

Skeptics Continue To Question Ruling On Robert Kennedy

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LOS ANGELES, Oct. 11—Despite the conclusion of a panel of firearms experts that the gun wrestled from the hands of Sirhan B. Sirhan was apparently the only weapon involved in the assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, a few skeptics are refusing to abandon the so-called "second gun theory."

Among others, the attorney for Mr. Sirhan, the convicted assassin, has declared that he is reasonably satisfied that the bullets fired in the Ambassador Hotel pantry on June 5, 1968, probably came from his client's .22-caliber Iver-Johnson pistol.

Other persons, however, including Paul Schrade, who was wounded in the shooting and who with CBS television requested the re-testing of evidence by experts, said that the

report left unanswered the question of a second gun.

Mr. Schrade and Allard K. Lowenstein, the former New York Democratic Representative who has been a leading advocate of reopening the investigation, said this week that they believed the new inquiry resolved some of their doubts but both contend that the experts' findings were inconclusive.

They pointed out that although the scientists had found no evidence to suggest that a second gun had been fired they were unable to prove that all the bullets had been fired from the Sirhan gun. The lack of proof, said the panel, was a result of the inability of the Sirhan gun to produce "sufficient corresponding individual characteristics" on bullets necessary to make positive identification.

The experts agreed, however, that each of the bullets retrieved from victims "is the same with respect to caliber, weight, number and position of cannelures and copper alloy coating as caliber .22 Long Rifle bullets manufactured by

Cascade Cartridges, Inc.," and thus the same type of ammunition used by Mr. Sirhan.

This finding was considered important because a central argument of second gun theorists had been that a bullet taken from Senator Kennedy's neck and one removed from William Weisel, another victim, appeared to have different markings.

The new examination cleared up that mystery, but Mr. Schrade, Mr. Lowenstein and some others say there are remaining questions beyond the scope of the recent limited investigation.

Judge Robert A. Wenke of Los Angeles Superior Court, in ordering the retesting Aug. 14, refused to extend the inquiry to consideration of number of bullets and trajectories. Critics say the entire matter cannot die until every avenue of doubt is fully explored.