

Coroner speculates RFK shot by 2 guns

LOS ANGELES (Special-
UPI) — A coroner and two
ballistic experts yesterday
raised doubts on whether
Sirhan Sirhan acted alone in
the assassination of Senator
Robert F. Kennedy in June,
1968.

County coroner Thomas
Noguéchi, at a hearing called
by County Supervisor Baxter
Ward, said the fatal
shots were fired from one to
three inches from Kenne-
dy's head and not from
where witnesses placed Sir-
han.

Witnesses to the shooting
at the Ambassador Hotel
testified before a grand jury
that Sirhan—now serving a
life sentence for the slaying
—was standing several feet
or yards away from Kenne-
dy at the time.

DID NOT MATCH

Two ballistics experts,
Lowell Bradford and Her-
bert MacDonnell, added
that a bullet taken from
Kennedy's back did not
match one which hit a by-
stander.

The bullets, MacDonnell
testified, differed in both
their manufacture and in
the manner in which they
were marked by passage
through a gun barrel.

His testimony agreed with
that of Bradford, who said
he also concluded that the
two bullets could "not be
identified as coming from
the same gun."

The two experts urged
that Sirhan's .22-calibre
weapon be refired to help
end the controversy.

District Attorney Joseph
Busch declined Ward's invi-
tation to testify at the hear-
ing and called the inquiry
"ridiculous."

'NOT VALID'

Busch said the so-called
"two-gun" theory, the belief
that two persons had been
involved in the shooting,
had been thoroughly inves-
tigated and had no validity.

Lynn Compton, who was
chief prosecutor in the Sir-
han case, also had hard
words for the inquiry.

Compton described the
hearing called by Ward—
who is running for governor
—as "a sideshow perform-
ance involving persons
whose motives appear to be
other than to simply deter-
mine the truth."