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Sirhan Jury Ready For Deliberations

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — The prosecution rested its case today in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan for the slaying of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. After a recess the jury was to receive brief instructions from the judge and begin deliberations.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Lynn Compton concluded his summation by saying the defense had asked the jury to think of the victim not as a U.S. senator "but as John Smith."

However, Compton said, "you cannot divorce the fact that the victim was Robert F. Kennedy because that is the reason the crime occurred. It had to be a figure of the stature of Kennedy because the motive was stop Kennedy from sending bombers to Israel."

"He couldn't have done that by killing John Smith, he had to kill Robert Kennedy."

The prosecutor had told the panel that "justice has been served to the Nth degree" in trying the young Arab.

"The defense team has lived up to the finest traditions of the legal profession in defending what must be described as an unpopular cause to see that the system works," Compton said.

"The system has worked. This jury has been furnished more evidence and background than possibly any jury in history. The defense has asked that you return a verdict that will prove in every hamlet in the United States and the world that you can get justice in the United States."

"Justice does not mean any particular verdict. What determines it is the procedure followed in reaching that verdict and in that the defendant has got justice to the Nth degree."

Compton listed a series of facts to illustrate that point:

— The tremendous effort of the authorities to prevent his being lynched.

— He has three of the best lawyers in the country.

— He has had a battery of psychologists and psychiatrists who came to his aid.

— He had a public trial with the media of the world here to report everything that went on.

— He has had a jury trial by 12 fair-minded jurors and an open-minded judge.

"This was justice, and justice has been served and the system has worked. We think the verdict which we believe should be first-degree murder will also serve justice."

A juror whose brother died during the weekend and who flew to the funeral was replaced by one of the alternates, George A. Stilzel, a newspaper pressman. His name was drawn by lot from among standby jurors who have sat with the regular panel throughout the trial.