

Hearing questions if Sirhan acted alone

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nearly six years after Senator Robert Kennedy was assassinated, a public hearing scheduled today was to reopen the lingering question of whether the man convicted of the killing acted alone.

The hearing into the controversial "second gun theory" of the Sirhan Sirhan case has been organized by Los Angeles county supervisor, Baxter Ward, who is running for governor. Critics have called the investigation a political move.

A spokesman for District Attorney Joseph Busch, who conducted his own investigation of the gun claims in 1971, said the case is closed and called

the hearing "a publicity thing for Ward."

Sirhan was sentenced to death for the Kennedy killing in 1969. His sentence was commuted to life imprisonment.

Among the witnesses scheduled to testify at Ward's hearing are two criminologists who have said in affidavits they believe Sirhan's gun did not fire the bullets that killed Kennedy.

William Harper of Pasadena and Herbert MacDonell, director of the Laboratory of Forensic Science in New York, said their investigations showed that the bullets that killed Kennedy had different characteristics from a bullet taken from the body of another man injured in the volley of shots.

The criminologists lend support to the previously raised theory that a second gun was fired in the kitchen of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles where Kennedy was killed on June 5, 1968.