

SIRHAN JURY ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION

Hears Judge Reread Rules
on Second-Degree Guilt

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LOS ANGELES, April 16 — The jury continued its deliberations today in the murder trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, who has admitted that he killed Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Shortly after luncheon, the jury sent a note to Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker asking clarification of his instructions for finding a defendant guilty of second degree murder. It was the first time in almost two full days of deliberations that the panel had asked for assistance.

In answering their request, Judge Walker said that the jury must find Sirhan guilty of second degree murder if it concludes that at the time of the crime he had diminished mental capacity because of "mental illness, intoxication or any other cause."

The jury ended its deliberations for the day at 4 P.M.

In another development, Russell E. Parsons, one of the defense attorneys, told newsmen that Sirhan was "convinced" that he would be exchanged at some future date for some prisoner or political figure in an Arab country.

Mr. Parsons said that a State Department "official" had visited his office last fall and had told him that "such exchanges happen oftener than you think."

Some newsmen, apparently bored by the long day in the courtroom, wrote articles about the possible exchange.

It turned out, however, that the "official" was a translator who once worked for the State Department during the Kennedy Administration and who was accompanying a Lebanese newspaper publisher during a visit to Los Angeles last year.

Grant B. Cooper, the chief defense attorney, questioned about the matter, said: "I don't think the State Department has any affirmative interest in this case."