

Some Sirhan Case Evidence Disappears

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Some evidence in the Robert F. Kennedy assassination case is missing, it was revealed Monday.

Dep. Dist. Atty. Richard W. Hecht made the disclosure after the Los Angeles County Grand Jury wound up a five-day hearing into allegations of possible tampering in the county clerk's office with evidence used at the Sirhan B. Sirhan trial.

Sirhan was convicted and condemned to death for the June 5, 1968, slaying of Sen. Kennedy.

The missing evidence, according to Hecht, consists of copies of exhibits introduced during the Sirhan court proceedings.

Hecht, who heads the

district attorney's organized crime-pornography division, refused to elaborate, but indicated that the grand jury may soon issue a special report on its findings in the matter.

Jury foreman Leo D. Epstein refused to comment on Hecht's statement, but noted that jurors will return this morning to continue their deliberations.

When the hearing began last week, Hecht said that if there was any testimony or direct evidence of tampering, it would affect the "integrity" of all Sirhan evidence in the custody and control of the county clerk's office.

The prosecutor said his office did not ask the grand jury for any criminal prosecution in the case and indicated that he does not expect any to be forthcoming.

Thirty-five witnesses were summoned to testify at the hearing, including County Clerk William Sharp, Peter J. Talma, chief of the clerk's criminal records division, and William W. Harper, who contends there were irregularities in the original ballistics investigation in the Sirhan case.