

Sirhan Defense Rests --Court Outburst Told

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Los Angeles

The defense rested its case yesterday at the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, now in its 12th week, after calling 29 witnesses in an attempt to save the 25-year-old Arab from the gas chamber for the slaying of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The defense rested after the jury was told for the first time of an angry outburst by Sirhan a month ago in the judge's chambers in which he talked of being "railroaded into the gas chamber."

Chief Defense Counsel Grant Cooper read the transcript of the outburst, precipitated by Sirhan's displeasure at having his notebooks read in court, apparently to show the jury additional evidence of the defendant's volatile behavior.

Sirhan was quoted as telling the judge:

"Four honor, if these notebooks are allowed in evidence I will change my plea to guilty as charged. I will do so, sir, not so much that I want to be railroaded into the gas chamber, sir, but to deny you the pleasure, sir, after convicting me, of turning around and telling the world: 'Well, I put that fellow in the gas chamber but I first gave him a fair trial,' when in fact, sir, you will not have done so."

The incident in chambers nevertheless true. occurred the same day that Sirhan threw the courtroom into a turmoil by saying he wanted to plead guilty.

The trial, which started January 7, is expected to go to the jury next week after closing arguments.

During the morning session, Dr. Edward Diamond, a psychiatrist, ended his testimony by describing the story that Sirhan wandered into the Ambassador Hotel in a self-induced trance as "absurd and preposterous" but

"To me, this is a script which would never be accepted in a Class B movie but yet these are the classical psychiatric findings," he said.

Another morning witness, Dr. Georgene E. W. Seward, University of Southern California psychologist, backed the findings of two earlier witnesses, stating that Sirhan showed "a clear case of schizophrenic reaction of the paranoid type."

Associate Prosecutor John

Howard drew from the witness an admission that Sirhan's reactions to some men-said, however, that the finding of mental illness was based on not just one but on at least five tests.

Dr. Seward admitted that Sirhan, jailed and awaiting trial on a murder charge, could have deliberately tried to falsify his test results in order to appear insane.

But, she said, too many of his answers to questions unrelated to his being a jailed murder suspect were also indicative of paranoid schizophrenia — too many for him either to be considered healthy or to be trying to fake insanity. *United Press*