

PSYCHOLOGIST SAYS SIRHAN LACKED THE CAPACITY FOR PREMEDITATION

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Psychologist Says Sirhan Lacked the

By DOUGLAS ROBINSON
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LOS ANGELES, March 19—Another psychologist, the second to be called by the defense in the trial of Sirhan B. Sirhan, said today that the defendant did not have the "mental capacity" to premeditate the murder of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The psychologist, Dr. Roderick Richardson of Los Angeles, in response to queries from Emile Zola Berman, one of the defense attorneys, also told the court that the Jordanian immigrant could not have acted with "malice aforethought."

"My general feeling is that Sirhan for at least one or two years before the crime was unable to fathom his actions," Dr. Richardson said. "He sees himself as a soldier of his nation and as such he goes beyond normal behavior."

As the psychologist testified about the results of a series of tests he had given Sirhan last July, the defendant occupied himself with reading and re-reading the telegrams and cards he had received from friends and relatives congratulating him on his 25th birthday.

An Occasional Smile

He smiled occasionally as he leafed through the messages. At one point he tried to send a written message to his mother in the second row of the courtroom, but security men intercepted it and did not allow it to be passed on.

"It's a bizarre time and a bizarre place to have a happy birthday," Mr. Berman commented during the lunch break.

Sirhan's mother, Mrs. Mary

Sirhan, sorrowfully told news- men, "We always had a special celebration for the boys on their birthdays. I always make special foods, but this year—nothing."

"We can't give him anything," she continued. "I don't know how to make the day special for him."

As Mrs. Sirhan was repeating her concern for her son in front of television cameras in a corridor near the courtroom during the luncheon break, a young woman interrupted by saying, "We all loved Bobby." Mrs. Sirhan, looking as though she had been struck, quickly walked away.

Diagnosis Supported

In his testimony, Dr. Richardson supported an earlier diagnosis by the first defense psychologist, Dr. Martin M. Schorr, by describing Sirhan as a "psychotically disturbed person," suffering from paranoia and schizophrenia.

The psychologist spent a good deal of time describing Sirhan's reactions to picture cards in the Thematic Apperception Test and to ink blots in the Rorschach. He also gave a detailed account of how he scored the tests.

Under cross-examination, Dr. Richardson took issue with some of Dr. Schorr's methods of interpreting Sirhan's responses in the Rorschach, but said that he was unable to say the other psychologist was wrong since he was "not a party to Dr. Schorr's logic."

He also told the court that there were at least two schools of thought on interpreting Rorschach tests.

In his summary of Sirhan's per-

sonality, Dr. Richardson ran through a long list of traits. They included "paranoid, bitter, entitled, dependent, moralistic, vulnerable, socially inadequate, frail unpredictable, legalistic, critical, suspicious, unreasonable and aggressive."

The psychologist said that Sirhan had a "superior intelligence" that "functioned erratically." He likened him to a "good engine that is out of tune."

Capacity for Premeditation

He explained that the defendant had both "definite suicidal potential and definite homicidal potential."

This afternoon, Dr. Richardson said that Sirhan, at the time of the assassination, was in a state of "gathering paranoid rage."

"The assassination," he continued, "serves as a release of a lot of pent-up paranoid feel-

ings. The paranoid explosive act resolves the feeling at the moment. Right after the assassination he's in better shape than after three months in jail."

Dr. Richardson said that Sirhan was "grossly disturbed" by his stay in jail, "far more so than normal persons would be."

"His reactions," he said, "were typical of people who have been schizophrenic for a long time."