

JAUNTY SIRHAN SMILES AND WAVES

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LOS ANGELES — Sirhan Bishara Sirhan appears to have lost the nervousness he displayed on his trial's first day, and adopts an apparently nonchalant attitude toward the proceedings.

During the first day he was tense and subdued. On the second day he was almost jaunty.

Accused of the murder of Sen. Robert Kennedy, he walked briskly into the courtroom between his two guards and paused to drink at a wa-

ter fountain before taking his seat.

He turned in his chair and surveyed the courtroom. He smiled at relatives seated a few feet behind him, and waved in greeting. The prison-grey palor of his face is smoothly shaven. He wears a

silky gray-blue suit, pale blue shirt, and a blue tie.

He seems to take a lively interest in the complex legal arguments that mark the opening days of his trial. He is restless. He leans back and forth in his chair. He

places his chin in his right hand.

Repeatedly he cranes his head to the right to seek out and smile at his brother, Munnir, 21, and his mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, a somberly dressed woman with graying hair. Often he gazes at news-

papermen, police officers, and others in the court.

"I am certain he is deliberately posing for me," whispers a cartoonist in the front row of the press section. Deftly, she sketches Sirhan's chiseled features, his dark

eyes, his jet-black close curls.

Sirhan, 5 feet 1 inch tall, seems tiny and almost insignificant in the crowded courtroom. The room is dominated by Judge Herbert Walker. Beside Sirhan is defense at-

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OVER

Sirhan's Spirits Improve On Second Day of Trial

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torney Russell Parsons. Next is another of his defense team, lean, hawk-nosed Emil Zola Berman, who sits immobile in his chair, a finger placed pensively across his cheek. Next is the leader of the defense, tall, voluble Grant Cooper.

The chief of the prosecuting team, Assistant District Attorney Lynn Compton, wears a California tan under his close-cropped gray hair. He wears a dark green checkered sportscoat, brown slacks and a yellow shirt. His associates, John Howard and David Fitts, are more conventionally attired.

DEFENSE EFFORTS

At issue now in the trial are defense efforts to have Sirhan's first-degree murder indictment set aside. Cooper's strategy consists of attacking the 1968 grand jury that returned the indictment.

Should the attack succeed, Sirhan would return to the status of a man arrested following a fatal shooting. The process of indictment and trial, which has so far taken seven months, would have to begin again.

Sirhan's lawyers are resorting to such tactics because of one undeniable fact of the crime: It was committed before witnesses. This is a legal situation that, on its face, presents a prosecutor's dream and a defender's nightmare.

DEALY SOUGHT

Cooper sought a 30-day postponement, asserting he has not had time to prepare an adequate defense. Judge Walker reminded him that Sirhan had been arrested June 5 and the trial had originally been set for June 19. It was then continued to Aug. 2, then to Oct. 14, to Dec. 9 and finally to Jan. 7. Judge Walker denied Cooper's request.

Cooper subsequently made it clear he was developing his attack on the 1968 grand jury in particular and the California system of selecting juries in general. He observed that a similar attack is being carried to the U.S. Supreme Court.

He summoned to the witness stand William Goodwin, jury commissioner of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County. Goodwin's job was, he explained, the providing



SIRHAN WATCHES TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
Study was made as defendant observed attorneys

—AP sketch by Rosalie Ritz

of juries for courts in the county. Cooper questioned Goodwin closely on where he obtained names for jury lists, how the names were drawn from the lists, and under what instructions he operated.

Cooper sought to prove that the jury system is inadequate in that it excluded "members of some minority groups and persons of some national background." His questioning made it apparent he sought to establish a trial record that could be extensively drawn upon in the event the case reached the appellate stage.

ELECTION VICTORY

Sen. Kennedy was shot early on June 5, 1968, shortly after his victory in California's Democratic presidential primary. The slaying occurred in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel near downtown Los Angeles, as the Senator shook hands with employees shortly before an intended departure to a victory celebration.

Sirhan, 24, an immigrant from Jordan, was seized and

a pistol was allegedly wrested from his hand. He has been held under maximum security conditions by Los Angeles County authorities since then. His defense has entered a plea of not guilty to first-degree murder. The trial is in its third day today.