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Sirhan Bjt 500, 2 Takes Total 950

By BILL STALL

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LOS ANGELES AP - Sirhan Bishara Sirhan has been arraigned on a charge of murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in a hearing held behind by an unprecedented wall of security.

Sirhan, 24, calm and composed, sat Friday in the chapel of Los Angeles County men's jail as a deputy district attorney read the murder indictment, returned an hour and two minutes earlier by the county grand jury.

The indictment said the slight, olive-complexioned native of Jordan did "wilfully, unlawfully, feloniously and with malice aforethought murder Robert Francis Kennedy."

The judge ordered Sirhan to return to court June 28 to enter a plea and agreed to a defense request that he be examined by two psychiatrists before that date.

Superior Court Judge Arthur L. Alarcon, using the blonde hardwood chapel altar as a temporary court bench, spelled out for Sirhan his constitutional right to a fair, speedy trial.

Then, Alarcon ordered all police, attorneys, court officials and witnesses to say nothing about the case or release any evidence that might in any way jeopardize Sirhan's right to a fair trial.

Any violation, he warned, will result in "swift action" in the form of a contempt of court citation.

Alarcon himself, the 19 unarmed deputy sheriffs who stood watch during the 40-minute arraignment and others among the approximately 200 persons admitted to the arraignment, most of them newsmen, were searched thoroughly before they were taken past a maze of security checkpoints to the third-floor jail chapel.

A card handed to them read: "No cameras, potential weapons or electronic devices of any description will be permitted in the spectators section of the courtroom." The order came from the judge.

Sirhan was escorted in a wheel chair into the 400 capacity chapel by four sheriff's deputies. His left ankle and left index finger still were bandaged from injuries suffered Wednesday in the scuffle at the Ambassador Hotel after a volley of eight shots felled Kennedy and injured five bystanders. Indictments also were returned Friday charging Sirhan with assault with intent to commit murder.

The officers helped the slender Sirhan, wearing an open-collar white shirt, shiny black shoes and blue dungarees, into a chair at a table facing the judge.

He said no more than a dozen words during the hearing.

Alarcon asked him if his true name was Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

"Yes sir," he said. "It is Sir-han" not "Seer-han."

He indicated he could not afford to hire his own attorney and would be satisfied with appointment of a public defender, Wilbur Littlefield.

Later, A. L. Wirin, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, suggested the judge ask Sirhan directly if he had any objection to being arraigned in jail, rather than at the Hall of Justice two miles away, the scene of the day-long grand jury hearing.

"No, yout honor," he said.

Four sheriff's deputies stood at rigid attention behind Sirhan throughout the hearing, blocking the view of spectators who caught only fleeting glimpses of his face.

Sirhan winced when he turned to get into his wheel chair to be taken back to the jail hospital, apparently in pain from his injured ankle.

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None of Sirhan's family was present, although Wirin said he had advised his mother and brothers through their pastor that they could attend.

Sirhan was admitted as a permanent resident of the United States when his family emigrated from Jordan in the 1950s. Immigration officials say this means he can stay indefinitely without applying for citizenship.

Although police had described Sirhan as composed and cool, Wirin said he was anguished when told the news Kennedy had died Thursday, about 25 hours after he was shot in the head with a .22-caliber revolver. Kennedy was celebrating his victory in the California presidential primary when shot.

Wirin told a reporter Sirhan was "fearful the community would turn against his family and he asked me to arrange for police protection."

Just as the grand jury was formally charging Sirhan with murder, a woman who identified herself as the "girl in the polka dot dress" sought by Los Angeles police called sheriff's officers and said she wanted to talk to them.

Kathy Fulmer, 19, a dancer, told Sheriff Peter J. Pitchess and newsmen she had seen Sirhan watching Kennedy before the shooting, heard the shots, and then rushed from the Ambassador's Embassy Room in near-hysteria shouting, "They shot him!"

A Kennedy campaign worker had told police she heard a young blonde woman say, "We shot him."

Miss Fulmer, from Los Angeles, said she did not know Sirhan. She later was released after questioning.

There was no direct reference during Friday's nine hours of complex legal proceedings—from the convening of the grand jury until the arraignment—to the events in Dallas of November 1963.

But it was clear Los Angeles County law enforcement chiefs were taking every step possible to prevent any incident that could mar the legal record in the wake of the second Kennedy assassination in five years.

Lee Harvey Oswald, identified by the Warren Commission as President John F. Kennedy's assassin Nov. 22, 1963 in Dallas, was shot and killed two days later in the basement of the Dallas city jail. He was in the process of being transferred to the county jail.

Alarcon's 3½-page order on statements by participants in the case declared: "This court has an affirmative duty to do everything possible within its constitutional powers and jurisdiction to make certain" Sirhan's rights are protected.

Wirin commended Alarcon for his thorough legal precautions.

The murder charge lodged against Sirhan in the case, officially numbered A233421, "The people against Sirhan Bishara Sirhan," carries a possible death sentence in the gas chamber at San Auentin Prison.

But court challenges of California's death penalty have suspended all executions in the state indefinitely. Seventy-seven men are on death row.

In California, a death sentence carries an automatic appeal to the State Supreme Court.

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