

Inquiry Into Killing Of Robert Kennedy Ends First Phase

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LOS ANGELES, Sept. 18—
The first phase in the court-ordered re-examination of the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case was completed today after the chief ballistics expert in the case ended his testimony.

DeWayne Wolfer, the technical investigator who tested the gun and bullet used to convict Sirhan B. Sirhan of the June 5, 1968, shooting finished three days of testimony in hearings held to review the seven-year-old ballistic evidence.

Next Tuesday, a panel of seven firearms experts are scheduled to begin independent re-testing here of 20 exhibits used in the Sirhan trial in an attempt to determine whether a second gun was fired in the Ambassador Hotel pantry where Senator Kennedy was fatally shot.

At a recess in the hearing, Mel Levine, an attorney for Paul Schrade, who was one of five persons wounded in the shooting and who, along with CBS, has asked for the retesting, expressed concern over whether reports made by Mr. Wolfer on ballistics tests that may be in the custody of the police would be turned over to the forensic experts.

But Mr. Wolfer testified today that laboratory reports on ballistics evidence were routinely destroyed after three years, and did not know whether any reports in the Kennedy case were still in existence.

One exhibit examined by Mr. Wolfer today for identification purposes was the clothing Mr. Kennedy wore the night he was shot. In one of the few dramatic moments of the proceedings, Mr. Wolfer held up a dark-blue suit, with the left sleeve missing, a blood-stained white shirt and other articles of clothing.

The police disclosed recently the sleeve, along with ceiling panels containing bullet holes from the hotel pantry, was either lost or destroyed. But none of the items were introduced in the Sirhan trial and thus are of little significance, officials contend.

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