

# Sirhan Jurors Reveal That 'Law and Order' Was

By LACEY FOSBURGH

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LOS ANGELES, April 24 — Eleven jurors looked across the long brown table at the one man who still believed, after almost two days of deliberation, that Sirhan should spend the rest of his life in prison for the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Four secret ballots had already been taken and by now everyone else agreed that the young assassin should die in the apple-green gas chamber in San Quentin.

The two other men who originally voted for life imprisonment, including one who cried during the trial out of sympathy for Sirhan and his family, and the four who were undecided, each, one by one, had adopted the majority position.

Finally, at 10:55 yesterday morning, the last holdout said, "Let's go home. I've made up my mind. You've convinced me."

Half an hour later, the seven men and five women who had lived together in a nearby hotel since Feb. 12, filed solemnly into the small courtrooms one floor below and delivered their verdict.

Several hours afterward, the man identified by several other jurors as the last holdout denied that he had favored life imprisonment up to the last ballot. The man, 37-year-old Alphonso Galindo, a civilian technician for the Navy, also denied there had been any diversity at all among the jurors' positions.

"I believe I was right in voting for death," he said, "I



In Jerusalem, Bishara Sirhan reads about his son's trial

United Press International

was just doing what I had to do."

The jurors individually revealed later, in questioning in hotel corridors and over the telephone, in their homes and on the streets, that a major factor influencing their decision had been the serious question of "law and order" now confronting the country.

In addition, most stated emphatically that it was not be-

cause Sirhan's victim had been a renowned political figure that they decided on the death penalty.

"One item that was very important was the idea that we should stand behind our laws," George A. Stitzel, pressroom foreman for The Los Angeles Times, in explaining why he voted for the death penalty right along. "There seems to be a tendency today to not do

this, to be lax. As long as we have capital punishment, what other crime would justify the death penalty if this didn't?"

"There is unrest all over the country and even now the students are rioting," said Benjamin Glick, 60, owner of a small women's clothes shop. "We can't afford to have our leaders be in a position to be killed and I think we all hope this decision acts as a deterrent to others with the same idea."

Mr. Glick, who originally voted for life imprisonment on the first ballot taken Monday, "to ease my own conscience," admitted that being Jewish affected his reaction to Sirhan, who is a virulent anti-Zionist.

"It was a hell of a position. I thought I should bend over backwards to give him more of a break," Mr. Glick said. "But after viewing the facts," he continued, "I decided he deserved death for his heinous, dastardly crime," Mr. Glick was the only Jew on the jury.

Gilbert Grace, steam engineer for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for 21 years, was among those who stated unequivocally that the victim's identity had not been a deciding factor.

"Even if it had been somebody else, and not Kennedy, it would still be the same verdict," he said. "We talked about him a lot, his life and how he left 11 kids and a widow, and how he would have gone to the highest office in the country, but in the end the only thing that was important was that

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## Major Consideration in Their Vote for Death Penalty

he was a man. A human being who was killed."

Mr. Grace, while undecided on the first ballot, voted for death on the second.

### Sirhan in Cell

As the jurors spent their first days at home today in over two months, Sirhan remained in his small cell in the Hall of Justice. He will remain there until May 14, when a hearing on a defense motion for a new trial will be held.

At that time Judge Herbert V. Walker can employ his judicial prerogative and reduce the verdict to life imprisonment. In that event, Sirhan would auto-

matically come under the jurisdiction of the California Adult Authority, which has the sole authority to set parole after a seven-year minimum for life prisoners. Such parole, however, is considered to be a very remote possibility for Sirhan by both prosecution and defense lawyers.

One of the jurors, George Broomis, cried in the courtroom during the long trial and did not sway from his position of life imprisonment until late Tuesday afternoon.

"I know he premeditated the murder with malice," Mr. Broomis said sadly, "but I still

thought the death penalty was too harsh. Taking a man's life isn't exactly an easy thing to do."

Mr. Broomis, a dark-haired man of Mexican descent who has been with the Department of Water and Power for 20 years, said he was persuaded to vote for death "after I studied all the facts again."

"I had sympathy for Sirhan," said Mr. Broomis, who voted for Senator Kennedy in the primary election on June 4, "but I tried to push it out of my mind. I'm a sentimental person and every time the tears came to my eyes I tried to stop them.

Day after day, sitting there with him sitting in the chair in front of me, it was terrible. I tried not to look at him and I tried not to look at his mother, but they were always there and I couldn't help it.

"I hope what we did was right."