

Psychiatrists To Take Stand

By TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

The prosecution will turn its attention Monday to the mind of Edmund Kemper as the jury trial of the 6-foot-9 accused mass-murderer enters its second and probably last week.

Two court-appointed psychiatrists will take the wit-

ness stand at the beginning of the week. Both Dr. Joel Fort and Dr. Don Lowe are expected to tell the jury that Kemper was sane and responsible for his actions when he allegedly committed eight slayings over an 11-month period. Both Fort and Lowe have already submitted statements to the court, and both have said Kemper was sane.

Testimony of psychiatrists is the third phase of the prosecution. Dist. Atty. Peter Chang, in his opening statement to the jury, explained that his case would proceed in three steps. First, he had to establish the corpus delicti — evidence that a crime had in fact been committed.

Second, he presented evidence that Kemper was guilty of eight slayings. To do that, he played a tape recorded interview between lawmen and Kemper in which the defendant admitted the crimes.

Next come the psychiatrists. In order to be considered legally sane, a defendant must be able to understand the nature of his act, and know that what he is

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doing is wrong. In addition, a man guilty of first - degree murder must be able to deliberate and premeditate. If his mind is unable to do that, he cannot be guilty of first - degree murder.

The prosecution hopes the psychiatrists will convince the jury that Kemper was sane during the crimes.

Kemper is represented by deputy public defender Jim Jackson. On the prosecution side, Chang is being assisted by Asst. Dist. Atty. Bill Kelsay.

Friday, Walter Rapaport, a psychiatrist who is the former director of the state mental hygiene department, testified on the side of the prosecution, saying that Kemper was sane during his eight killings.

During Jackson's cross - examination, Rapaport held to his opinion, despite an attempt by the defense attorney to dispute his claim.

"Anything I tell you is of a medical nature," said Rapaport in response to Jackson's demand that the doctor give an opinion as to Kemper's legal sanity. "I do not have a legal background and I will not trespass."

Jackson objected to the fact that Rapaport did not know the dates or the number of the slayings with which Kemper is charged.

It would have no influence on

my decision one way or the other," Rapaport argued.

Dr. Lowe is scheduled to take the stand Monday at 10 a.m.



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