

The Fatal Night

Sirhan's Re-Play Under Hypnosis

Los Angeles

The fatal shooting of Senator Robert F. Kennedy was vividly recounted in court yesterday as a psychiatrist who had hypnotized Sirhan B. Sirhan in his jail cell told of how the defendant acted the night of the killing.

Under hypnosis, the psychiatrist said, Sirhan jumped from his bed, pulled an imaginary gun from his belt and "fired convulsively over and over again while shouting, 'You son of a bitch!'"

The psychiatrist, Dr. Bernard L. Diamond of the Uni-

Berkeley, the key defense witness, described the scene in the jail cell as a "startling experience . . . dramatic and real."

After re-enacting the shooting, Diamond went on, "Sirhan started to choke as he relived the attempts of those around the Senator to get the gun away from him."

BLUE

"He actually turned blue a little and I was a little fearful he might be harmed," Diamond told a hushed jury. He said that the hypnotic recreation was a "reasonably authentic version" of the shooting of the Senator at the



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DR. BERNARD DIAMOND
Defense psychiatrist

Ambassador Hotel.

Diamond also testified that Sirhan killed the Senator while in a "self-induced hypnotic trance, a sort of twilight state" that he had succeeded in reproducing in the defendant's cell.

The psychiatrist's dramatic description came to the

end of a long morning of testimony in which Diamond, speaking in the dry, detached manner of a professor lecturing a college class, calmly dissected Sirhan's personality. The defendant's mother, Mrs. Mary Sirhan, wept silently at times in her seat in the second row of spectators.

Diamond, asked by Emile Zola Berman, one of the defense attorneys, what Sirhan's state of mind was at the exact time of the shooting, replied:

"In my opinion, on the basis of hypnotic experiences with Sirhan, the defendant at the precise moment of firing the gun was in a highly abnormal psychotic state of mind."

'RAGE'

"He acted in a blind rage," the psychiatrist continued. The shooting, he said, was a "reflex action, an outgrowth not only of chronic psychosis, but a very abnormal state

that began he became confused and vague by all the lights and mirrors" outside the pantry where the shooting occurred.

Earlier, the psychiatrist had described Sirhan's ability to self-hypnotize himself by staring fixedly in a mirror in his bedroom while two candles burned on either side of his desk, a procedure he learned by studying occult literature.

Diamond began the 12th week of the 25-year-old Jordanian immigrant's trial by saying that he had interviewed the defendant eight times in his jail cell.

Diamond said that he agreed with the psychiatrists and psychologists who had testified earlier that Sirhan lacked the ability "reasonably and maturely" to premeditate the death of Kennedy.

GUN

Diamond said that on the night of the shooting, Sirhan returned to his car after drinking four Tom Collinses at the Ambassador. On opening the car door, the psychiatrist said, Sirhan saw his revolver and put it into his belt. Diamond said he then decided to go back to the hotel to have coffee because he felt he was too drunk to drive.

"Under hypnosis, Sirhan said he put the gun in his belt because he 'didn't want the Jews to get it,'" Diamond told the court.

After drinking coffee with a girl, Sirhan wandered into the pantry where he "probably didn't know where he was," the psychiatrist said.

"When Senator Kennedy and a crowd entered the other side of the room," Diamond continued, "Sirhan told me his first thought was to 'shake his hand.' As the advance guard passed him and Kennedy was almost in direct contact with him, he drew out the gun and fired wildly."

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