

Defense Witness

'Many Psychoses Of Sirhan Told

Los Angeles

Sirham B. Sirham displayed various symptoms of mental illness or psychoses including loss of contact with reality and a feeling he was right and the rest of the world wrong, a psychologist testified yesterday.

The 24-year-old Arab on trial for the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, undergoing a battery of intelligence tests, showed symptoms of paranoia, hypomania (a mild degree of manic excitement), and schizophrenia, the expert said.

This testimony was given by Dr. Martin M. Schorr, a San Diego, Calif., clinical psychologist who tested Sirhan in his jail cell on two days last November.

Schorr was the first of five psychologists and psychiatrists to be called by the defense in the hope of convincing the jury of eight men and four women that Sirhan suffered from diminished capacity to premeditate the shooting of Senator Kennedy last June 5 at the Ambassador hotel.

'REGRESSIVE'

"Under stress, he becomes confused, disorganized, frag-

mented, and loses contact with what is going on," Schorr said. "He is regressive, less of an adult and more of a child."

One test, the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, showed Sirhan was more paranoid than 95 of 100 persons "selected at random on the street," Schorr said.

Associate defense counsel Emile Zola Berman suggested Schorr define paranoia and other technical terms.

Of paranoia, he said, "In simple terms, it means 'I'm okay. Everybody else is wrong. There is nothing wrong with me because I have an understanding of everything about me. I am the authority.'"

'RESTLESS'

Hypomania, he described as a condition in which a person was "aggressive, restless, constantly on the go, in a constant state of flux, in a state of turmoil, sort of like a roadrunner if you want an image, unable to relax."

The psychologists defined schizophrenia, commonly thought of as split personality, as a "mental illness where the individual no long-

er is responding to the world of reality."

Schizophrenia was indicated by tests showing Sirhan was at the level of a college graduate in his responses to verbal questions requiring a knowledge of vocabulary but was like a "person five or six years old" in performance tests.

The performance tests included filling in missing parts of pictures and putting wooden blocks in proper patterns.

"On a number of tests like these Sirhan's performance was so low you might think he had the IQ of a moron or mentally deficient individual," Schorr said.

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