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Judge Denies Delay for Sirhan Over Cooper Case Publicity

By DOUGLAS E. Kneeland

Special to The New York Times

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LOS ANGELES, Jan. 10— Superior Court Judge Herbert V. Walker has denied a motion by attorneys for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan to further delay his trial.

The motion for a new postponement in the trial of the 24-year-old Jordanian immigrant charged with the first-degree murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was made in secret yesterday in the judge's chambers.

The defense move was made on the ground that recent publicity about a grand jury investigation of another matter involving the chief defense counsel was prejudicial to Sirhan's right to a fair trial. The motion was made in the judge's chambers to avoid further publicity about the affair.

While the judge ruled in private, it was understood from an unimpeachable source that he had denied what was believed to have been a request for a 30-day "cooling off" period.

It was believed earlier, on the basis of accounts from presumably authoritative sources, that the defense was seeking a mistrial to gain more time for the publicity about the other case to die down. However, defense counsel, at this point, has limited itself to the motion for a continuance.

At issue is publicity surrounding a Federal grand jury investigation of Grant B. Cooper, the chief defense counsel, and other attorneys representing clients in the Friars Club case, a card-cheating trial that

drew much attention in this area earlier this year.

Mr. Cooper has admitted to the Federal grand jury that he lied in court about the source of an unauthorized transcript of grand jury proceedings found in his possession during the Friars Club trial. He also admitted that he had had the transcripts of testimony given by four other witnesses before the grand jury. But he declined to answer other questions about where the transcripts came from on the ground that to do so would violate the sanctity of the lawyer-client relationship.

He was ordered this week to reappear before the grand jury and answer these questions. He did appear, but it is not known whether he replied as directed. He has not been called an no action has been taken against him.

The Sirhan trial, in recess today, will resume Monday morning. Attorneys for the defense are studying transcripts of testimony taken in another case that may be used to support a motion to set aside the petit jury panel from which Sirhan's jurors will be drawn the ground that it is improperly constituted.

Horseback Bandits Confess

BUENOS AIRES (UPI)—Juan Carlos Baus, 18 years old, and Horacio Pascual, 20, confessed after their arrest that, on horseback, they had been hailing pedestrians in the alleys of Buenos Aires, threatening them with revolvers, and then dashing off with what loot they could get.