

NYT

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'68 Slaying of Robert Kennedy Re-examined at a Coast Hearing

LOS ANGELES, May 14 (AP) —Amid challenges by critics of "political motivation," experts and witnesses have gone over the six-year-old assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The one-day hearing yesterday was called by Los Angeles County Supervisor Baxter Ward, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor. Mr. Ward denied any political motive.

Paul Shrader, who as a regional officer of the United Automobile Workers was a friend and ally of Mr. Kennedy, testified that he agreed with a so-called "second gun" theory.

Although never proved and discounted by experts and witnesses in earlier inquiries, it has been held by some observers that in addition to the gun taken from Sirhan B. Sirhan, who was convicted of the assassination and is now serving a life prison term, a second weapon was fired.

"An armed guard hired by the Ambassador hotel admitted to the grand jury that he pulled a gun although he said he did not fire it," said Mr. Shrader, who was wounded as he stood near Senator Kennedy.

"But a television man testified also to the grand jury that the guard did fire the gun about three times. So it is obvious that a second gunman was in the room," Mr. Shrader said.

Herbert MacDonell of New York, a criminologist, testified that two bullets at the scene had come from a different gun. One of the bullets reportedly came from the Senator's body, the other from the stomach of William Wiesel, an ABC newsman, who recovered from his injuries.

Lowell Bradford, a firearms identification expert from Campbell, Calif., agreed and said the two bullets could "not be identified as coming from the same gun."