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Grand Jury Tightens Case Against Speck

CHICAGO (AP) — A Cook County Grand Jury returned eight revised murder indictments against Richard Speck late Friday in the massacre of eight student nurses shortly after Speck was silently transferred to the Cook County Jail.

The indictments bore the name Richard Franklin Speck as had the earlier indictments, but additional material was inserted.

It was learned Thursday that birth records in Monmouth, Ill., gives Speck's name as Richard Benjamin Speck.

But John Stamos, an assistant state's attorney, said the revised indictments had nothing to do with Speck's middle name, and that they were amended only to make the murder charges more specific.

MR. STAMOS said the revised indictments included references to the Illinois criminal code. He said the original indictments were not invalid, but that the revised ones were "more technically correct."

Mr. Stamos said Thursday that Speck used the middle name Franklin in several court appearances and arrests in Texas. He said then that the state did not plan to amend the indictments to change the name.

A law professor had said the defense could use the different middle name in an effort to overturn any convictions of Speck.

The action came a few hours after Speck, handcuffed and under heavy guard, was secretly transferred from the city jail hospital to the Cook County Jail, where he was promptly placed in the infirmary.

Speck was transferred on the one-block trip in eight minutes as city jail hospital officials held a news conference.

Officials issued a statement saying Speck, 24, was



Richard Speck

... leaves hospital

physically capable of being removed to a jail all and of appearing in court Monday on the murder indictments.

He had been treated in the hospital for self-inflicted wounds.

THE STATEMENT was read to newsmen assembled in front of the city jail by Dr. William Norcross, the jail's associate medical director.

As Dr. Norcross read the statement and appealed for secrecy in the transfer, Speck, handcuffed, was taken in a closed police van from the city jail to the Cook County (Chicago) Jail. The jails are in the same compound, only a few hundred feet apart.

Speck, who also developed a heart condition in the hospital, was moved under secrecy for his own protection and for the "pride and interest of Chicago," officials said.

"The events surrounding the transfer of a maximum security prisoner in Dallas were regrettable, Dr. Norcross said. He referred to the fatal shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald, described by the Warren Commission as President Kennedy's assassin.