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LOS ANGELES AP - A suite of three cells-complete with living and dining quarters and a television set-is being built for Sirhan Bishara Sirhan in case the young Jordanian is convicted of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

The California Department of Corrections wants Sirhan to stay in the special extrasecure cell whether he gets life imprisonment or the death penalty.

"If he's convicted," a Corrections Department officer said, "There's always the chance that some inmate would try to kill him. We've spent about \$5,000 to remodel this section so he'll never come into contact with other prisoners."

The walled-off suite of cells is being prepared at the California Medical Facility at Vacaville, near Sacramento. A bill pending in the California Legislature would permit Sirhan, if sentenced to death, to stay there rather than at San Quentin's death row as is now required.

Sirhan's trial, starting its 13th week, was recessed Friday until Tuesday with rebuttal witnesses for the prosecution on the stand. The defense has rested its case with testimony that Sirhan did not meaningfully premeditate the assassination in Los Angeles last June 5.

Phil Guthrie, the corrections officer, said preparations for Sirhan's incarceration were being made in advance of a verdict because "we'd get him within days after sentencing." If the jury convicts Sirhan of first-degree murder, it will decide the penalty-death or life imprisonment.

Sirhan would be confined to three adjoining cells-each about 10 by 15 feet. In one would be a kitchen with a stainless steel stove where uniformed guards would cook Sirhan's meals. Most prisoners eat in a central kitchen. Sirhan's quarters, Guthrie said, would "eliminate the risk of someone trying to poison his food."

In the second cell, a living room with television set, Sirhan would receive visitors. He would sleep in the third cell. A bathroom is off the kitchen.

Full-time security guards would be posted near Sirhan's quarters, Guthrie said, and the cost of imprisoning him would probably far outstrip the \$2,800 yearly spent on average prisoners.

If Sirhan is acquitted, "we'll find other uses for the cells," Guthrie said.

DM-CS302aesMarch 31