

'Blackout' By Sirhan Claimed

LOS ANGELES — (UPI) — Sirhan B. Sirhan may testify he was in a blackout and has no recollection of shooting and mortally wounding Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, it was indicated today.

The 24 year old defendant is expected to be called as a witness in his own behalf next week in his murder trial, which was in recess today.

The defense will present its first witnesses tomorrow, probably Sirhan's mother, Mary, and his younger brother, Munir.

Both have attended most court sessions since the trial started Jan. 7.

Unstable

Sirhan's apparently unstable emotional state may cause a delay in his appearance as a witness.

His blackout claim would fit in with the defense contention that he was in a trance when Kennedy was shot.

Agitated by Kennedy's support of Israel against the Arabs, Sirhan fell into the type of a trance which has plagued him since he was a boy and observed the horrors of warfare at his home in Jordan, the defense contends.

Hypnotic Spell

It was learned that some months ago Sirhan, put into a hypnotic spell by a psychiatrist, reenacted the shooting of Kennedy — even to pulling the trigger of the .22-caliber death revolver.

The process is known as age regression. When Sirhan came out of the spell, he again had no memory of the shooting, it was said.

All along, the defense has admitted Sirhan shot Kennedy. The blackout contention, however, would support their argument that he had "diminished capacity" to plan the killing and did not premeditate it.