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SIRHANS FILE SUIT TO PREVENT BOOK

Charge Manuscript Holds
'Private' Data on Family

By ROBERT E. TOMASSON

The family of Sirhan B. Sirhan, the convicted assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, filed suit here yesterday to block publication of a book dealing with "personal, private and confidential information pertaining to the lives" of the Sirhan family.

The suit, filed in State Supreme Court, also seeks \$2-million in damages, an accounting of any money received for rights to accounts by the family and the revocation of a contract signed by the convicted man with Robert B. Kaiser, a writer.

"At the time of the making and signing of the contract," Sirhan "was of unsound mind and was wholly and absolutely incompetent and unable to comprehend or understand the nature of the transaction in which he then participated and was incapable of making said contract and said contract is therefore void as to him," the suit contends.

It was brought by Mrs. Mary B. Sirhan, the convicted man's

mother and guardian, and a sister, Adel B. Sirhan and a brother, Munir B. Sirhan. Mrs. Sirhan brought the suit both individually and on behalf of her son, who has been declared an incompetent person because of his conviction.

Publisher Is Defendant

In addition to Mr. Kaiser, the defendants are Maximillian Becker, a literary agent, E. P. Dutton & Co., the publisher, and Grant P. Cooper and Russell E. Parsons, lawyers who defended Sirhan.

A hearing on the move to enjoin Dutton from publishing a book tentatively titled "Sirhan Sirhan" will be held Wednesday.

The suit also seeks to bar any publishing of material obtained from psychiatric reports of Sirhan without written permission from the family or the convicted man. Sirhan is now on San Quentin's "death row," awaiting the outcome of appeals.

In an affidavit, Munir Sirhan said that Mr. Kaiser had taken the position that the family had no right to examine the book manuscript and that he had the right to include psychiatric reports.

One purpose in examining the manuscript, the suit said, was to assure that it would not prejudice appeal of the case or any possible retrial if an appeal is successful.

The complaint charged that the contract Sirhan signed was "not freely and voluntarily made."

The allegations against the two criminal lawyers was that they had said that unless a contract was signed, they would not defend Sirhan.

The Sirhan family contended that while the information Sirhan gave to Mr. Kaiser "is of great monetary value and that it has been used," they had received only \$6,000 thus far.

Under the terms of the contract, Mr. Kaiser is to receive 40 per cent of the first \$100,000, with 60 per cent going to Sirhan or his family. On amounts over \$100,000, the writer was to receive a third with the remainder going to the Sirhan family.