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Sirhan Bjt 360

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LOS ANGELES AP. - The strange, enigmatic Arab mind of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan comes under the professional analysis of psychiatrists Monday with the resumption of his trial for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The nine-week trial was in recess Sunday, prior to the psychiatric testimony which may determine whether the 24-year-old Sirhan goes to prison or the gas chamber. He is charged with first degree murder, punishable by death.

"I am a very impulsive person," the young Jordanian said with a snap of his fingers from the witness stand last week. He claimed he was drunk and remembered nothing of the June 5, 1968, slaying of Kennedy, who was campaigning for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The defense claimed Sirhan's background so impaired him mentally and emotionally that he was unable to premeditate Kennedy's murder. This is a step below a plea of legal insanity, which is more difficult to prove.

The psychiatrists are expected to explore many facets of Sirhan's life, from his early awareness at the age of 4 of the horrors of Arab-Zionist warfare in his native Jerusalem.

There is a Sirhan of deep hatreds, based on his intense pro-Arab feelings. Again snapping his fingers, he testified: "I have a bug. I have a built-in bug in this brain of mine against the Jews and the Zionists and Israel—anything that is involving them turns me on."

Then there is the Sirhan who wrote repetitiously through page after page of his private diaries. An example: "Robert F. Kennedy must be assassinated. I have heard please pay to the order of of of of of of of of of of . . ."

This seemingly pointless echo-chamber style of writing may have provided the psychiatrists with a clue to Sirhan's mental makeup.

Another side of Sirhan's intricate personality came to light in the absence of his trial jury. He told Superior Court Judge Hubert V. Walker: "I plead guilty to murder and ask to be executed . . . I killed Robert Kennedy wilfully, premeditatively, with 20 years of malice aforethought."

His demand was rejected, and Sirhan later apologized to the court, saying: "I was boiling mad at my whole defense team."

Finally, the psychiatric testimony is expected to involve hypnotic sessions which Sirhan underwent voluntarily at the hands of both state and defense specialists.

During the next few days, out of all this probing into the recesses of his complicated mind may come some insight into the nature of Sirhan Sirhan, the assassin of Robert F. Kennedy, who was

asked: "Are you sorry he is dead?"

"I'm not sorry," Sirhan replied, "but I'm not proud of it either."

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