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Sirhan NL

By GENE HANDSAKER

Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES AP - Eight men and four women swore solemnly Wednesday to return "a true verdict" in the trial of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, charged with murdering Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

Attorneys then began questioning candidates to serve as six alternate jurors. whel

selection was expected to take the rest of the week.

The court clerk asked the 12 jurors: "Do you and each of you solemnly swear that you will well and truly try the cause now pending before this court and a true verdict render therein?"

Rilht hands raised, the jurors chorused: "I do."

Superior Judge Herbert V. Walker told them they and the alternates will not be locked up nights until all alternates are chosen and sworn in.

Sirhan, 24, accused of shooting Kennedy last June, showed no emotion when jurors were asked about a possible verdict of death for him in the state's gas chamber.

First to be tentatively accepted as an alternate juror was WQARRER Willis, aircraft maintenance foreman for an air line. He said he supervises about 50 employes and his wife of 22 years works in a nursery school.

Chief defense attorney Grant B. Cooper asked Willis whether he would favor death or life imprisonment in willful, deliberate, premeditated murder.

"The death penalty," said Willis. Cooper thereupon challenged Willis "for cause" - preference of the death penalty.

Judge Walker asked Willis if he would consider evidence in mitigation or aggravation at a penalty prtion of the trial.

Willis said he would and the judge disallowed Cooper's challenge.

Defense and prosecution then accepted Willis provisionally, although Cooper told the judge he did not relinquish his challenge.

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LOS ANGELES Sirhan NL A292LA add: challenge.

By the day's end, four prospective alternat jurors had been acceptee tentatively by both sides.

Besides Willis they included Marshall Wolfe, power switchboard operator for the city Department of Water and Power; Georgia M. Liddle, wife of a mail carrier, and Ruth A. Stillman, insurance company adjuster.

QUESTIONING OF PROSPECTIVE ALTERNATES RESUMES AT 8:30 a.m. Thursday.

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