

Sirhan Defense Hint: 'Insane or Deport'

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — A new lawyer who has taken over the defense of the accused assassin of Sen. Robert Kennedy says he is exploring the possibility of getting Sirhan Sirhan deported or declared insane.

"Someone must defend this man," said Russell Parsons, 69, a crusty veteran of many murder trials. "I will do the best I can. Every man, no matter who he is, is entitled to the best defense."

Parsons formally became the 24 year old Jordanian's lawyer yesterday by presenting Superior Court Judge Richard Schauer with a request, signed by Sirhan, that he be retained.

NEW RULE

Until then, Sirhan's attorney of record had been Wilbur Littlefield, a chief trial

deputy for the Public Defender's Office.

Meanwhile, Sheriff Peter Pitchess laid down one new rule for Sirhan, held under heavy guard at the Los Angeles County jail. He said when Sirhan receives visits from fellow Jordanians he must talk to them in English — not his native Arabic.

Pitchess revealed Sirhan was interviewed Tuesday by the Jordanian consul in Los Angeles, George Zraikat.

ENVOY PROTESTS

The deputy said Jordanian diplomats had complained to the U.S. State Department that the interview with Zraikat was in English.

Pitchess said the Jordanian government asked that a representative of its Chicago consulate be allowed to interview Sirhan in Arabic.

The sheriff said he rejected the request for "security reasons."

SFChronicle

Jordanian Consul Sees Sirhan

Los Angeles

Sirhan Sirhan, the native of Jordan accused of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy, requested and was granted a jail interview with the Jordanian consul here, it was disclosed yesterday.

Sheriff Peter Pitchess notified newsmen that the meeting between Sirhan, 24, and Consul George Zraikat occurred last Tuesday in County Jail in the presence of Public Defender Wilbur Littlefield. Sirhan's defense attorney of record at that time.

"Consul Zraikat expressed his satisfaction with the physical arrangements of Sirhan's confinement and praised the security measures taken by the Sheriff to insure the safety of the defendant," Pitchess said.

ENGLISH

However, he added that "Jordanian diplomats, through the United States State Department, expressed dissatisfaction that the interview granted the local consul representative had been in English.

"The Jordanian government further requested that an accredited consular representative from their Chicago office be granted a private visit with the defendant in the Arabic language," Pitchess said.

"The Sheriff refused this request for security reasons and insisted that any visit be in English and that the defendant's attorney of record be present," Pitchess added.

CONDITION

As to Sirhan's general condition, Pitchess reported that finger, ankle and knee injuries suffered during Sirhan's capture were "progressing satisfactorily" and doctors reported that the injuries "do not present a handicap at this time."

Sirhan has no contact with other inmates, Pitchess said, although he is allowed to exercise in a 30-foot long jail corridor.

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