

Kemper Sane, Psychiatrist Says

By TOM HONIG
Sentinel Staff Writer

Accused mass - murderer Edmund Kemper, his wrist heavily bandaged following his most recent suicide attempt early Sunday, was present in Santa-Cruz Superior Court today to hear a psychiatrist say that he was legally sane during an 11 - month murder spree.

Kemper tried to kill himself early Sunday in the San Mateo County jail in Redwood City by slashing his right wrist with a flattened, sharpened ball point pen, according to San Mateo Sgt. Robert Cancilla.

Cancilla said the 6 - foot - 9 Kemper resisted efforts to help him and had to be handcuffed before he could be put in the ambulance. He was taken to Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Redwood City, where six

stitches were required to close the wound.

San Mateo authorities said a closed - circuit television camera has been focused on Kemper's cell after his return from the hospital.

Kemper first tried to commit suicide May 28, when he was still incarcerated in the Santa Cruz County jail. Following that attempt to slash his wrist, he was transported to San Mateo County jail, where officials say security is better than in Santa Cruz.

Because of Kemper's physical condition, Judge Harry Brauer granted a defense motion to limit today's session to two hours.

Kemper appeared physically tired as he appeared in court this morning. His wrist was covered with gauze, tape and an

ace bandage. At one point, he put his head down on the counsel table and briefly closed his eyes.

Psychiatrist Don Lowe was the sole witness today. He told jurors that in his opinion Kemper was sane while he killed six young women, his mother and her best friend.

Kemper has admitted to lawmen that he killed six young women, his mother and a family friend between May, 1972 and April of this year.

Defense attorney Jim Jackson challenged Lowe's testimony. He claimed that Kemper actually is insane, yet is able to conceal his state of mind while talking to psychiatrists. As an example, he referred to two Fresno psychiatrists who last year said Kemper "is more of a danger to himself because of his motorcycle than he is to anyone else."

Kemper saw the psychiatrists during a successful attempt to have his juvenile record sealed. On his record was the double homicide of his grandparents.

Lowe rejected Jackson's suggestion that Kemper was in fact insane but was able to "cover it up." That cover-up, Lowe said, "is the definition of sanity. Most people walk around with a bag of worms, but they are able to act sane."

During his testimony, Lowe said Kemper was able to achieve great excitement, "but part of it was terrible to him."

The killings, said Lowe, "were terribly important to him, he made the decision to take risks in the same way a person who wants a good deal of money would take risks."

Lowe said he found evidence that Kemper acts with "a mild arrogance." He said the defendant feels he can outsmart other people.

The psychiatrist said that at one point Kemper fantasized about leaving a severed head in front of a police department. He added that Kemper had "a

Networks Rapped By Nixon Aide

WASHINGTON (AP)—White House aide Patrick Buchanan said today that the broadcast networks have too much power in U.S. news reporting.

"Every legal and constitutional means ought to be considered to break up that dominance, in order to spread it out so that you decentralize power in this area," Buchanan, a key speechwriter for President Nixon, said in a interview on the CBS-TV "Morning News."

Calling for legislation to allow for more competition in major broadcast reporting, Buchanan added, "That would be my view, not that of the administration."

Buchanan said journalists created a confrontation during Nixon's news conference Friday night. "The mood was like Sunday afternoon in the Tijuana bullring," he said.

Asked for examples of how the Nixon administration objects to the tone of news reporting, Buchanan said that last December CBS newsmen Walter Cronkite had reported claims by Radio Hanoi of "mass killings" in the U.S. bombing of Hanoi.

"I think Mr. (Eric) Sevareid himself accused President Nixon of mass killing to end the killing," said Buchanan in a reference to the CBS news analyst.

Subsequently, Buchanan said, "It was reported even from Hanoi 1,800 people died... there were something like 1,200 bombing raids, which works out to about one person per raid, which hardly justifies Mr. Sevareid's allegation of mass killings."

"A hundred thousand people

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pride in workmanship" in his killings.

Nets Rapped By Aide

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died in the firestorms in Tokyo.
250,000 died in Dresden. 70,000 to
80,000 died in Hiroshima and
Nagasaki."

Scheduled to testify tomorrow is Dr. Joel Fort, the second of two court-appointed psychiatrists. He is also expected to testify that Kemper is legally sane. He has already filed a report with the court.

In that report, he said that Kemper's handling by psychiatrists earlier in his life "reveals many instances of gross incompetence and irresponsibility including a failure to recognize his sexual and violence pathology, misdiagnosis..., and very poor followup and care."