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Sirhan Bjt 450

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LOS ANGELES AP - The odyssey of a small revolver—from its purchase at a time of civil strife to the fateful moment when it was fired at the head of SEN. Robert F. Kennedy—is unfolding before a jury trying Sirhan Bishara Sirhan for murder.

Two witnesses told Tuesday of seeing Sirhan at a firing range June 4, 1968, watching him shoot furiously at a target and asking the rangemaster for "the best box of shells you have—and I want some that will not misfire."

Some 12 hours later Kennedy lay on a kitchen floor in the Ambassador Hotel, bleeding from a fatal head wound; the cheers of his followers still ringing as they celebrated his California presidential primary victory.

The state's witness scheduled today included:

-Mrs. Albert Hertz of Suburban Alhambra, whose husband bought the .22-caliber Iver Johnson 8-shot revolver in 1965—at the time of the Watts racial riots;

-Mrs. Robert F. Westlake of near San Francisco, the Hertz's daughter

-in-law who was given the weapon after

tensions abated;

-George Erhardt, 19, a family friend who lives in Pasadena and received the gun from Mrs. Westlake in late 1967. The state, in its opening statement, said Erhardt sold the gun for \$25 to Munir Sirhan—the 21-year-old brother of the defendant.

Henry Adrian Carreon, a police science major at East Los Angeles College, testified Tuesday he was shooting at the San Gabriel Valley Gun Club in Duarte when his attention was attracted by rapid firing on the pistol range.

"I went over there to see what was going on," Carreon said. "He was just trying to shoot as fast as he could."

Carreon identified the man he saw as Sirhan, and placed the time at around noon in June 4—primary election day.

Around Sirhan, Carreon said, lay 300 to 400 empty bullet casings and 5 or 6 empty shell boxes.

The prosecution is attempting to establish a case of premeditation to counter defense claims that Sirhan was confused and intoxicated when he shot Kennedy and that the killing was undeliberate.

Everett C. Buckner, rangemaster at the gun club, said Sirhan signed the p

actice roster at the club on June 4. He

told the jury Sirhan "came up to me and said I want

the best box of shells

not misfire."

The defense, on cross examination, reminded Buckner that he once told police there was a lady with Sirhan and w'she said to him "get out of here God damn you, or somebody will recognize us."

A. I said it sounded something like that.

Q. WERE YOU GIVEN A LIE DETECTOR TEST?

A. Yes.

Q. And you flunked?

A. On that question.

Later, Buckner was asked again if at any time he had heard a lady make such a statement and his answer was "no."

In Sirhan's pockets at the time of arrest was \$410.60 and some newspaper

clippings, one of the arresting officers testified.

The clippings, read in court, included a column by syndicated writer David Lawrence taking Kennedy to task for "inconsistencies" in favoring more arms to Israel while opposing U.S. military aid in southeast Asia.

Another clipping was a political advertisement—an invitation to see Kennedy June 2 at the Ambassador Hotel. The state has said it will prove Si

han visited

the scene of the shooting at that time.

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Sirhan Box

LOS ANGELES AP - Four \$6 bills taken from Sirhan Bishara SIRHAN AFTER Robert F. Kennedy's assassination were passed around among his murder trial jury Tuesday, and ended up on the rail of the jury box after all members of the panel had examined them.

Directed Superior Court Judge Herbert V. WALKER GRUFFLY, BUT WITH A SMILE TO A COURT ATTENDANT: "Pick up the money down there, it makes me nervous."

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