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# Defender Seeks Prison for Sirhan

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Whether Mr. Sirhan likes it or not," thundered Sirhan Bishara Sirhan's own lawyer, "he deserves to spend the rest of his life in a penitentiary."

Ignoring Sirhan's hurt gaze, Grant B. Cooper looked intently at the jury trying his young client for murder and said: "We are not here to free a guilty man. We tell you, as we always have, that he killed Robert Kennedy."

Cooper thus began yesterday the last part of a three-man defense summation in Sirhan's lengthy trial.

Cooper today described at great length for jurors — using posters on a blackboard — the difference between first-degree murder, second degree and manslaughter. These are verdicts jurors will consider when they begin deliberations, probably Monday.

"I for one am not going to ask you to do more than bring in a verdict of murder in the second degree," said Cooper.

The penalty for second-degree murder in California is a sentence of five years to life, with the exact term and parole eligibility determined later by the Adult Authority. The state is asking a verdict of first-degree murder but not necessarily the death penalty, which is the only alternative to life in prison.

The jury makes the choice on a conviction of first-degree murder and a prisoner sentenced to life is not eligible for parole for seven years.

"I wouldn't want Sirhan Sirhan turned loose on society when the psychiatrists tell us he is getting worse and he is

## Probers to See Tax Returns

WASHINGTON (U P I) — President Nixon issued an executive order yesterday permitting the House Committee on Internal Security to examine federal tax returns for the years 1950 to 1969.

The committee, formerly the House Committee on Un-American Activities, is currently investigating "revolutionary violence in America."

A major aspect of the investigation is how some militant organizations such as Students for a Democratic Society are financed. Examination of tax returns could yield information on contributors to such groups.

going to get worse," Cooper said. "There is a good Sirhan and a bad Sirhan and that bad Sirhan is a nasty Sirhan.

"I have learned to love the little good Sirhan."

The dark, curly-haired Jordanian pallid from more than 10 months in a sunless prison cell, smiled at that.

But his face became sullen again when Cooper quoted now-familiar passages written in Sirhan's diary before the slaying, asking each time: "Is that mature thinking? Is that meaningful thinking?"

Motive, said Cooper as he launched into a lengthy explanation of the law, "is not an element of the crime charged and need not be shown," but can be considered as a cir-

cumstance in the case.

"Can there be any question in anyone's mind that Sirhan's motive was political?" he asked. "Though the motive was political, was it a healthy motive? Obviously the motive in killing any human being is not healthy, but was it a mature motive?"

That, he said, is "the guts of the whole case" — whether Sirhan's mental capacity was so reduced that it affected his ability "to form any of the following specifics — intent to kill, premeditation and deliberation and . . . to reflect on the gravity of his contemplated act."

And then Cooper made one of the few personal references to the victim heard in 14 weeks of trial.

"I have not overlooked that the man who was killed was Sen. Robert F. Kennedy who left a wife and 11 children.

And, in a voice tinged with astonishment, the white-haired attorney gestured toward Sirhan, sitting at the far end of the counsel table:

"He believed he was right. How stupid! He believed he shouldn't be punished. How stupid. How immature!"

Sirhan's other attorneys, Russell V. Parsons and Emile Zola Berman, also spoke of his mental condition.

"It would be an easy thing for us all if he was just a kid," Berman said. "We would teach him, spank him. But this is the product of a sick mind.

"His condition is deteriorating; he's not making progress, he's going downhill. It's a melancholy business, believe me."