

Plan Is Approved to Re-Examine Data in Robert Kennedy Slaying

9-12-75
~gr

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 11—A state judge approved today a plan to name seven firearms experts as a panel to conduct a re-examination of ballistics evidence in the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case.

The plan, approved by Judge Robert A. Wenke of Los Angeles Superior Court, also outlines procedures that experts will follow in re-testing the gun and other evidence used to convict Sirhan B. Sirhan of the murder.

It was Judge Wenke who on Aug. 14, ordered the re-examination at the request of the CBS television network and Paul Shrade, one of the persons wounded when Mr. Kennedy was fatally shot on the night of July 5, 1958.

The plan was agreed to by 10 attorneys representing CBS, Mr. Shrade, the state Attorney General, the Los Angeles District Attorney, the county counsel and Mr. Sirhan. It also lists specific questions that will hopefully be answered by the new tests.

Theory on Second Gun

Each expert is expected to conduct tests on 20 separate exhibits introduced at the grand jury investigation and trial of Mr. Sirhan. One critical test will be the re-firing of Mr. Sirhan's gun.

Some advocates of reopening the case believe there was a second gun fired in the Ambassador Hotel's pantry that night. They want the Sirhan gun re-fired to compare spent bullets with bullets taken from the bodies of Mr. Kennedy and other victims.

The plan states that "every member of the panel of firearms experts shall perform his examination independently of every other member of the panel and prepare his own report," which will be presented to the court and to the public. The following experts were named:

Courtland Cunningham, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D. C.; Stanton O. Berg, of Minneapolis; Alfred A. Biasotti, of the California Department of Justice; Lowell W. Bradford of San Jose, Calif.; Ralph F. Turner, a professor at Michigan State University in East Lansing; and Charles V. Morton, president-elect of the California Association of Criminalists.

It was learned today that the seventh expert, Donald Champagne, of the Tallahassee, Fla., Department of Law Enforcement, would be "unavailable" when the tests are scheduled to begin on Sept. 22, and attorneys said they would find a replacement.