

Kemper To Take The Stand

By TOM HONIG
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Edmund Kemper was scheduled to take the witness stand today following the noon recess at a court hearing to decide if much of the evidence against him was obtained illegally.

Defense Attorney Jim Jackson has claimed that authorities have received confessions from Kemper regarding eight Santa Cruz slayings without allowing the defendant an opportunity to consult with a lawyer.

The 6-foot-9, 280 pound Kemper, clad in an orange prison jumpsuit issued by San Mateo County jail, was called to take the stand prior to the noon break, but Judge Harry Brauer, deciding the defendant's testimony would be lengthy, recessed the hearing until 1:30 p.m.

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Dist. Atty. Peter Chang called several policemen to the witness stand during this morning's hearing, as well as presenting a tape recording of Kemper's telephone conversation from Pueblo, Colo., to Santa Cruz policemen.

"This is no prank — I want to talk ... about the coed murders, you know what I mean," Kemper's tape-recorded voice said.

Three different telephone conversations were recorded. His first call, made late April 23 of this year, included a plea to speak with Det. Lt. Charles Scherer. He was informed by the officer on the phone that Scherer would be available at 9 a.m., and the officer asked Kemper to call back.

Kemper's voice was noticeably agitated by the last call when he said, "I think I'm going out of my G - da - head. I've never done that before." Soon after he said that, he observed a policeman coming up to the phone booth with a gun. "He's got a gun on me..." he said, shortly before the sound of the telephone dropping out of his hand could be heard.