirhan I had known . . . the sobbing went on and on and gradually subsided."

Then on Jan. 11 Diamond hypnotized Sirhan again. The witness testified that this exchange occurred:

Q. Sirhan, did anyone pay you to shoot Kennedy?

A. Sirhan sighs. The question is repeated. No.

Q. Did anyone know ahead of time that you were going to do it?

A. No.

Q. Did any of your Arab friends or the Arab government have anything to do with it?

A. No.

Q. Did you think this all up yourself?

A. After a pause. Yes.

Q. Are you the only person involved in the Kennedy shooting?

A. After a pause. Yes.

Q. Why did you shoot him, Sirhan?

A. The bombers.

Q. You mean the bombers to Israel?

A. Yes.

Q. When did you decide to shoot him?

A. I don't know.

Q. Was there any conspiracy at all?

A. No.

Q. No member of your family helped out?

A. No.

Q. Did you consult anybody? Ask anybody whether you should kill Kennedy?

A. No.

Q. Are you telling me the truth, Sirhan?

A. Yes.

Diamond referred to the "RFK must die" notation in Sirhan's preassassination diaries and said: "These were written in a self-induced hypnotic trance in a state similar, I believe, to that in which he committed the assassination."

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