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Sirhan BJT NL 370

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LOS ANGELES AP - A solemn but fidgety Sirhan Bishara Sirhan heard himself described by a defense psychologist Monday as paranoid-convinced he alone is right but that the rest of the world is wrong.

"There is something driving this man," Dr. Martin Schorr testified at the 24-year-old Sirhan's first-degree murder trial for the June 5, 1968, assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

"He is most anxious to convince me how normal and sane he is," continued Schorr, a short, dark-haired man. "The paranoid is one who is most anxious to convince you how right he is and how wrong everybody else is."

Sirhan is on trial for his life. The defense maintains that he suffered diminished mental and emotional capacity and was unable to premeditate Kennedy's murder.

In support of this contention, Dr. Schorr, a clinical psychologist, testified about a series of "mental X rays" he obtained last November in testing the young Jordanian Arab. These tests, he said, provided a "profile of the personality" of the defendant.

"Let's go," Sirhan muttered impatiently at one point as the testimony was slowed down by technical details.

The state has its own mental experts ready to take issue with defense psychologists or psychiatrists.

Schorr testified of Sirhan, "He's more paranoid than 95 out of 100 people taken at random. This individual appears to be very aggressive, very restless, constantly on the go, in a state of flux, in a state of turmoil, sort of like a roadrunner, constantly on the push"

"He takes the attitude that 'I'm okay, everybody else isn't. There's nothing wrong with me. I'm the authority.'"

Sirhan, who was knocked unconscious in a fall from a horse in 1966, was tested for brain damage, Schorr said.

"I didn't find any evidence of brain damage," the psychologist added.

Among findings Schorr said he obtained from his testing was of an individual who is "losing his cool."

"He's losing control," the psychologist added. "Why he's losing control I don't know, but he's losing control."

Indications he found, Schorr testified, were consistent with schizophrenia, or split personality. Asked to define this form of mental illness further, Schorr responded: "The individual is no longer responding to the world of reality."

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LOS ANGELES Sirhan NL A234 add: reality."

Schorr was still under direct examination by the defense when the trial was adjourned overnight.

The psychologist emphasized from time to time regarding Sirhan: "He's not a raving maniac . . . he's not a vegetable . . . this man is not mentally deficient."

Instead, Schorr traced Sirhan's problems to "a disintegration of personality."

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